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“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: Be thankful unto him, and bless his name.” Psalm 100:4

Dear friends and family,

We praise the Lord in so many ways as we look back on how the Lord has guided and blessed this furlough and the 30 churches we have been to so far. God has been so faithful in keeping us safe over nearly 18,000 miles in the car. It has been encouraging to see many people burdened for the lost in Japan and hear that many have been praying for us very faithfully.

April began was a wonderful time of getting to see family and friends. We enjoyed getting to spend time with Michael’s parents in Georgia for a week, and also visit two of Michael’s brothers and their families. It was shocking to see how much their children had grown and the new additions to the family. It was a sweet time, and we are so thankful we could be with them. Another highlight was our Mission agency’s family week in North Carolina. What a blessing to fellowship with other missionaries and get lots of encouragement from God’s Word! We found out later that two churches whose pastors were at those meetings took us on for support. PTL! Thank you, Faith BC in Shelby and Clear Fork BC in Albany! After the mission week we were able to spend time with April’s best friend and her family in South Carolina. Precious memories were made. We praise the Lord that we could share about the work in Japan in churches across Georgia, S. & N. Carolina, Maryland, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. It was such a joy also to see another of Aprils college friends for a surprise Sunday night visit while in CT. It had been years and wow, how their children have grown! What a precious time we had! It is bittersweet as we continue to say our hellos and goodbyes.

In May we headed back to our home church in Indiana. We spent some special time with our church and Pastor and his family as well as Michael’s twin brother and family. We also enjoyed seeing friends we had not seen for so long. It was a precious time to see everyone. The Lord blessed our meetings in Michigan, Indiana, and Minnesota. We praise the Lord for the opportunity to speak in Junior Church at Mom’s supporting church in Minnesota; two children prayed to receive the Lord! Praise God At the end of May we started our trip up into Canada to see Michael’s mother’s family in Alberta who we had not seen for over 16 years. For the Sunday there, Michael shared an update and preached for church and the family met for a reunion in the park later in the afternoon. It was a very special time despite April getting sick.



In June, while heading back down for more meetings in the States, we took the opportunity to go see the Canadian Rockies. It was beautiful and reminded us how much we miss our mountains in Nagano. On our way to Texas meetings, we also stopped in to



see Michael’s Grandma and extended family in Kansas. It was so good to see them. In Texas we spoke at a supporting church and a new church in Big Springs.

We were so excited when they told us afterward that they were taking us on for support. Thank You!

What a blessing. Between these two meetings we flew to the Riffel reunion in Florida. It was such a special time to be with family, and yes, once again wow, how the kids had grown! The time has flown and here we are now in July experiencing more blessings. During our



special visit with April’s Uncle and Aunt in San Antonio, the Lord granted a desire for which we have been praying for years. They gave Abi a higher quality violin! She is enjoying practicing now as I write this letter. Thank the Lord and thank you uncle and Aunt! We know she will use it for the Lord as she continues to play in many churches we go to.



As we write this letter, we look back and realize the blessings have been so many. We thank God for giving us so many friends, family, and churches who faithfully serve our Lord where they are. We have loved seeing everyone but are getting very homesick for our church family in Japan. We are eager to get back to the place and people God has called us. We still have 5 meetings left in Indiana, Michigan and Washington. We would appreciate your prayers for our final meetings and travels. We will be flying to Washington on the 23rd for two meetings there and then on to Japan on the 30th. Two weeks after arriving home we will be having church camp at our house. Please pray for all the preparation and for God’s special blessing on camp this year.

Abigail’s Corner

It is hard to believe our little girl just turned 16! She has loved the time with all her cousins and so many other friends and enjoyed practicing driving for the first time at the Brassington farm in Canada. Although it has been difficult trying to keep up with her homeschooling on the road, she has been able to see some historic places like Mt. Rushmore and even got to witness a calf being born too. She loves her new violin and is really excited about getting back home in a couple weeks.



May the Lord bless you all. -Michael, April, & Abigail