

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Grace Baptist Church Groups | Camp Raphayada | Latreia Int. Christian Academy

Anniversary and concert

December 18 finds us celebrating our 36th wedding anniversary, but on the same day our churches provide a Christmas concert at our local Hohoemi nursing home. It's an annual event scheduled a week earlier than usual this year.

60th Anniversary

A few weeks earlier my parents, Pat and Wanda Melton, celebrated their 60th anniversary. We were delighted to be able to celebrate with them by taking them on an all expense paid trip to Lake Biwako. Memories.

Another Concert

December 23 is our annual combined Christmas worship service where five of our ministry churches come together for a time of celebration as we worship Christ, the newborn King. This year is our very first church Choir Christmas Cantata: The Glory of Christmas.



Thank you!!!

Our hearts overflow with gratitude as we conclude our 30th year of ministry in the city of Seki here in Japan. God has blessed in SO many ways with souls saved, Christians strengthened in their faith, growth in knowledge of the Word, and in so many building and ministry opportunities over the years.

We began our Seki ministries in Tsubogawa dai in May of 1988, after relieving my parents in their ministry in Mino for a short furlough the year before. The two churches were combined when land was purchased, and 25 years ago next Sunday our very first church building was completed. We were also involved in the Ela's Home, our adoption ministry, those early years.





Grandkids

We are now in the prime of our years of ministry here in Japan. We are blessed with our health, co-laborers in the work, family living nearby (my dad and mom and brother and his wife are within an hour's drive from our home in Seki), and God has now blessed us with our twelfth grandchild. We now have seven granddaughters and five grandsons, of which six granddaughters and two grandsons live nearby and serve with us in the ministries of the church!

Five of our six children are married, and four of them have children of their own. Sharon just had her first, a boy, about a month ago.

Debbie and I are SO thankful to the many who have prayed for us and sacrificially given towards the ministries God has called us to serve together in here in Japan and around the world, and we count ourselves the most blessed in every area of life.

Thank you so much for your prayers for our family and for your support of our ministry all of these years serving together.

Growth and expansion—Camp Raphayada

Since one of the best means of evangelism in Japan has always been through the camp ministry, God burdened our hearts for a Christian campsite in 1997, a vision that came to fruition through the purchase of land in Nakanoho three years later. Construction for Camp Raphayada began in 2001, and we are now about to begin our 18th year of camp ministry here in Seki, about 30 minutes drive from our first church plant.

The International Grace Baptist Church families

Our church planting ministries involve the establishment of the Mino Seki Grace Baptist Church, the International Grace Baptist Church, the Filipino Grace Baptist Church, the Grace Community Family Fellowship, the Brazilian Grace Baptist Church, and for the past year and a half we have also been assisting in the ministry of the Central Baptist Church in Tajimi.

We have been blessed with the privilege of serving with the Eye Openers ministry in India with our dear friends, Dr. Kumar and Nirmala Kota, and we have been privileged to partner with Danny Tao and the FTM Bible School in the Philippines. Our hearts are filled with gratitude and joy over all the Lord has chosen to accomplish through your faithfulness in this ministry. Thanks for your prayers and for the privilege of serving together.

