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Missionaries to



Col. 4:3 "... praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ..."

A Special Guest

It is hard to believe we have already been in Japan for over a year now. The time is just flying by. Last month we had the privilege of having Mr. Orr, a longtime friend from our sending church, come over from China on business and stop in to speak at our church picnic and Sunday service. We praise the Lord that Takagi san's daughter, Izumi Chan, came to a church activity for the first time. Please pray for her salvation.



Hikaru's Baptism

Hikaru's baptism was such a special time for our church and for us. We traveled to Chofu Baptist Temple in Tokyo to use their baptismal tank. This was nice for April and the Riches because they attended here while in language school and April went to their Japanese Kindergarten. Michael was able to do his very first baptism and do it in Japanese. Hikaru was able to not only following the Lord in Baptism, but also let her Buddhist parents know she is committed to Christ. She was also encouraged to see so many other Japanese Christians. Please continue to pray for her and her family.

English Opportunities

Recently Mrs. Hayashi invited her sister, Mrs. Hara, and her two kids, Ryunosuke and Yurina, to come see the Kindergarten class. They have decided to join the class as well and we are excited to introduce the living God to them through the Bible time.



Another opportunity to pray about is teaching English on Thursday night. Right now the prime minister wants to change the Japanese school system to help compete more internationally by having each subject taught in English from high school on. This would be very difficult to implement but there is now a push for more English. Michael's language teacher is interested in helping us start a class by going to all the schools in the area and inviting the teachers to come to our church for an English class and Bible time. Of course our purpose is not for them to just learn to speak English, but through this become more comfortable with the church and Christianity and through the Bible time come to know Jesus as their Savior. Please pray for God's guidance and blessing in this ministry and for many to come.

Golden Week

Each year during the Japanese holiday, Golden Week, we have our mission's conference from Friday-Sunday and a special outreach on Saturday morning at the Rich's house to watch the Hot Air balloons land. Then we go to the Festival and pass out tracks. We are thankful that Mr. Ishii came on Friday for the first time in a long time. Also Mrs. Fujii who we met at the park a few weeks prior came on Friday and again on Sunday. She has gone to a Lutheran church before but could not find one in Saku. She really enjoyed it and wants to come again sometime. Please pray for her salvation and that she would follow through with her promise to come again.



Mother's Day

For Mother's day all the guys got together to make a fine china banquet. We had three lady visitors: Mrs. Ikegami, who has been to church several times but still is not willing to set aside her Shinto Ancestors to accept Christ, Mrs. Emi who has made a profession of faith but only comes to church occasionally, and a nurse from the Hospital who came for the first time. Please pray for these ladies.



Abigail's Corner

Abigail is finishing up her K4 this week. She has been learning new poems and especially likes "Adam and the Animals" by Laurel Hicks. Her violin lessons are going well. She will be having her first performance at the end of July so please pray for that. She often talks about the Japanese needing Jesus. Please pray that we will get to lead a Japanese person to the Lord soon. Abigail really wants to see her friends know Jesus. One of her friends who also plays violin, Shi Chan, likes to play with her after class. During this time April has been able to talk with her mother or Grandmother depending on who brings her. The Grandmother has been asking questions about Christianity and the mother has some interest because she went to a Catholic College in Japan. Please pray for them to come to church and for open doors to share Christ with them.



Thank you for your prayers and support, Michael, April, and Abigail Riffel