

Ken was born and raised in Okinawa, Japan. His father served in the United States Marine Corps, and his mother is Okinawan. After he accepted Christ, he was baptized and began pursuing God's will for his life. He moved to the United States after he graduated high school in 1997. There he met his mentor, Pastor Duane Connor, and began an internship serving in various areas in the church. He attended Entheos School of Ministry in Woodbridge, Virginia, and later Christ for the Nations Bible Institute in Dallas, Texas. Having a heart for the Japanese people, Ken and other believers would minister during Japan nights at Dallas Baptist University, inviting Japanese students to enjoy fellowship and worship. Rachelle was born and raised in Council Bluffs, Iowa. At a young age she accepted Christ and was very active in her local church. At the age of twelve, she answered the call to missions at a youth retreat where a missionary asked if anyone would go to Asia to share the Gospel. She joined the team the following month to do ministry in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the Philippines, which inspired her love for the nations and led her to join several short-term mission trips to Mexico, Fiji, and Israel. After high school, Rachelle started taking classes in International Studies and Nursing, preparing for medical missions while she worked at a nursing home and in-home health care. She attended a Youth With A Mission Discipleship Training School in Kona, HI, and was sent to do outreach in the Philippines and Osaka, Japan. During this trip, the Lord confirmed her love for Japan and also for Ken! Ken and Rachelle met in 1999 at a missionary conference just before he left for Bible school and she for YWAM. Through their long-distance relationship, God continued to confirm their future together. Soon after college, they began living and working in an inner city, faith-based ministry, The Hope Center for Kids, to reach at-risk youth and gang members. While at The Hope Center, Ken and Rachelle discipled those aged 5–18 and developed a youth mission team focused on serving and outreach. During their six years with The Hope Center, Ken and Rachelle got engaged, were married, and started having children. From there, Ken worked in Youth Corrections and mentored youth while Rachelle stayed home raising and homeschooling their three children, Fuschia, Azalia, and Judah. They enjoyed volunteering regularly with their children at local non-profit ministries. During this time, they also counseled married couples, mentored young adults, and invested in the Japanese locals. Throughout the years, Japan had always been on the Johnsons' hearts. They continued to hold Japanese Bible studies, were involved with Japan nights, and led Japan prayer watches at the local House of Prayer. They continued to build relationships with the Japanese at the Omaha Japanese School and with exchange students at the nearby colleges and universities. By God's grace, Japanese college students gave their lives to Christ and have since returned to Japan to continue God's work. Ken visits Japan regularly to encourage these students and to interpret and translate for pastors in Japan and in the United States. God wonderfully surprised the Johnson family in 2014. They heard about a Japanese foreign exchange student who was pregnant, but could not keep her baby. They immediately met with the young mother, and she asked if they would adopt the child. Lilia Mei Joy (Mei means Life in Japanese) was born a few weeks later! God miraculously provided everything that was needed, from diapers to lawyer fees and medical expenses. God proved himself over and over again during the adoption process! Ken and Rachelle sense God has been equipping, training, and preparing them for years to serve in Japan. They believe the United States was God's training ground for them and God is calling them to serve Him by sharing Jesus in Japan! Through many confirmations and details that only God could have designed, the Johnson family is excited and grateful to serve the Lord in Japan!