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Missionaries to



“The works of the Lord are great ... He hath made His wonderful works to be remembered.” Psalms 111:2a, 4a

We are thrilled as we remember what God has done here since we last wrote. We are thrilled that **many came to our Thanksgiving and Christmas** outreaches. It was exciting to have the Kido family be a part of the play this year. They did a great job with Kyle being a shepherd, Joshua and Abigail angels, and Sophie a little sheep. Our cookie bake went very well too and the highlight of our Christmas events was being given permission to **sing at the new hospital**. We shared Christmas music in ICU and HCU where Dr. Okada is in charge as well as an hour concert in the foyer. The Hospital put up posters about this event and provided everything including a grand piano. We sang Christmas Carols in Japanese and English. Kyle and Michael played a trumpet duet, Abigail played a violin solo, April played the piano, and the children did a hand bell special and sang. Because many Japanese have heard these songs but not known the meaning, we projected all the words on a screen and even had them sing along with us for some of the songs. We thought only a few families we had invited would come, but we had over a 100 people come or just stop as they walked by for the recital including many doctors, nurses, patience (some in wheelchairs) and their families, as well as one of the main leaders of the Hospital and his wife. Everyone



was very pleased and some even cried. God was truly at work as we have never been able to do anything like this in Japan. They have scheduled us again for next year and we pray God will use it to lead more Japanese to Him.

This year has already been full of exciting days. **Joshua and Kyle have decided to start Baptismal classes** and we are praying they can finish and be baptized before we go on furlough in April. What a joy it is to see them growing in the Lord. Every week they come to church having memorized their memory verses and having read their Bible. So Exciting! Life has been different for us this past month as Pastor and Mrs. Rich are still in the states on Furlough. **Michael has been preaching in Japanese** and we have taken over their English class at the Japanese Kindergarten. It has been exciting to hear Michael preach and use the Japanese language. We truly appreciate your prayer and financial help as he continues in language classes. He has learned a lot but still has a long way to go. He recently **added a correspondence course** called Kumon to help with writing skills.

Valentine Banquet

Last week we had a valentine Banquet outreach at the church. Pastor Tanii came and gave a solid message on God’s love and salvation. We had at least 6 unsaved come including a **Mrs. Kobayashi**(Hikaru’s mother), two of **Mrs. Kido’s friends**, and **Mrs. Akemi**, a lady April had met at the mall, and her two sons. We are gradually making friends and getting closer to the people of Nagano. April realized this even more when she and Abigail went to the Mall the other day, something they hadn’t done for quite a while. During the hour there they ended up meeting many people they had befriended this last year. This is when they met Akemi who came up and started talking to her. She and her family are moving to Brazil in April and were in need of encouragement. So April invited them to our Banquet and they came! We pray they will be saved before they go to Brazil.



Upcoming Events

Please pray for **Pastor and Mrs. Rich**, April’s parents, for health and safety in the States and as they **return to Japan March 19th**. Also, pray for our **Easter outreach** as well as our preparations to go on **furlough from the first week of April through July**. Many meetings have been booked and we look forward to meeting friends and family. As we remember all that God is doing, we would like to ask you to keep praying for the Salvation of:
Mr. Ishii- Our landlord, we will be having a meal with him after the Riches return.
Dr. Okada and many other of the Drs. and nurses we know.
Miss Nakamura, a Catholic nurse who came to Valentine’s.
The Deura Family- to see their need for Salvation (they came for Christmas but had to work when we had our Valentines Banquet.)
Hayashi, Mizuma, and Hara families- English school students
Mr. Nemiki- Kindergarten principal

Abigail’s Corner

Abigail has been a trooper as we spend many hours at the church every week. She also has been working hard at school with only 17 lessons to go, so we can be done by the time grandma and grandpa come back from America. She misses them very much but is also looking forward to when she can go see her cousins on furlough soon.

Thank you once again for keeping us and the Japanese people in your prayers .Full of God’s blessing,
Michael, April, and Abigail Riffel