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Missionaries to



Exciting Events

The Lord truly has blessed in a whirlwind of events this past few months. We are so thankful to each and every one of you who have been praying for the ministry here as we work with the Rich's at Faith Baptist Church in Saku City, Japan.



In **November** we were blessed in such a special way as Brother Tanii and family came to speak at our Thanksgiving Banquet. Also brother John Ferry came from America and stayed for a few days. He brought over curtains for our Christmas play and helped out with the Thanksgiving banquet. **God really blessed and two ladies receive the Lord as their Saviour, Mrs. Narumi and Mrs. Kutsukake's Mother.** Please pray for both ladies as their Husbands are not wanting them to come to church regularly. We thank the Lord so much they received the Lord as their Saviour, but are truly concerned about their growth in the Lord.



December was a super busy month with great blessings. We were able to have the annual **Christmas cookie bake!** It was a great time of fellowship. **Family Christmas Sunday** was also a great day.

April had written a Christmas play for it and our church worked hard at learning their lines, sewing curtains, and building a stage as well as preparing a banquet. The highlight was when two ladies, **Mrs. Izumi and Miss Naomi, accepted Christ after the message!!** Miss Naomi Toyama (in middle below) is a Catholic nurse friend we have known for quite a few years and has come to our special Christmas events every year. We all were so excited as April was leading them to the Lord. It sure makes all our efforts worthwhile. Mrs.



Izumi (far right) came because of a church flyer she received during door to door! It was the first time we had seen someone come because of our Saturday evangelism! Please keep this weekly ministry in your prayers.



Our church people really worked hard on all our outreach events this last year and practiced music for **the Christmas Concert at the Hospital** for several months. Near the end the Kutsukake family was able to join in and we had a wonderful time singing about our Savior's birth to the people in ICU and HCU then in the main Concert area and finally at another hospital's rehabilitation unit. Everyone received it very well and some said came last year and were looking forward to next year as well. Praise the Lord it was not of us but by His grace.

2016 goals and exciting news!

As we began this beautiful New Year, we are excited about all God has done and will do. We had a wonderful **Valentine's Sunday** and were so excited that one of our English Student's family, the Ikeda family who used to be named Deura, came to join us. Please pray for them as we continue to witness to this special Family. We have added **new students** this Year, and are excited about the opportunity to get to tell more Japanese about our Saviour.



Abigail's Corner

Abi has a big announcement. Her little friend **Sophie Kido (4yr. old) has accepted Christ as her Saviour!** We are so excited about Sophie getting saved and are praying for her growth now in the Lord. Abi has been very burdened for her, and we are pleased as punch that she is saved now!:-) Abigail has been doing great in school. Phonics can be challenging at times, but loves to read and math is one of her favorites! We are so thankful for her joyful heart and love watching her be part of the ministry here.



We truly want to thank each and every one who has been a part in supporting us here financially and prayerfully. We know that without your sacrifice we could not be here and without your prayers the work would not be fruitful. We have included a second page to our prayer letter this time for you to use as a prayer sheet, and hope it will help.

Gratefully serving our Saviour,
Michael April and Abigail Riffel

We truly ask that you would continue to pray for the following:

1. Japanese— Pray for more souls to be saved and more open doors to witness. Pray for those we are currently witnessing to be saved. Pray for those who have been saved to follow the Lord in baptism and grow in the Lord. Pray for our church to grow in every way.
2. Special Church Events coming up— Easter, Church Retreat on March 20-22nd , Balloon Festival Breakfast Outreach in May, Mother and Father’s day events, and Mission Teams coming in April, May, June, and August.
3. The King Family (first mission team)- They will be coming from a supporting church in Michigan and helping us with our continued renovation of our home. Brother King remodels houses for a living and we are so thankful they can come and help us. Please pray the funds will come in for us to be able to get our living room, and study done by this summer before the PCC students come so some of them can sleep in the living room. The King family will be coming mid-April for two weeks.
4. PCC Mission Teams (May, June, August)— We are praying that as these college students come we can get thousands of the Gospel of John’s out throughout Saku and utilize their talents to spread the gospel. Please pray the Lord will call many of these young people back to Japan as missionaries.
5. Michael— Pray for him as he continues language study and language school, prepares messages in Japanese, and seeks wisdom for his Health. At this time he is very healthy and his UC and PSC are doing fine. He has been doing a special diet (SCD diet) and has been also working very hard on our house along with the church, English/Bible classes, and Saturday Evangelism. We praise the Lord that his liver counts have not gotten any worse.
6. Abigail’s Japanese study- She is doing a little bit better lately in Japanese and is going to be starting Kumon – Japanese classes next month.
7. April’s health— She has been having many migraines lately and also recently had the flu for a week.
8. Pastor and Mrs. Rich— They are faithfully serving the Lord here, and we are so thankful we get to work with them. We need them in the ministry here so much. They are doing well and planning another short furlough in the fall to visit more of their supporting churches that they were not able to get to last time.
9. Pray that it will work out to start a Bible study with some of the ladies who cannot come to church.
10. Those who have been saved recently-
 - Kohaku (Keep praying for his mom’s salvation)
 - Haruki- Kyle Kido’s friend
 - Minori, Satomi, Hitomi Kutsukake- three sisters that were saved in October, and their grandmother who was saved in November.
 - Mrs. Narumi who was saved in November
 - Miss Naomi- Catholic nurse that was saved at Christmas
 - Sophie, the Kido’s youngest (4yrs old), who was saved just last week.