

キリストの教会

天使橋

Angel Alcantar

Missionary to Japan

For the Consideration of Financial Support





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Konnichiwa.

To fulfill the Great Commission and spread the Gospel globally, it is essential for workers of Christ to bring His message to all corners of the world—even to areas where it is particularly challenging. Japan is one such place, where the Gospel faces significant obstacles in taking root, largely due to a shortage of workers dedicated to this mission. Recognizing this need, I have committed to serving as a full-time missionary for the next 10 years in Shizuoka, Japan at the Ohiwa church of Christ to sow the Word and to help grow His kingdom.

To succeed, I'm seeking the partnership of congregations willing to support this work. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial assistance will be crucial in sustaining my efforts to bring the Word of God to Japan.

Shizuoka, Japan

Shizuoka City, in central Japan, is known for its beauty, cultural heritage, and economic significance. Between Mount Fuji to the north and the Pacific Ocean to the south, the city boasts beautiful landscapes, including green tea plantations, pristine coastlines, and hot springs. With a population of 690,000 and serving as the capital of Shizuoka Prefecture (population 3.6 million), the city is a hub for commerce, agriculture, and tourism. Despite its beauty and cultural wealth, Shizuoka has a very small Christian population, including only about 50 members of the churches of Christ. This makes it a compelling mission field, with tremendous opportunities for spreading the Gospel and fostering spiritual growth.

The Work Ahead

I will be partnering with Brandon and Ocean Furbee and Will and Randi Adams to build up the Ohiwa congregation in Shizuoka. Together, it is our prayer to strengthen the church to a point where it becomes self-sufficient in three key areas: financially, spiritually, and evangelistically. The church owns its own building in the heart of the city, which serves as a valuable foundation for our efforts.

Request for Support

My goal is to move to Japan by February 2026, with financial support beginning in January. I have been blessed to be sponsored by the University church of Christ in San Marcos, TX. However, to make this mission successful, I need additional spiritual and financial support from congregations and individuals like you.

It is only through partnership that we can make this mission a reality. Please find all necessary details included in this packet.

In His Service,



Angel Alcantar

angelsjapanmission.com | angel.c.alcantar@gmail.com | 510-566-9874

University church of Christ

115 Country Estates Dr. San Marcos, TX 78666
512-353-2487 www.univcofc.org

Elders

David Harrell
Carey Hooper
Lon Howard
F.H. (Buddy) Martin
Andrew O'Banon
Jon Warnes
elders@univcofc.com

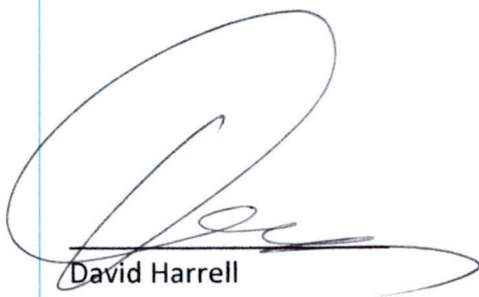
Evangelists

McCarty Student Center

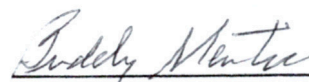
Josh Moore – director
Chant Parker - evangelist
506 N. Guadalupe ST
San Marcos, TX 78666
512.392.4780

To whom the may concern,

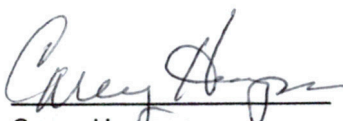
We, the elders of the University Church of Christ, have agreed to be the overseeing congregation for Angel Alcantar in his work as a missionary in Shizuoka, Japan. We were very impressed with his desire to spread the gospel in Japan and the planning he has already done in preparation for this missionary work. Any funds that will be contributed to him will be sent to us which will then be deposited into an account specifically created for him. We will be responsible for distributing the funds to him at an agreed upon schedule. We hope you will strongly consider supporting this work as there is a great need to spread the gospel in Japan, but few missionaries who are willing to move there. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.




