

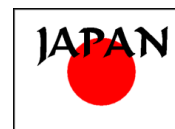


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Missionaries to



## New Christians

Our hearts are thrilled about all God has done this summer. It's been a very busy time but blessed by God. The Sunday after mother's day, a young lady, **Narumi**, came walking into our church with a big smile on her face. She had just come back home to Saku from a year of college in New York. There a Christian family befriended her and through their testimony, God began working in heart and she started asking questions and attending church. Right before she came back to Japan, she was asked if she wanted to get baptized and she said yes. She was baptized on Mother's day. She found out about our church and April was able to be the first person to share the gospel with her in her heart language, Japanese. She realized Narumi believed in God but had never talked to God or repented of her sin. That night she prayed for God's forgiveness and put her trust fully in Him! We praise the Lord for her! She has been such an encouragement to all our church. She has such a tender heart toward God and has really been growing and witnessing to all her lost friends and family. Now she is back in America for her final year of community college.



Narumi invited **Emma** to our church. Emma, who is also a college student living in the area, had been backslidden but recently started coming back to the Lord. She is attending church and trying to witness to her family and friends. Her American father claims to be a Christian but is not living for the Lord and her Japanese mother and sisters are not saved. It is so exciting to see the Lord working in these young lives. Please pray for their continued growth, God's leading, and the salvation of their family and friends.



## Unexpected Trip to America

With heavy hearts, April and I returned to the U.S. for 3 weeks on an unexpected trip. My stepmother, Connie, passed away on July 8<sup>th</sup> after battling pulmonary fibrosis. We will truly miss her. Thank you for all of you who were praying for us during this difficult time. Please keep praying for my dad, **Terry**, for comfort and guidance in this time of loss. We thank the Lord for their Christian testimony and the



time we were able to spend with family. While preparing for her funeral, we also found out about Mrs. Rich's brother passing on to glory. So, Abigail and mom flew and we met them to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> funeral in one week. The Lord has been

our comfort and also worked in so many ways for this trip. The next Sunday, we had already scheduled the Okado missionaries to speak at our church. Our church was able to take them on for support and they have begun their ministry in Fukushima. While the Okados were here, the Lord started putting a desire in Narumi's heart to attend Bible College in the future and she is praying about that. Also the Lord provided for our trip through several churches sending in some large love offerings for which we are so grateful. Praise the Lord!

## God's working after our return

Upon coming back to Japan, we had just a short time before Eiko and Shoma's Baptism. We praise the Lord for their growth and following the Lord. Now we are praying for **Mia** to take that next step as well. The same day we also had Shoma and Clair's Engagement service. Often in Japan, a couple will have a church engagement ceremony to share testimony of God's leading them as a couple. It was a wonderful day. Thank you for praying for these believers. Please keep praying **Shoma's parent's and brother's** hearts will soften to the Gospel and for them to want to come to Shoma and Claire's wedding in December. Also, pray for the marriage counseling and other preparations.



Church Camp began the next Thursday. We praise the Lord that missionaries to Hokkaido, Randy and JoAnne Smith, could come and speak. This really took a lot of load off of me. Pastor Smith preached some wonderful messages and Mrs. Smith played piano for us. We praise the Lord for this time of great fellowship and spiritual strength. Friday night of camp we held a BBQ at our house and invited folks to come. We praise the Lord for the Ikeda family coming and being able to witness to them again. We pray they will come to know the Lord. Shoko could also come for camp and we all had a chance to finally see baby **Airi**!



Thank you so much for your prayers! We really have been blessed to see God work in so many ways. Please be praying for our Grand/Seniors Day (9/14), Evangelism Sundays (9/28, 10/26), Preaching at the Okado's church Evangelistic event (10/17-18), Fall Festival (TBA), Thanksgiving Banquet (11/23) and English Classes.

Michael, April, and Abigail Riffel