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Missionaries to



Unexpected Surgery

Thank you everyone who has been praying for Pastor Rich these last few weeks. We have sent out several email updates asking for prayer, but in case you have not heard yet, on August 9th Pastor Rich (Dad) went into the hospital with stomach pain and ended up having to have emergency surgery on a pinched colon and hernia. He had some complications in the surgery and was in very critical condition for quite a while. God's people prayed and God answered! We praise the Lord that he is now doing much better and already witnessing to the nurses and Doctors. He still is in the ICU here in Saku Japan and has started therapy to regain his mobility. The Doctors are expecting him to be in the hospital for at least 2-3 months. Please pray for him to regain his strength and be able to get back to ministering to the Japanese people.

Added Responsibility

In Dad's absence, we all have had to step up and fill in. Michael has temporarily taken over the church leadership and preaching every week, and April and mom have been filling in for Dad's English classes. This all has put a big responsibility on April as she has to interpret a lot more for me. We all have been busy figuring out his and the church's finances as Dad had handled all of that before. We have also been busy taking trips to the hospital every day and keeping up with emails and correspondence. We surely can appreciate more all that Dad did for the ministry here in Japan. On top of this, Michael has started his language study, April will be starting to teach Abigail K4, and we are still working on our house. Please pray for special wisdom, strength during these days and for much to be accomplished for God's glory.

Abigail's Corner

Abigail has been a trooper in all this and is showing signs that she really has accepted Christ. We are so thankful for her optimistic spirit and her own desire that the Japanese hear about Jesus. She often prays for her new found friend, Konomi chan, who is the same age. She and her mother, Kiyo, have been going to SS and junior church almost every Sunday for the past 9 weeks. Her mother was very apprehensive about Christianity at first but recently said she really looks forward to hearing the Bible stories each week. Please pray for their salvation.



Opening Doors, Prayer requests, & Praises

1. Miss Tazou and the Drs. and nurses – God has really been opening doors to reach out to the Drs. and nurses in ICU. The doctor has started to tell us specific things to pray for because he really sees that prayer works. We also have been reading the Bible to dad and singing hymns. One day we had not sung a song and the nurse came in and asked if we were going to sing

because all the nurses look forward to it every day. One nurse, Miss Tazou said she would like to come to church as soon as dad is well. Please pray for her and the other doctors and nurses.

2. Mrs. Chieko - We first met her at the hospital back in April and invited her to church. It was not until last Sunday that she came to church for the first time in her life and was able to hear the gospel preached. She listened well and is wanting peace. She said she cannot come every Sunday, but wants to come again. Please pray for her to understand and come and be saved.
3. Mr. and Mrs. Ito – We met this couple while getting Michael's license. They lived in Ohio for 6 years and are interested in becoming friends with us Americans. They sounded very interested in coming to any special church events. Pray that we can reach them with the gospel of Christ.
4. Mr. & Mrs. Takako and their two sons – By God's providence we met this family in a parking lot on two different occasions. They were looking for someone who could teach kindergarten in English for a few hours a week. Since April is already starting K4 with Abigail it is a great opportunity. April will be having Bible, English, and other classes every Saturday morning. Pray that this outreach will be used of God to reach this family and others.
5. Miss Takehana – The Riches met her at the dentist where she works. April is going to be teaching her English along with a Bible study. Pray she would open her heart to Christ.
6. Miss Hikaru- Pray for this Christian in our church. Two weeks ago just after dad had his surgery, she told us she wants to start taking discipleship classes and would like to go to PCC for college. She is a junior in high school now and we are so excited because we have been praying for her to grow in the Lord and follow God's leading. April is now working at translating the Japanese discipleship booklet that dad usually teaches so I can teach it for Sunday school.
7. Mrs. Kiyo and Konomi, Mrs. Ikegami, Mr. Ishii, & Mr. Namiki – Please continue to pray for their Salvation.
8. Language School- Please pray for quick learning and grasp of the language. We are so thankful for our language tutor who is very flexible and cheaper than most schools. April will be teaching me some however it will still cost about \$500/month for language study these next two years. Please pray with us for this need as we are not at 100% support but know God has brought us here in his time and will meet our needs.

There is so much more we could write, but we especially want you to know we really appreciate all your prayers and support.

In His service,
Michael, April, and Abigail Riffel

*P.S. *If you would like to be added to our email update list in addition to or in place of this letter please send us an email.**