David Harrell



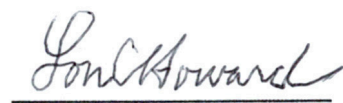
Buddy Martin



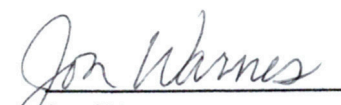
Carey Hooper



Andrew O'Banon



Lon Howard



Jon Warnes

Biography

Name

名前:

ANGEL ALCANTAR

エンジェル・アルカンター

DOB:

生年月日:

06/01/1991

1991年6月1日

Age:

年齢:

33

33歳

Residence:

居住地:

Texas, US

テキサス, アメリカ

Major:

専攻:

Psychology

心理学

University:

大学名:

Freed-Hardeman University

フリード・ハーデマン大学

Grad Year:

卒業年度:

2016

2016年



Although I didn't grow up in the church, I was baptized at the Hayward Church of Christ in California at 18 in 2009, after attending services for a year. In 2012, I enrolled at Freed-Hardeman University, where I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, graduating in 2016. During this time, my faith grew, and I developed a deeper desire to serve in ministry. After graduation, I moved to Minnesota and actively contributed to the Mankato Church of Christ through teaching and preaching. I now live in Texas, where I continue to seek opportunities to grow in my faith and service.

Japan has always had a special place in my heart, beginning with my exposure to Japanese martial arts at 7. My interest deepened through studying the language and culture, which led me to take two college-level Japanese courses. What struck me most, though, was the lack of emphasis on Japan as a mission field. This realization drove me to learn more about the spiritual climate in Japan, which solidified my calling to go.

Less than 1% of the Japanese population identifies as Christian. Of that 1%, around 2,000 individuals are true followers of Christ, baptized and participating in acapella worship services. The number of missionaries in Japan is declining, and few new workers are entering the field. These facts have made me more determined to answer the call. I know that it will be difficult, but I believe it is essential to send missionaries to Japan, particularly because of the challenges involved. This conviction has led me to decide to go.



Financial Consideration

Outlined below are financial estimates of my anticipated monthly costs while living in Japan. These figures are derived from a combination of thorough online research and personal discussions with Leslie and Sara Taylor, missionaries at the Matsudo Church of Christ near Tokyo.

The budget includes two scenarios:

1. **Minimal Support Budget:** Represents the essential costs required to cover basic living expenses in Japan.
2. **Full Support Budget:** Reflects a more sustainable level of financial support, accounting for reasonable living standards without undue financial stress.

All figures are presented in yen, calculated on a monthly basis. The exchange rate used is ¥100 = \$1, in alignment with advice from experienced missionaries currently residing in Japan.

Minimum Support Needed: \$3,400 USD

Monthly living expenses	
Rent (Plus insurance)	¥ 80,833.00
Transportation	¥ 10,404.00
Cable TV/satellite	¥ 2,500.00
Charitable contributions	¥ 7,500.00
Utilities (Electric, Gas, Water)	¥ 20,500.00
Internet	¥ 6,000.00
Food	¥ 45,000.00
Personal Care/Household	¥ 12,500.00
Cell Phone	¥ 8,000.00
Savings (Emergency)	¥ 10,000.00
Health/Dental	¥ 36,000.00
Income Taxes	¥ 40,000.00
Discretionary	¥ 10,000.00
Other (Cats)	¥ 15,000.00
Japan National Pension Plan	¥ 17,500.00
Furlough Savings	¥ 10,000.00
Total Monthly Living Expenses (Yen)	¥ 331,737.00
Total Monthly Living Expenses (USD)	\$ 3,317.37

One Time Expenses

Language School (2 Years): \$15,000 USD

Travel and transportation expenses (Plane tickets, deposits, furniture, etc): \$15,000 USD

