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Missionaries to



13 Weeks to go and Counting !

We are rapidly approaching our departure for Japan and can hardly contain our excitement and joy this Christmas as we prepare to go to the people God has called us to. We have had excellent meetings with four new churches taking us on for support. We are now at 75% and, Lord willing, plan to leave March 16th, 2012. Because we will be very busy with meetings scheduled next year, we are trying to get much of our preparations for leaving done in these next three weeks! Please pray for us that everything will fall in place.



Preparing to go

We are planning to ship a container to Japan filled with five crates of all our belongings and things for the church in Japan. Michael, with the help of a business family in our church, will be building the crates this week so we can start packing. ☺ Pray for this tremendous task as everything needs to be sorted through and inventoried for customs in Japan. We also are still waiting for some paper work to come in from the Japanese Government in order for us to apply for our visas. Pray that it might come in time so Pastor Rich can bring them with them when they come for Michael's ordination. Then we can all go to the Japanese Embassy and apply in person. In the midst of all this please pray for Michael's ordination, January 14th. As he prepares, April is trying to teach Abigail some Japanese words and prepare her for the big change in her life come March.



Abigail's Corner

Abigail is getting excited about going to Japan and looking forward to riding a big airplane. She often talks about getting to see Grandpa and Grandma Rich. She has been practicing her counting and can count from 1-10 in Japanese. We are so thankful for her joyful spirit. She often will break out in song and loves singing "Only a boy named David". She flings her arm around ready for that stone to hit the giant. She will miss her cousins very much, and her Aunt Steph and Uncle Matthew. We would appreciate your prayers as she will be facing culture shock when we get to Japan.

Happenings @ Faith Baptist Church- Japan



The children's outreach plans from our last letter changed as Pastor Rich was hospitalized with a heart attack while on his eighth trip up to the refugee area. Praise the Lord he had little to no damage to his heart and is doing well now. Please keep them in prayer as they are very busy with everything in the church.

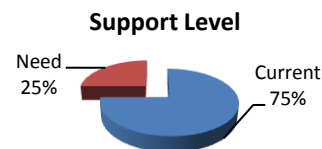
They had a wonderful thanksgiving service with several visitors who are still coming to church. Last week the church took a trip to minister to the refugee children near the devastated area in Japan. God really blessed as they took special Christmas gifts to the children and had a Christmas program.

Please continue to pray for the church visitors and believers. Pray for Miss Asai, who has been very busy with accounting courses, to be faithful. Also pray for Miss Yui as she has moved to school and needs to find a church to grow in. Yusuke, a Christian young man who was saved while in the U.S., has started attending. He faced the decision of whether to attend his grandfather's Buddhist funeral. He chose to follow the Lord and did not attend because of ancestral worship. Please pray for him as he is under much attack from his family for not going. We praise the Lord for his step of Faith and how God is working in lives there in Japan.



63 Supporters

We want to thank each one of you who have partnered with us in reaching the Japanese people. We do pray for you and thank God for you. Please continue to pray for us and our support and start up costs- we still have to raise funds for our flights, shipping container, and vehicle.



Upcoming Schedule of Meetings

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| Now - packing to go to Japan | Feb 12 – Port Wentworth, GA |
| Jan 8 – Crown Point, IN | Feb 19 – Dayton, OH |
| Jan 14 – Ordination, Plymouth, IN | March 4-7 – Kingsport, TN |
| Jan 15 – Beverly Shores, IN | March 11 – Winamac, IN |
| Jan 18-22 – Greenwood, IN | March 16 – Fly to HI for meetings |
| Jan 29 – Grafton, IL | March 18 – Waipahu, HI |
| Feb 3-10 – Hampton, SC | March 25 – Naalehu, HI |
| | March 26 – Fly to Japan! |



Merry Christmas,
 Michael, April, and Abigail Riffel