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Missionaries to



Dear Friends and Family,

“And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.” Genesis 28:15

Wow, what a whirlwind the last few months have been. We thank the Lord for all the miles He has brought us since we flew from Japan on February 13th. These past months were very busy preparing, and we apologize that we did not get a letter out before this. We know it is through your prayers that we can do what we are doing.

Looking back to our **Christmas events** we could see God truly blessing. We had many visitors at our annual Christmas Cookie Bake including several unsaved families. Afterwards many said they had a wonderful time and even mentioned that they thought being in a church would be uncomfortable and unknown but instead felt at home. We praise the Lord for His working and pray that these will come again to our church events. We also had two different **Christmas parties** with our English students. They were sad to know we were going to America but are looking forward to our coming back. One mother has asked April to start having a Bible study with her when we get back and we are excited about this opportunity. Please pray for Mrs. M. **Christmas Sunday** was special also as we held a candlelight service celebrating the true light of the world. We were happy to have visitors including **Mr. Koido and Mr. Okada** who had not visited in over a year. Please pray for them to come to church and for the online bible study Michael is starting with Mr. Okada.



In January our church met several times to pray and plan for this year and especially our time of furlough. We praise the Lord for their faithfulness and that they have truly bonded together and have taken on many extra responsibilities to keep the church going forward. The Sunday before we left in February, we had a big **Valentines banquet**. We were so excited that after a four-year absence we could reconnect with the **Kido family** and see them come back to our church to celebrate Valentine's Day with us and see us before we left. This was such an encouragement to us as we have missed them so much. God truly has been working! We look forward to seeing them more when we return to Japan in July.

In February we flew to Hawaii for our furlough meeting at a supporting Japanese church there. We had visited here

while moving to Japan 12 years ago and it was so good to return and be able to minister in Japanese and English.

We so enjoyed being with Pastor and Mrs. Kamikubo and appreciate the hospitality in providing our housing and easing into culture shock of being back in America after 5 years.



After Hawaii we flew to Miami, Florida where Michael's eldest brother and family serve the Lord. We were able to spend some wonderful time catching up and enjoyed getting to go to two different churches with them. We ministered at Mom's supporting church in Fort Lauderdale and visited their church plant in Miami Beach. One visitor talked to Michael after the service and wanted to pray for salvation. We praise the Lord for His working and this special time.



From there we flew to Indiana and continued with meetings in Wisconsin and Indiana. We have been so blessed getting to see family and friends, and longtime supporters here as well. One of the needs for furlough is always transportation. We praise the Lord that our sending church has graciously provided an SUV to use for our furlough travels. Please pray for God's blessing on the many meetings we have booked and for safety as we will be driving over 20,000 miles in the next 5 months all across America.

Abigail's Corner!

Abigail was so excited as we were able to attend the college day and victory conference at BCM (Baptist College of Ministry). Although she is only a sophomore, we thank the Lord for this opportunity to prepare for her future. We were so excited to reconnect with the Himes, missionaries to Japan for 35 years, who minister there as well as meet Mr. And Mrs. Okado who are missionaries to Japan on deputation and share some Japanese food. (yes, there already is a little home-sickness for Japan) Abi made some friends and enjoyed spending some time with a young lady who she had met at a supporting church. We had many questions about the college, but God answered all and gave us all clear direction for her future and great encouragement through the preaching.



As we continue this furlough, we ask you to pray that God will protect our church in Japan and give wisdom as we spend hours on the phone. Also pray for protection and God's blessing on our furlough ministry and that more missionaries would be called. Thank you so much for your prayers, Michael, April, and Abigail.