Total: \$30,000 USD

Full Support Needed: \$5,500 USD

Monthly living expenses	
Rent (Plus insurance)	¥ 95,833.00
Transportation	¥ 18,000.00
Cable TV/satellite	¥ 2,500.00
Charitable contributions	¥ 15,000.00
Utilities (Electric, Gas, Water)	¥ 28,000.00
Internet	¥ 6,000.00
Food	¥ 70,000.00
Personal Care/Household	¥ 23,000.00
Cell Phone	¥ 8,000.00
Savings (Emergency)	¥ 20,000.00
Health/Dental	¥ 36,000.00
Income Taxes	¥ 70,000.00
Discretionary	¥ 20,000.00
Other (Cats)	¥ 20,000.00
Japan National Pension Plan	¥ 17,500.00
Furlough Savings	¥ 15,000.00
Student Loans	¥ 60,000.00
Retirement (Contributions)	¥ 25,000.00
Total Monthly Living Expenses (Yen)	¥ 549,833.00
Total Monthly Living Expenses (USD)	\$ 5,498.33

Experience Relevant to Japan

For the past two and a half years, I have actively studied the Japanese language. My journey began with self-study, using several textbooks and working with a tutor based in Nagasaki, Japan. To deepen my understanding and solidify my foundational knowledge, I enrolled in Austin Community College in the summer of 2024, completing four semesters of Japanese and achieving beginner-level proficiency.



This preparation gives me a strong head start and reduces the amount of study needed once I am in Japan. Additionally, I have taken and passed the Japanese-Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) N5 level, which certifies basic language knowledge, reading, and listening skills for non-native speakers. The JLPT ranges from N5 (beginner) to N1 (advanced). While I have completed the most basic level, I am committed to furthering my studies to achieve higher proficiency.



In addition to my language studies, I have undertaken three survey trips to Japan to understand the current state of Christianity there. These trips included a comprehensive tour from Tokyo to Nagasaki, exploring the seven churches in Shizuoka and the four churches in Tokyo. I also attended special classes at the Japanese School of Evangelism, tailored for future mission work in Japan,

and surveyed parts of the Ibaraki prefecture, where many churches of Christ are located.

I have consulted with the only two active missionaries in Japan, Leslie Taylor and his family from Matsudo church of Christ, and Joel Osborne of Mito church of Christ, to better understand the role of a missionary in Japan. Additionally, I have received guidance and support from former missionaries Dwight and Josephine Albright of Park Ave church of Christ. Conversations with numerous Japanese



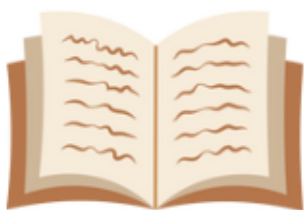


evangelists have provided insights into how Japanese culture interacts with Christianity and their views on the churches in Japan. Naoyoshi Fukushima from the Tachikawa church of Christ has been an invaluable resource, offering extensive information about the church and its history in Japan.

I have also sought out other individuals to join me in mission work in Japan and have identified over 10 highly motivated individuals. I led six of them on my last trip, organized our classes at the Japanese School of Evangelism, and began forming a team for future mission work. My goal is to

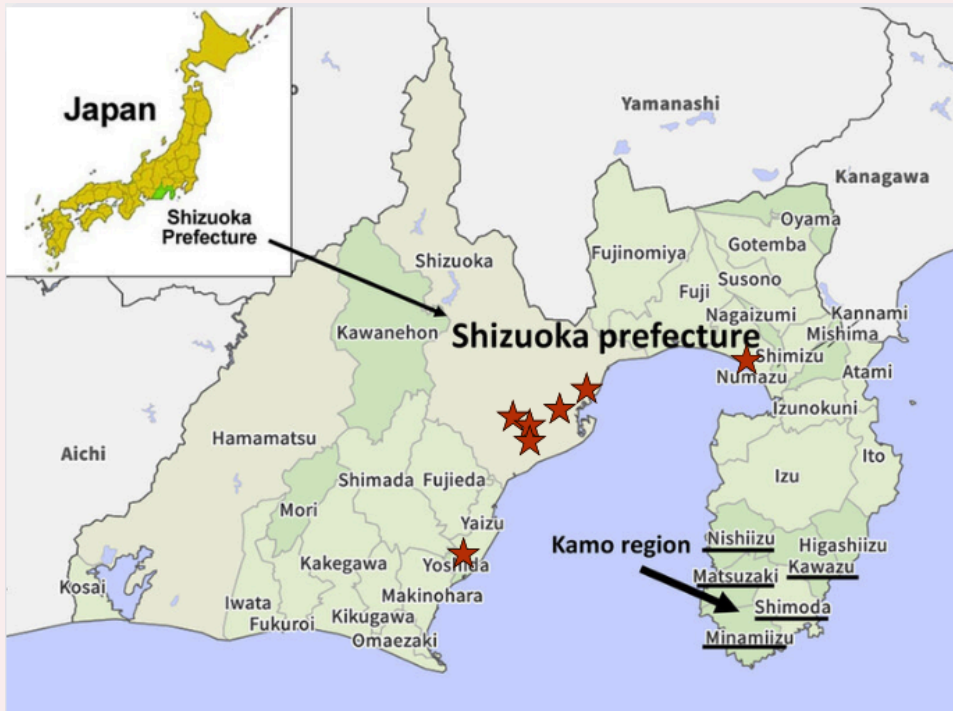
recruit more missionaries for Japan, as more workers are needed; currently, fewer than half of the churches in Japan have ministers.

