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Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. Psalms 20:7

# End of year events.

We again had a great turn out for our Christmas Cookie Bake in December with several visiting families. We



had a first time visitor come with her daughter. We praise the Lord for being able to share about the Christ's coming at our English Christmas party and also for Christmas Sunday. The Lord blessed these times. This year for our Candlelight service, we had an impromptu Christmas play with everyone getting involved in playing a part: shepherd, angels, Simeon and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, and even Isaiah speaking a part. Different scripture passages were read as each person played out their part of the story and read their lines. It was a lot of fun for all of us and also helped make the story real.

Praise the Lord He came for us.





## Testimony for the Lord.

Another wonderful way

God has been working is in Shoma's life (our new believer). He had asked prayer to be able to witness to his parents and shared how it was difficult to talk to them about the Lord because they did not want to talk about religious things. The other day, he raised his hand to share his first testimony in church since his salvation. That week, he once again had tried to talk with his mother but this time his mother actually listened a little for a change. His mother explained that she had dreamed a dream the night before about the same Bible story that Shoma talked to her about. Wow, our Lord sure works in mysterious ways. Shoma said that God had given her that dream because the church was praying for her to listen. Praise the Lord. Let's keep praying. It's exciting to see his growth and questions he asks about the Bible.

### **English Conversation Class**

Thank you so much for praying for our new monthly Lady's English conversation class. It has been received very well. Some mothers have even invited some of their friends to join. This is almost unheard of here because the fear of other religions. We praise the Lord for this opportunity to teach the Bible and share the gospel. April has been leading it along with Mrs. Rich each month. April's friend,

Hashizume, has also been attending. <u>Please pray for the Holy Spirit's working to soften hearts and convict them of their need of Salvation</u>.

### **Great News!!**

We were thankful that Shoko's husband could come for our New Years Eve fellowship and prayer meeting. We continue to pray for Shoko's immediate and extended family's salvation. Her father, in Taiwan, was just recently diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and we found out this week that he was really not doing well. Shoko was struggling with this because of his need for salvation and the fact that she could not go see him due to her pregnancy. April prayed with her about it and she was going to try talk on the phone with him the next day. Brother Takagi also encouraged her to witness to her father and we asked the church to pray. Praise the Lord, she could talk uninterrupted and share about John 14:6 and Jesus being the only way. She shared about it being God's will for her to come to Japan so that she could meet us and trust Jesus as her savior. She told her father that although they might not be able to meet again on earth, if he receives Jesus, they could meet in heaven one day. That day, he received the Lord! Your prayers are reaching around the world. Please continue to pray for Shoko's family and her husband and daughter's Salvation. He said he will be coming to our Valentine Sunday on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### Abigail's Corner

We are so proud of our girl. A few months ago, another young lady in our church, Samantha, became interested in playing the violin for church. Abigail started showing her some initial pointers and it has turned into her teaching Samantha violin on Sunday afternoons. A few weeks ago, Samantha played her first violin special in church. We praise the Lord for using Abigail and her willingness to help others to serve the Lord. We are also thrilled for the growth we have seen in Samantha lately.

We are excited about the church events and outreaches planned for this year.

- 1. We will be doing more Evangelism Sundays this year to give our church family opportunity to pass out tracks on Sunday afternoon together. Please pray for open doors to meet new people and share Christ with them. Especially to be able to reach more men.
- 2. Valentine Sunday 2/16, Missions Sunday 3/16, Men's Prayer Breakfast 3/29, Easter Sunday Outreach 4/20, Children & Mother's Day 5/11.
- 3. Eiko and Shoma's baptism is planned for July 20th.
- 4. Ladies English Conversation Classes and Bible study