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Missionaries to



Praise the Lord, after our fifth day of weather caused flight delays, cancellations, and closed airports in the U.S. and Japan, we were finally able to fly back to Japan. Yes, on February 2nd we took a short unexpected trip back to the States to attend the funeral of April's saved Uncle. Despite the circumstances, it was wonderful to be able to see family and friends again. I don't think we realized how "home" Japan had come to be for us because it was a little culture shock coming back to the States. We had a busy trip, but very refreshing spiritually and emotionally. The Lord even gave us the opportunity of speaking in a friend's junior church while stuck for 3 days in Minneapolis. We came back to Japan to find the Expressway to Saku closed because our prefecture had received



more snow than on record the past 120 years. We finally arrived home a little tired, but more than ever ready to reach the people we have come to know and love. We're so glad to be serving the Lord here.

Christmas and Valentines Banquet

Thank you for all who prayed for our Christmas outreaches. We enjoyed putting on a Christmas play one Sunday and having an American Christmas another. My doctor's family and our dentist couple came and heard the true meaning of Christmas for the first time. We were also thankful for the Deura family and their friends coming again for Christmas and, despite the snow, also our Valentines Banquet. (which got delayed a couple weeks). Mr. Deura had said that he doesn't believe in any religion, but this last time he said he was thinking about it. Please be praying for the Salvation of these families.



Heartache

The Devil is always working here in Japan although we do not always write of it. Miss Mika, because of pressures from her family, has chosen to stop coming to church and has turned back to the world and the life she knew. This broke our hearts, but we continue to pray that God would get a hold of this young believer. It just again shows how much we really need your prayers in this very needy Land.

Continued Prayer

Thank you for your continued prayers for Hika Kobayashi (Hika) and her family. God has been working in the lives of her parents as they see their daughter's changed life. The week before we headed back to America her dad had asked her if it would be possible for him to become a Christian! She was able to witness over the phone to them and also set up a time for us to go to their house to deliver a package that her homestay "parents" had sent. Of course our purpose was to see them saved. After talking to them we realized they were not ready yet, but have come a long way. We answered some of their questions and shared several passages of scripture. They shared an interest in getting together again to talk some more- so please be in prayer for that. Hika is doing well at PCC, but is still in need of prayer for the culture and language differences. She really enjoyed the missions conference there recently and is praying about what God would have her do in the future.

Easter Outreach

Also please be in prayer for a new opportunity that God has opened up for us March 8. An unsaved farmer friend of the Riches has asked him to speak about Easter for a special Easter event to a group of about 60 kids. Wow, what an opportunity to share Christ. After finding more about it from Pastor Rich, this farmer became even more excited to learn that God was really alive today and that Christ proved that He was God by rising from the dead. This same farmer even told this to the group planning the meeting! We will be providing music and games as well. God is surely at work because opportunities like this are virtually unheard of here in Japan. Also please remember our Easter service in your prayers.

Abigail's Corner

Abigail was overjoyed to get to see her cousins while in the States and cried when we left. She loved being able to talk to people in English, and often would try to strike up conversations with total strangers everywhere we went. She is our Joy, and we are so thankful she wants to follow the Lord. A little while after praying with her she told us it was o.k. that she was leaving her cousins because God wanted her in Japan. She settled back in to homeschooling and is loving all the snow. Please keep her and Michael in your prayers for continued understanding in the Japanese Language. Michael has been delving in to more Kanji (Chinese characters) lately and should be preaching his first full message in Japanese soon.

Thank you for praying for us and for the souls in Japan, Michael, April, and Abigail Riffel