Furthermore, I am committed to deepening my biblical knowledge. To this end, I plan on enrolling in the online Bachelor of Biblical Studies program at Sunset International Bible Institute. This program will enhance my understanding of the Scriptures and support my mission work. While in Japan, I plan to take a couple of courses at a time to balance my studies with my other responsibilities. This educational endeavor will deepen my understanding of the Bible and improve my ability to effectively communicate its message.



The Churches

Map of Shizuoka Prefecture.



Red stars highlighting the current churches

There are currently 7 churches in the Shizuoka prefecture being support by 4 preachers. Two of those preachers stay dedicated at their respective churches while the other two alternate between the different churches in the area. In total, there are about 55 members within the church spread out among the 7 churches. The biggest being Numazu church of Christ located at the top with about 15 members. The smallest being Ohiwa church of Christ who had one member that recently passed away in December of 2024.

After a lot of thought and prayer, the team and I have decided to go to the Ohiwa church of Christ. It is located in the center of Shizuoka city near city hall and two high schools. It currently no active members. This congregation was established in 1925 by sister Sarah Andrews who helped establish 4 of the churches in the Shizuoka prefecture.



Shizuoka, Japan

Shizuoka, located in central Japan, offers abundant natural beauty and a rich blend of culture, industry, and education. It is well-connected by transportation and known for its affordable living costs and disaster preparedness.

Natural Beauty and Views of

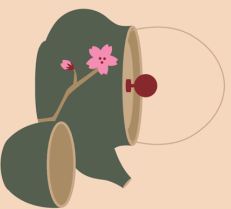
Mt. Fuji

Shizuoka features spectacular natural landscapes, including Suruga Bay, the deepest bay in Japan, and Mount Fuji, the highest mountain in Japan and a World Cultural Heritage site since 2013. The region's ocean views of Mt. Fuji are unparalleled, providing stunning vistas throughout the year.



Affordable and Pleasant Living Conditions

Compared to major cities like Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka, Shizuoka offers a lower cost of living, making it a budget-friendly option. The region also enjoys a warm and sunny climate with minimal snowfall, contributing to its appeal as a comfortable place to live.



Rich Cultural Heritage and Activities

Shizuoka combines traditional and modern cultural experiences. It has a rich manufacturing heritage dating back to the Edo period, reflected in products like plastic models and mini 4WDs. The region also boasts numerous museums, art galleries, and theaters, offering a vibrant cultural scene. Additionally, Shizuoka is renowned for its diverse and high-quality local produce, including tea and mandarin oranges.



Thriving Industry and Employment Opportunities

Known as the "Department Store of Industry," Shizuoka boasts a diverse and robust industrial base. It ranks 10th in Japan's GDP, with manufacturing being particularly strong. Shizuoka is the leading exporter of motorcycles, motorized bikes, and pianos in Japan, providing ample job opportunities.



