THE RIFFEL FAMILY UPDATE



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Dear Friends and Family,

3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. Whew, what a busy Fall it has been! It is so hard to believe that we are in November and in a few short months we will be getting on an airplane to go on furlough! Our flights are booked for February 13th. It will have been almost five years since we went on our last furlough. We look forward to those we get to see when in the States and apologize now if we do not get to see you. We will miss our church family here so very much during the five months we are gone. Please pray for the Lord to provide someone to watch over the church while we are in the States. We have been in contact with one possibility but are waiting to see if it will work out.

Abigail's Corner!

We are so excited and thankful for our Abi. In September, God made it clear to her in her private devotions that He is calling her into <u>full time Christian service</u> and that she should attend Baptist College of Ministry in Menominee Falls, WI. God was also confirming this in our hearts and we are thrilled how God is leading her! We look forward to visiting the college next March for their Victory Conference and college day. It was amazing how we had already scheduled to go there not knowing that it was going to be during these events. Praise the Lord for His working and leading.

Thank you for Praying for our Fall events.

The Lord blessed us with a nice **grandparents/ Senior's Sunday**. There was much sickness this fall so attendance was lower, but we so enjoyed honoring our older members as we

celebrated their faithfulness. April came down with pneumonia for a couple weeks. Thankfully, she felt well enough in time for our first **Fall Festival** at our house. We praise the Lord for blessing and for <u>three visitors</u> who attended! Rose's friend



Adelina and her daughter Yurina came. They have been coming to church now and we are really enjoying getting to know them. They have a Catholic background but it appears that the mother and possibly also the daughter are saved. <u>Please</u> <u>pray for their growth and that her son, Maki, will also come to</u> <u>church</u>. April's pneumonia relapsed afterward. She is better now but still not 100% so please pray for her health.

We started out November with our annual **Fall Viewing trip** with our church family. We so enjoy getting to see God's nature at its fullest Autumn splendor. It was a special bonding time with some church members that could come. Please pray for our **Thanksgiving Banquet** on November 26th.

A Sad Goodbye

On October 3rd, Brother White came from the states with pastor Kirkland for a week to finalize everything for their move back to America. It was a very busy and sad time saying goodbye. After they left, Michael was very busy as our landlord asked us to remove all of Mom's kitchen cabinets out of the house. This ended up being a blessing as we could then use these at the church. We are so thankful to our church ladies for helping with the cleaning and things that had to be done in order to give the keys back to the landlord before the end of the month.

50 Years in Japan!

This November marks <u>mom Rich's 50th</u> <u>year to be in Japan.</u> We are so thankful for her faithfulness to the Lord and how she continues to help us so much in the ministry here. She had graciously offered her home for the Whites



to live in including many appliances and furniture. As we were packing and moving many things, emotionally and physically we were saying goodbye to not only a new missionary family but also a big part of our past. This was the house the Riches came to in 2006 and started the church in. We could not help but be thankful for all the work the Riches did to begin the church we have now and all the years of faithful ministry to the Japanese.

Thank you for praying for Michael and the church renovation project. He has been working hard on it and the Lord has answered your prayers in providing two men that have stepped up to help him finish the construction this month.

We are so thankful we can share the true meaning of Christmas here in Japan in our upcoming events:

December 6th & 7th - <u>Christmas parties</u> for our English/ Bible classes at our house and the church.

December 16th - <u>Christmas Cookie Bake</u> at the church. We will be making many cookies to package up and give to our neighbors and friends with a gospel tract. Some unsaved usually come to this event; please pray they will see that church is a friendly place to come to and will desire to come to church. Many Japanese in our area are afraid to enter church doors.

December 24th <u>Special Christmas worship service & Banquet</u>, and a 3:30 <u>Christmas Candlelight Service</u> (It gets dark at 4:00pm in December)

December 31st - <u>New Years Eve</u> church family meal and game time and devotions and praying the New Year in together.

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support. We want to thank First B.C. of Atoka for providing a computer for us and many others who have sent us Christmas love offerings to make our Christmas special. May the Lord give you all a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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