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Missionaries to



Dear praying friends, family, and churches,

Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be number. Ps 40:5

We Have Arrived!!! With much joy and sorrow we stepped onto our airplane in Chicago, saying our goodbyes to family and looking forward to the mission field God has called us to. On our way to Japan we stopped for three meetings in Hawaii, one being a Japanese church. It was a great way to prepare us for going to Japan. Hawaii is 80% Asian, and much of the culture in Hawaii is like Japan.

Start up week: Two days after we arrived, we were able to rent our house, sign up for alien registration card, start our papers for bank account, get our Japanese health insurance, and purchase cell phones! Mr. Ishii, our unsaved landlord and church realtor, went to each place with us and helped us get things done swiftly. Usually it takes one day to do one of these things in Japan, but Mr. Ishii quickened things up immensely. Please pray for Mr. Ishii's salvation



Ministry: Right away we were able to Jump into the ministry. Michael has been the song leader since the first Sunday and is learning new words to incorporate into his repertoire as he leads the songs. April started teaching SS, junior church, and playing the piano in the services. Abigail also has been involved in the church and has been doing special music. She brightens everyone's hearts. We can already see how the Lord is going to use her, as my parent's neighbors have truly been more receptive to all of us since they have seen Abigail. I really am thankful for a wife who knows the language as the second Sunday here I filled in for Pastor Rich because he was sick while April interpreted for all the services.



Abigail's joys: Abigail is excited about being in Japan. She has been learning some Japanese words, and when she learns one she gets soooooo excited! We have been able to have some very good talks with her lately about receiving the Lord as her Saviour. The other day she told us that she had prayed and asked Jesus in her heart in the middle of the night. She told each of us and her grandparents at separate times, and it sounded very genuine, but when asked questions about Jesus' resurrection and sin, she is still not in complete understanding, but we know that that will come, and we are so excited that she desires Jesus in her heart. Please pray we will have wisdom, and that Abigail will have understanding. We are so thankful for our little girl. Please pray that she can make some friends her age to help her learn Japanese and one day win them to Christ.

Living in Japan: Praise the Lord after 4½ years of traveling on deputation we finally have a home in Japan! God has provided a large house for us to rent with a lot of land that we hope to use for God's glory. We are paying considerably less than what was expected because the house needs a lot of work done to fix it up. This along with several other churches who have taken us on for support has brought our support up to 88%. We are staying now at the Rich's house as we are very busy getting our house ready to live in. Our crates arrived safely from the states and are sitting in our backyard. We have been able to unload two crates, and have three to go. We are excited about Mr. Abram and Mr. Frey who are here this week from the States to help install our kitchen cabinets and do other electrical and carpentry work. We are asking the Lord to give us wisdom in each step we take to get our house ready so I can soon concentrate on language study. We have met our neighbors and they are very curious about what we are up to. We are praying that we can lead them to Christ some day. Please pray for the Takahashi Family, who live right in front of us.



We are all thrilled to be serving the Lord here in Japan and do thank all of you who pray for us and support our ministry to the Japanese people. As we say in Japan, "domo arigato gozaimasu" (thank you very much!).

In His Service, Michael, April, and Abigail Riffel