Educational Excellence

Shizuoka hosts numerous universities offering a wide range of study fields, from medicine and engineering to sociology and culture. This diversity makes it an attractive destination for students seeking various academic and professional paths.



Missionary Plan and Goals

The Ohiwa church of Christ, originally established in 1925 by sister Sarah Andrews, now stands without active members. Our mission is to replant this congregation—restoring a faithful presence in central Shizuoka and building up a new body of believers rooted in God’s Word.

Addressing the Cultural Challenges

Christianity in Japan faces unique and difficult challenges:

- Perception as a Foreign Religion: The Lord’s church is often misunderstood as a Western institution disconnected from Japanese identity.
- Social Pressure and Group Conformity: Japanese society highly values harmony. Following Christ can lead to tension within families or peer groups.
- Religious Syncretism: Many blend Buddhist and Shinto beliefs with little sense of personal faith or absolute truth.
- Spiritual Apathy: Japan is one of the most secular nations on earth, with little exposure to or interest in biblical Christianity.

We believe these barriers can be overcome through long-term, relationship-driven ministry that demonstrates the love of Christ in both word and deed. Our aim is to live out the Gospel daily, showing that the church is not foreign—but a universal body offering eternal truth and hope.

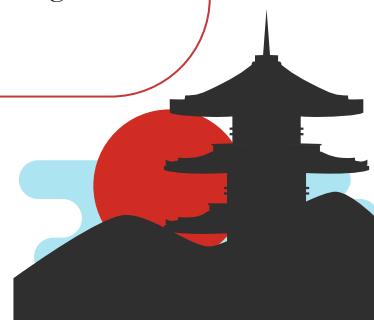
Strategic Focus

1. Language Learning and Cultural Immersion (Years 1–2)

Effective ministry begins with understanding both the language and the people. My first two years in Japan will be dedicated to full-time Japanese language study. During this period, I intend to engage in personal evangelism with my classmates and teachers—many of whom expressed interest in interacting with English speakers, especially since few are currently enrolled from English-speaking countries. These relationships will provide natural opportunities for Bible study and spiritual conversations.

2. Teaching Foundational - Bible Truths

Most Japanese people have never heard the Gospel or opened a Bible. Our efforts will begin with basic teaching—who God is, the nature of sin, why we need salvation, and what it means to obey the Gospel. These studies will be conducted with cultural sensitivity and grounded firmly in Scripture.



3. Community-Based Outreach

In Japan, people often first approach the church through shared activities before engaging in study. Like the Mito church of Christ—one of the few growing congregations—we plan to host English conversation classes, cultural exchanges, and community service events. These activities provide a natural, respectful way to introduce people to the church and open doors for deeper study of God’s Word.

6. Strengthening Other Congregations

While Ohiwa will be our main focus, our team will support nearby congregations as we are able, always respecting their autonomy. In Shizuoka Prefecture, only four preachers currently serve seven congregations—many of which meet only once a week.

7. Increasing Opportunities for Edification

In many parts of Japan, congregations meet only on Sunday mornings. We hope to offer more frequent assemblies—such as midweek Bible classes, small group studies, and additional times of worship and fellowship—to help Christians grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord (2 Peter 3:18).

4. Evangelism Among Students and Retirees

University students and retirees have proven to be more open to exploring faith. By partnering with local universities and engaging in community programs, we aim to initiate Bible studies and build relationships with individuals in these groups, helping them come to know and obey the truth.

5. Discipleship and Leadership Development

The long-term goal is to raise up faithful men and women who are grounded in sound doctrine and equipped to serve. Through ongoing teaching, mentoring, and leadership training, we pray that elders, deacons, evangelists, and Bible class teachers will one day come from among the local members. Currently, only one church of Christ in Japan has elders. We hope to help change that.

