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Missionaries to



Dear praying friends,

Thank you for your prayers for us and the ministry here in Japan! I know this letter is a little longer than most, but we are just so excited to share what God has been doing through your prayers.



What a Camp! Theme: A New Song

Music is a big issue in Christianity today and the devil is certainly using it to greatly hinder the work of Christ in this generation. I have been burdened about it and God provided greatly in sending us Pastor Maekawa to preach for camp. (pictured with the accordion) The Lord really worked despite the hindrances the devil tried to bring our way. We praise God for the sound preaching and teaching about music and that our church was tender to the Holy Spirit. Decisions were made to delete ungodly music and to not sing and play the world's song but the new song God has given. For half of the morning sessions, April taught the children all about being fearfully and wonderfully made by God to praise Him. We could see the children really learning the Bible, even the younger ones, and especially **Lisa** (pictured far left). She had been struggling lately with coming to church. But during camp



she came to love it and her heart is opening up. Please pray for Lisa's salvation and for those who made decisions.

Music Ministry.

Most churches in Japan use a hymnbook with archaic Japanese language that is often very difficult to understand even for older Japanese. Pastor Maekawa has dedicated his life to writing, composing, and translating hymns that Japanese can with understanding. He created a hymnbook, Praises to the Lord, and we have been using that for about 10 years now. Then we found out that he was close to finishing a volume 2 with over 400 more songs. He gratefully printed and put those hymnbooks together for us to use. What a thrill it has been to finally sing in Japanese many of the songs we have loved



in English but not had. I asked him to translate a song for our camp and he not only translated that song but during camp composed two more songs around our theme verse. I praise the Lord for God gifting him. Although we have a lot of written music now, one big problem is that there are hardly any resources for Japanese to listen to good Christian music in their own language. As this need ways on my heart, I have been praying about our church trying to record some music CDs in Japanese. We don't have all the equipment for this or know how, but God can provide if it be his will. Please pray with us about it.

Opportunity to fellowship & witness

Each camp day we met in the morning ended with lunch.



However, many folks stayed all day as they loved having the fellowship. Now that Narumi's mother has come to the Lord, she, Narumi, and her sister, Misato, want to spend as much time as they can with other believers. Misato was able to attend part of the camp as well as their unsaved father, **Eiji (Āje) Sasazawa**. This year for the first time, they as a family did not participate in the Buddhist festival of the dead. This was a big answer to prayer. He was faced with major difficulties in his life that has caused him to think about God and attend church for the first time in his life. He really listened. On the Saturday night of camp, his family was planning to go see fireworks but came to church instead and stayed late. I took Pastor Maekawa back to his hotel and upon returning to the church was surprised to see the family still there with Bibles opened looking up verses as believers shared testimony of God's leading. Eiji was asking questions about the Bible. He said that Psalm 139:23-24 really spoke to him, especially the prayer "lead me in the way everlasting." His biggest obstacle is his love for Japanese archery (kyudo – pictured) for which he is highly involved as a teacher and judge. He admitted to us that this is not just a competitive sport, but a ceremonial performance that includes bowing to false idols, and if he became a Christian, he could not participate in it anymore. Please pray for God to break down this obstacle in coming to Christ.



God's Working in Narumi's Life

We praise the Lord for seeing Narumi Baptized and continuing to serve the Lord. Knowing that God had called her as a missionary she found a job to start saving to go to Bible college. She also has been praying about where to serve in Japan. The Lord made it clear to her through His Word that she should minister in the northern island of Hokkaido. Then after searching about different areas on the island and praying, she became very curious about the area of Asahikawa and she told us about it. We knew some former missionaries to Hokkaido but could not remember where they had served. So April looked it up and found that they had served in a church in that city. The same day, we found that another missionary we know was going to the church to speak in October to help the older Japanese couple who serve there now. We were all so surprised. Please pray for the Lord's leading. Lord willing, we would like to take a trip there with Narumi sometime next year.

More of the Sasazawa family

Please pray for the Sasazawa's son, **Tomohide** (tōmōhēday). He is still living at home and when not working, spends most of his time playing video games and going to rock concerts. Although he has no interest in Christianity, his sister Narumi was able to share some of the gospel with him last week. Their grandmother, **Mitsuko**, is a strong Buddhist, very lonely and blind. Narumi has been able to share some scripture with her on her weekly visits. Please pray that she will listen, come to our grandparent's outreach on 9/20 and for God to soften these hearts to the gospel. Please also continue to pray for Narumi's sister, **Misato**, to grow in the Lord, decide to get baptized, and follow God's will concerning her unsaved boyfriend.

Kazumi's growth and decision to get baptized.

Mrs. Sasazawa has been faithful to church and continuing to grow in her faith. She told us that she used to always be very superstitious and fearful about many things but now is not afraid of anything. She has now decided to follow the Lord in Baptism and is taking the New Convert/Baptism classes in preparation. Please pray for her.

Father's Day Outreach

We praise the Lord for two guest fathers who came to church our church: brother Akiyama's father and Emmas' father, Mark who also brought his wife. Both were their 2nd time in attending. Please pray for these families to know the Lord. Although Mark says he is a Christian, his life does not show fruit of it. Recently Emma faced some challenges with her family but graciously stood strong in her faith and was a



Testimony to them. Please pray for her family and for her now as she is in college. Also, please keep praying for the Akiyama family for God's guidance in moving closer to the church, a house, and job.

20th Anniversary

This year our church was thrilled to celebrate its 20th year. That day we heard testimony from mom Rich and some of the



older members. God has certainly been faithful and working to build his church in this spiritually dark place. We are so looking forward to what God will do in the years to come. This year Faith Baptist Church was able to increase our missionary support to two missionaries that have been in need since the weakening of the yen.



A New Track

We are so excited to be able to get a new Japanese track printed. Many of the tracks in Japanese are translations of tracks written for the western mindset. But this one really approaches the gospel from the Japanese mind and has been received well. Please pray for God to greatly use these and for us to get them into many people's hands.

Abigail's Corner

Abigail turned 18 in July! It is hard to believe it. But we could not be more proud of the beautiful young lady she is inside and out. While waiting for her international license to arrive, she has been working a lot this summer helping out in ministry, updating our church's website, writing church blogs, organizing and updating our church's YouTube videos, all the while working on publishing her first teen Christian fiction book and creating a book of Bible coloring pages for children. The best part is we did not ask her to, she just wanted to serve the Lord. We praise the Lord for giving her this talent. Since doing so, we have seen an increase in visitors to our church website and many more views of the sermons. Praise the Lord. If interested, her book, *The Recruit*, is the first one in a series called *Covert Chronicles* and is available on kindle and amazon. The first coloring book covers stories from the book of Genesis. We will let you know when she finishes it.



Please pray for our Fall outreach on October 24th.

Thank you so much for your prayers!

Your missionaries to Japan, Michael, April, & Abigail