

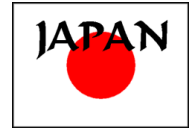


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Missionaries to



Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. 1Cor. 15:58

### Angels Rejoicing!

It was a great privilege to see several salvations this past month. Thank you for praying for our English class students. After a two-month break from classes for April's arm to heal, we began again in June. The Lord worked it out that only one of the families could come to our Thursday evening class that week and so we could take more time and talk more personally with them. As we shared about the Philippian jailer and his family trusting Christ, we asked if they also would like to repent and ask Jesus to save them from their sin. Both Yui (8) and Daiki (6) raised their hands and prayed with us to receive the Lord! It was exciting to hear them tell us that they had prayed for God's forgiveness, believed in Jesus and were going to Heaven. Their older sister Mei had already prayed 2 years ago. She was excited for them and now all three children in that family have trusted Christ. Please pray for God to work in their hearts to grow, desire to come to church and that their parents will allow it.

### God is Working

One of our members, Marissa, has been reaching out to bring people to church and share the gospel. Her Philippine friend, nicknamed Mono, had come once to church two years ago when we were on furlough. About a month and a half ago Marissa reached out to her again and was able to lead her to the Lord! She has been coming to church when she can and brought her Japanese friend Mrs. Ishizuka to church. This was her first time ever in a church. After a few weeks of coming, on June 27<sup>th</sup>, she also accepted Christ. This is a very crucial time for them as they need to grow, however both of their husbands do not want their wife or children going to church and give them a hard time about it. So please pray for them and their families. Our God is so great and it is so exciting to see some salvation fruit for our labors here.

### Retiree and New Blood

We are sad to have to say goodbye this month to a long-time veteran missionary to Japan, Laverne Rodgers. He was instrumental in helping the Riches start their missionary work in Tokyo 48 years ago. He is retiring this month after 70+ years of missionary work at the age of 95. Praise the Lord for such a testimony of service to the Lord. Please say a special prayer for Brother Rodger's health with Parkinson's. On the other hand, we are so excited to start preparing for the two missionary families that will be coming here next year to learn Japanese and help start churches in our prefecture. The Derry family is planning on coming next March and the White family in July. Please pray for these preparations.

### Pain, pain go away

Well, it has been over three months since April fractured her arm. Thankfully the bone seems to be healing properly without surgery. However, she is still struggling with pain every day and continuing to go to rehabilitation every week to slowly gain use of her arm again. She can really sympathize with those who have chronic pain. Please pray for her pain to subside and that she would gain full use of her arm again quickly

### Church Events

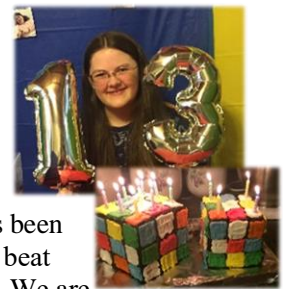
God really blessed our Children's Day, Mother's Day and Father's Day Events. Our folks really got involved more this year and it was a good time of fellowship. They were even asking about the next event and what they could do to help. Praise the Lord. Our next event is our church's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary Sunday followed by our Summer BBQ outreach on August 14<sup>th</sup> at our house. Please pray for God's blessing on these events and good weather for the BBQ. Pray for our English class families to come and other unsaved and for God to prepare their heart to hear His Word.

### Looking for a new church building

Our Church has been saving to try to move to a larger facility for quite a while now. With the church being all in one room, it has made it difficult at times with trying to counsel or have several Sunday School classes and nursery going on at the same time. Last month we talked to Mr. Ishii, our landlord and realtor, and he is trying to find a place we can rent. Please pray with us that God would provide an affordable place that will be exactly what we need.

### Abigail's Corner

Our little girl is not so little any more. Believe it or not, she had the audacity to become a teenager this month! Ha, Ha. We made a Rubik's cube cake for her this year as she has been really "in" to that lately. Daddy can't beat her time of under a minute to solve it. We are so thankful for her. She is a big help in our English classes and along with many other things, on prayer meeting nights, she also sets up the camera and records our livestream service. Pray for her as she starts 8<sup>th</sup> grade in August and for her to continue to grow and be used of the Lord.



Also, we would appreciate your prayers for Yuichi Okada who is backslidden right now. Thank you so much for your part in the ministry here through your prayers. God is answering.

In His service,  
Michael, April, and Abigail