Long-Term Vision



Our ultimate goal is to help reestablish a faithful, self-supporting congregation in Shizuoka that can continue to teach, lead, and evangelize without outside help. In time, we hope to plant another congregation in one of Japan’s larger cities where no church currently exists. While this may take many years, we are committed to the slow, steady work of sowing the seed, watering, and trusting God to give the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Invitation from Ohiwa church of Christ

エンジェル・アルカンター兄、ブランデン・フルビー兄、オーシャン・フルビー姉

招待状

救い主イエスキリストの御名前を賛美します。

私たち（大岩キリストの教会）は、あなたがた（エンジェル・アルカンター兄、ブランデン・フルビー兄、オーシャン・フルビー姉）を日本宣教チームとして招待いたします。

私たちはあなたがたのプロフィールと日本宣教計画を受け取りました。あなたがたの日本宣教への熱意と計画を知り、私たちはとても励まされています。なぜなら、大岩キリストの教会は、かつてあなたがた同様に静岡で伝道したサラ・アンドリュース宣教師により礎を築かれた教会ですが、残念ながら今はとても人数も少なく、働き人を必要としているからです。

神さまの祝福がありますように。神さまがあなたがたの必要を満たし、あなたがたを遣わして、神さまの栄光を現わして下さいますように。

在主

2024 年 9 月

小林嘉子（大岩キリストの教会）

小林嘉子

井上正和（清水キリストの教会）

井上正和

篠崎智行（大岩・清水・興津キリストの教会説教者）

篠崎智行

To Brother Angel Alcantar, Brother Brandon Furbee, and Sister Ocean Furbee

Invitation

We praise the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We (Ohiwa Church of Christ) would like to invite you (Brother Angel Alcantar, Brother Brandon Furbee, and Sister Ocean Furbee) as Japan mission team. We have received your profile and your Japan mission plan. We are very encouraged to know your passion and plans for the Japan mission. This is because Ohiwa Church of Christ was founded by missionary Sarah Andrews, who, like you, once was sent to Shizuoka, but unfortunately, we are now very small in number and need workers.

May God bless you. May God meet your needs and send you out to reveal His glory.

In the Lord

September 2024

Yoshiko Kobayashi (Ohiwa Church of Christ)

小林 嘉子

Masakazu Inoue (Shimizu Church of Christ)

井上 正和

Tomoyuki Shinozaki (Preacher of Ohiwa, Shimizu and Okitsu coc)

篠崎 智行

Recommendations

July 19, 2024

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I met Angel Alcantar in May of 2023 for the first time at the Tachikawa church building in Tokyo. I have been serving Tachikawa Church of Christ as a minister since 1982 and as dean of Japan School of Evangelism since 2004. I had a good visit with Angel along with Dwight and Josephine Albright, former missionaries to Japan who were staying at Tachikawa at that time.

Angel was interested in working as a missionary in Japan. He came at his own expense to see Japan. I told him that there was a great need for missionaries in Japan. There was a Christian boom right after World War II, but it only lasted a decade or two. Now secularism has taken over the minds and lives of most Japanese people.

I made an appeal and challenged Angel to come and help churches in Shizuoka where Sarah Andrews established four congregations. Now all of them are without preachers and they are declining. One of them, Ohiwa church, has only one member.

Angel prayed about it for several months. He came to Japan again in February of 2024. I introduced Angel to two Japanese ministers in the Shizuoka area: Fumio Maeda and Tomoyuki Shinozaki. Angel and I drove to Shizuoka from Tokyo. We were able to spend more time together this time. Since then, he has made another trip in May with Brandon and Ocean Furbee.

I received an email from Angel several days ago stating that he is planning to come back to work in Shizuoka, Japan. He and the Furbees are planning to work with Ohiwa church in Shizuoka, which I mentioned earlier. Praise the Lord!

I am impressed with Angel's humility and sensitivity. I believe these are two crucial qualities for becoming an effective missionary in Japan. He is also a diligent worker. During the second trip, he worked in his spare time and produced basic Bible lessons for non-Christians. For the third trip, Angel worked with his friend who is a Christian counselor and brought a series of biblical tracts for people suffering from anxiety, bullying, loneliness, and suicide. We have not completed the translation, but we are working on it. So, I can testify that Angel is a diligent and sincere worker for the Lord. He has studied Japanese on his own, but he still needs to receive good systematic Japanese training at a language school in Japan.

