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Missionaries to



Dear praying friends,

As 2025 closes we are reminded of all the precious blessings the Lord has given us this year.

Let us share some blessings and challenges of 2025:

- Our church's missions giving increased and we were able to begin support for the Okados in Japan. Abi surrendered to God's call to be a missionary to Japan. A new young lady, • Narumi was saved in May and also was led by God to be a missionary to Japan in September. • Her friend, Emma, also started attending our church and growing in the Lord. • Shoma and Eiko were baptized in August and the same day • Shoma and Claire were officially engaged. • Although Michael's step-mother, Connie, passed away suddenly in July, the Lord helped the trip to America to go very smoothly and also gave opportunity to attend April's uncle Bill's funeral as well. • The Lord blessed our camp with the Smiths coming to speak • We praise the Lord for His protection when April fell in September and also for her head trouble over the last few months.(more about this later)
- In October, the Akiyama family started attending our church and have continued • That same month, Narumi led her sister Misato to the Lord.

Other blessings since our last letter

The Fall Festival went very well with many guests including many of our English families. We praise the Lord for being able to share the gospel around the camp fire. Brother Takagi wanted to serve the Lord and brought his guitar to play hymns in the background while everyone fellowshiped around the food. We were able to meet Narumi's sister, Misato, for the first time and also were thrilled that Mrs. Ikegame who we have known for many years and had stopped attending church several years ago, decided to come. She also attended our Thanksgiving and Christmas events and sounds like she would like to come to activities in the future. Please pray for Mrs. Ikegame's salvation and Misato to continue to grow in the Lord.

The Lord blessed with a great attendance of 39 people for our Thanksgiving Banquet. Misato brought her unsaved boyfriend. Also, the Lord worked it out wonderfully to have 10 people from Shoko's family come who were visiting from Taiwan. We seated them in the Sunday school room next to the auditorium because we did not have enough room for everyone. And we rearranged things so I could preach from the back so all could see. Shoko interpreted for me into Chinese and we praise the Lord that these and other guests could hear the gospel as most of them had never heard or been to church before in their life.

Our Christmas English parties went well. Everyone had a great time and the message of Christ's birth and death on the cross was received very well. Our Christmas Sunday service and candlelight service were also a blessing. Although many folks were sick throughout December, everyone was able to come for that day. Michael preached about the Joy of Christmas and it was such an encouraging, joyful time of fellowship, singing and praising the Lord.

April's Health Update

Thank you for praying for April's head and the pain and swooshing she has been experiencing. She was able to see the specialist and after doing another MRI, the doctor determined that the result of the first MRI had not shown up well so the Dr. had thought she was at a high risk of stroke. But the doctor said her veins were normal and that nothing was wrong with her brain. Praise the Lord! Although this was a great relief and answer to prayer, the Doctor still does not know what is causing her head trouble. We are thinking of going to another doctor so please pray they will be able to find out the root cause and she can get some help.

As we begin 2026 in what often is known as the spiritually darkest month of the year in Japan, we are reminded of the fact that we have light in the darkness. Often April will get discouraged around the end of December because the stores will start selling all the Ōshōgatsū (New Year) Shinto and Buddhist ritual door hangings for "protection". Many stores put these right at the entrance so you can't enter the store without going past it all. Our grocery store also has packages of mochi with a tangerine on top to buy right near the doorway so people can put it on their god shelves to give to the ancestors. It is such a dark time right after celebrating our Lord's birth, the Light of the World. Praise the Lord, He has been our guide and constant reminder of what true light is as we start this new year.

Abi's Corner

Abigail has been a big help with all the events and activities of the church. We are so thankful that a lady from a church in America is helping her edit one of the books she is writing. She plans to publish it this summer when she turns 18. (Wow, I can't believe it).

We want to say Thank you so much! For all the Christmas offerings we received. Thank you also for your prayers and part in the ministry here.

Your missionaries to Japan, Michael, April, and Abigail