THE RIFFEL FAMILY UPDATE



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Open doors at the Hospital

How excited we are to share with you what the Lord is doing here in Japan. Thank you all for praying for Pastor Rich. We praise God that Pastor Rich was moved out of ICU and is doing very well in his therapy. Actually, he has moved around to several different areas of the hospital for a few weeks at a time because of additional surgeries needed. This has given him so many more opportunities to get to know and build a rapport with the hospital staff but especially to be a witness.

We wish we had time to share with you all that God is doing there. Now the main ICU Doctor is organizing the staff so Pastor Rich can teach them English and Bible after he is out of the Hospital. We are also going to start an English service in Jan. on Sunday afternoons at the church. Several Doctors



and nurses have said they would like to come. Please pray that God would use this as a great ministry to reach the Japanese people. Also please pray for Miss Nakajima, a nurse April has gotten to know and has started teaching Bible and English to on Thursday nights. She is very open to studying the Bible.

Thanksgiving & Christmas Banquets

We would like your special prayer for our thanksgiving outreach on November 23rd. We have at least 12 unsaved Japanese signed up to attend so far. We will be cooking a full course turkey dinner and have a Japanese pastor coming to speak. Many have shown interest in coming because they have never eaten turkey before. We are excited that the Ito family, who we met at the driver's license bureau and have asked pray for, is planning to attend. Also a concert planist we met at the hospital said she would like to come. Another family who has seen us at the hospital many times as they visited their own family member has signed up to come. Please pray that God will greatly bless and that people will come with open hearts to receive the gospel. Also please be in prayer for our Christmas Banquet for December 23rd.



Great News!

In ICU Pastor Rich had several times to witness to a young male nurse, Mr. Ide Hiroshii. One time he told Pastor Rich that he would think about it and give him

an answer. We prayed very hard those next few days. Then the day before Pastor Rich had to leave ICU he came into the room and with a big smile and loud voice announced in front of several other doctors and nurses that he had received Jesus Christ as his savior! What a change could be seen in his life and what a thrill to know that all was not for naught. Please pray for him to grow and be able to come to church. His schedule is very busy and he has not been able to get Sundays off.

God's Grace and Strength

We praise the Lord for giving us grace and strength during this busy time in our lives. We know God is answering your prayers; thank you. Please continue to pray for April as she teaches Abigail, has



English/Bible studies with Mrs. Ikegami and now also Miss Nakajima, teaches in the Japanese Kindergarten on Wed. morning and the English Kindergarten on Saturday morning, and interprets for Michael for Sunday and Wednesday services. Also continue to pray for Michael's Language study and church ministry. He has been incorporating what he learns into the services and has even started to pray short prayers in Japanese. He also has been working on literature for the thanksgiving and Christmas outreaches, an article Pastor Rich wrote about the Dr. and Nurses in Japan, and working on fixing up our home whenever possible. Recently he had to put a new roof on our "shed", the crates we brought from America because water was getting in. Thankfully

only a few of our things were damaged. At the end of September our church took it's 15th trip up north taking more Bibles and supplies for the churches to reach out to the refugees. We went to a new church this time and took enough for 160 refugee families. They



were so thrilled to be able to minister to these still very needy people with the good news of Jesus Christ and with needed goods.



Abigail's Corner

Abigail is growing by leaps and bounds. She loves her memory verses, and will just say them suddenly throughout the day. The other day April was a little

discouraged, and Abigail suddenly quoted, "As for God His way is perfect". It encouraged April so much. Sometimes we do not understand why things happen in this world. For us, it was hard to understand at first why Pastor Rich was in the hospital, but God's way is perfect, and now we see God doing so much at the hospital and is opening so many doors for us to witness and get contacts



for the future. As we go into this time of Thanksgiving and Christmas let us remember what a wonderful Savior we have and that his way is perfect.

> For God's glory, Michael, April, and Abigail Riffel