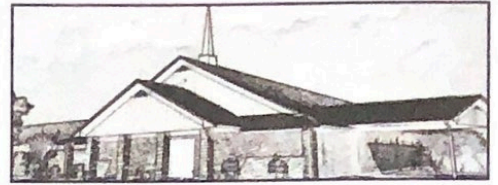
Thank you for reading this letter. Please pray for the declining and struggling churches in Japan. Please pray for Angel Alcantar as you consider becoming a partner with him in God's mission work in Japan by supporting him financially and through prayer. May God bless you and guide you as you consider helping Angel. May God's peace and grace be with you.



Nao Fukushima
Minister for Tachikawa Church of Christ
Dean of Japan School of Evangelism
1-1-9 Kashiwa, Tachikawa, Tokyo, Japan



**Buda-Kyle
CHURCH OF CHRIST**



To the brethren and saints in Christ,

I am happy to recommend to you, as a faithful laborer in Christ, brother Angel Alcantar for his work in Japan missions. My association with brother Alcantar has been through the Buda-Kyle Church of Christ in Buda, TX.

Through his laboring with us at Buda-Kyle, I have come to appreciate Angel's love for the truth and especially for the humble spirit by which he serves the Lord. Angel is worthy of your support. You can trust that he will be sound in the faith, diligent in his work, and a good steward with his time and resources.

Yours In Christ,

Ronnie Scherffius



3650 Jack C. Hays Trail,
Buda, TX 78610-9390



budakyleoffice@gmail.com



512-268-0230

www.budakyle.com

Resume

Angel Alcantar

Kyle, TX 78640 Tel: [1] 510-566-9874

Email: angel.c.alcantar@gmail.com

WORK EXPERIENCE

Feedonomics, Kyle, TX

June 2020 – Dec 2024

Enterprise Feed Manager II

- Collaborate with Fortune 500 enterprise clients worldwide to implement eCommerce solutions utilizing the Feedonomics platform.
- Proficiently import and manage extensive eCommerce datasets from platforms like Shopify, Magento, and Salesforce within the Feedonomics ecosystem.
- Expertly manipulate and optimize data to align with export channel standards, enhancing search relevancy and boosting conversion rates.
- Maintain professional communication channels with high-profile agencies and end-users through various mediums including email, Zoom meetings, and in-person interactions.
- Offer insightful recommendations for enhancing marketing campaigns based on thorough analysis of eCommerce data.
- Foster collaboration across teams at Feedonomics, aligning efforts to achieve targeted account-level objectives within the Enterprise team and beyond.

Self-Employed, Mankato, MN

Jan 2019 – April 2020

Funnel Designer

- Created sales funnel for an online real estate rental course that lead to making over \$10,000 in sales within the first month
- Frequently research industry standards to ensure that the website is designed to convert visitors into options/buyers
- Build email templates used to email more than 1,000 people daily
- Integrate websites to domains, SMTP providers, and other 3rd party applications to provide a robust marketing service
- Support several industries including real estate, coaching, nonprofits, e-commerce, brick-and-mortar businesses
- Engaged in prospecting, sale calls, customer relations, and appointment-setting

Digital River, Minnetonka, MN

Oct 2016 – Jan 2018

Associate Client Operations Specialist

- Resolved issues that customers faced and systemic issues that top Fortune 500 companies experienced in a timely fashion
- Coordinated with several departments across 8 different countries around the world
- Promoted from a Tech Center Agent within the first 9 months

8th Day Software, Henderson, TN

May 2014 – Aug 2015

Quality Assurance Analyst I

- Performed system and acceptance testing for a specialty pharmaceutical application throughout the software's lifecycle
- Supported 10 clients with several hundred patients each with how the application functions
- Wrote and performed test analysis using SQL, JIRA, and qTest to meet specific client requirements
- Promoted from an Intern after 16 months

EDUCATION

Freed-Hardeman University, Henderson, TN

2012 – 2016

Bachelor of Science – Psychology

