# THE RIFFEL FAMILY UPDATE



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# AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2013

Missionaries to



### Psalms 107:8-9

Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

### Mika -1

Oh the joy of seeing Japanese realize the goodness and fullness of having Christ as their Saviour. We rejoice that Mika (meeka) Toujou received Jesus as her Saviour this last month. She had been carrying a burden much too



Right: Mika with her ICU friend-Yumi

big for her shoulders, and was able to give it to The Lord. We first met Mika last year as one of dad's ICU nurses. She heard us singing, praying, and reading the Bible in ICU. She at that time did not realize it, but God was preparing her to know Him. About two months ago Mika guit her job because it was too overwhelming to her. She started searching for what she desired to do and decided she wanted to get away from her burdens and go to Australia. But she knew she didn't know enough English. She remembered us, and found our church and asked us if we could teach her. So April started teaching her English and Bible classes every Thursday. Mika quickly showed more interest in the Bible time and asked many questions about the Bible and about God. After two months of long conversations about the Bible and salvation Mika accepted Christ as her Saviour. The thrill in our hearts to see her accept Christ as her Saviour is immeasurable. Please pray for her growth. She is currently in the midst of changing jobs and is super busy. Please pray she will be able to come to church and grow in The Lord.



### Mika-2

Another great event this summer was our barbecue and fireworks outreach at Pastor Rich's house. 19 people came and we met several new Japanese for the first time. One of them was another Mika- Mika Ugai, a Christian who had moved to our area over a year ago. She was invited to come by an unsaved lady she met at the

Dentist's waiting room who comes sometimes to our special events. She hadn't been going to church and was very excited to find out about our church. The next Sunday she came to church and announced she had talked to her boss and was not going to work on Sunday and make coming to church a priority. We are so excited to see her coming, and are praying for her to really grow in The Lord. She has started a discipleship class this week with the Riches.

## A special Visit

We had a very busy but great summer. We really enjoyed the short time we had with Michael's parents when they came for a visit. Michael's dad gave a testimony and Sunday school lesson in church and they both provided special



music for the services. We so appreciated their fellowship and help with things here; they were such an encouragement to us.

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### **Off to America**

We are so excited for Hikaru as she has flown to America and is at PCC. The Lord has already provided a good Christian friend who is



Japanese and we are looking forward to seeing how God will use and train her for his purpose in life. These next few weeks will be especially difficult for her as she is now immersed in English and will need much

prayer as she acclimates not only to college life, but also American culture. We are also praying for her

parent's salvation and were thrilled that her mother came to our Sunday services for the first time the week before she left.



#### Abigail's Corner

Abigail is growing by leaps and bounds. She is our joy. She loves it when we go out passing tracts and cries sometimes when we have to stop. We are so thankful for our little missionary. She is starting K5. Our hearts desire more friends for Abigail. Please pray Konomi and her mother will be back in church soon. They have not returned since her mother had a baby. Also please pray that we can get more children to church. The parents in Saku are very protective of their children, and we have had a struggle getting children to come. However, today Michael's doctor, Shinohara, said that he would like to come to church sometime and wants Abigail to meet his 5 yr. old daughter.

#### **Fall Outreach**

This fall we are geared up for flooding Saku with church invitations, tracks, Salvation print, and the gospel of Johns. Please pray for this and our puppet outreach for children on October 13<sup>th</sup> as well as the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas outreaches. Also keep praying for our English Kindergarten and the starting of our English/Bible class on Thursday nights.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. They mean so much to us.

Michael, April, and Abigail Riffel