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Missionaries to



Oh, that's Right

These last few months have been full of change for us as we transitioned from our ministry on the field to our first Furlough back in the states starting April 9th. When we stepped off the airplane in America it was more of a cultural shock than we had expected. For the first few days we kept saying, "Oh, that's right" about many things like: Oh that's right everyone speaks English here! Oh that's right we can turn right on red in America (as we are waiting for the light to turn). Oh, that's right the drinks, even waters, are huge! And only 1\$ at McDonalds!! Oh that's right strawberries are not \$5.00 here. Oh that's right we can get tacos already made! Oh, that's right we aren't supposed to be bowing or nodding our head as a greeting. Oh that's right all the cars are big here. No k cars, which are the little cars all over Japan. And oh, that's right they drive on the right side of the road! Watch out Michael! It really showed us how much we had grown accustomed to living in Japan and how Japan really is our home now.

Baptisms

The second Sunday before we left for America was an exciting time for our church as we had three children get baptized and become members of our church. We traveled to Tokyo to use another church's baptismal tank. Before Michael baptized them, they all gave excellent testimonies of their salvation and desire to serve God in the future. One of those was our very precious Abigail. We were very happy to see her follow the Lord. This was a hard decision for her as she was pretty scared of being put under the water for a while. But she faced her fear and did fine. The other two children were the Kido brothers, Kyle and Joshua. They were very excited about taking this step of obedience and have been growing tremendously



in the Lord. We are thankful for their bold testimony at school and teachable spirit. Pastor Rich has started an extra class on Sunday afternoon to help train these young ones in different ministries in the church like greeting, ushering, song leading, etc. Please keep these in your prayers.



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Time of Encouragement

What a blessing it has been to return to many of our supporting churches and share what God has been doing in the ministry in Japan. We thank the Lord so much for giving us such faithful supporters.



We have been treated so well at every church and it has been wonderful to catch up with people we hadn't seen in quite a while. We have given updates to 19 churches in Kansas, Florida, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Michigan. We wish we could have made it to all of our supporting churches but will do our best to get there on our next furlough. We also presented our ministry in three new



churches and praise the Lord for two of those promising to partner with us in prayers and support. Please continue to pray for us as we have a few more supporting churches to visit and are preparing to fly back to Japan on July 21st.

One of the highlights of being home was getting to go to our mission's Family Week at World Wide New Testament Baptist Mission. The messages truly encouraged our hearts in such a wonderful way and have refreshed us and challenged us to be strong and dream big for our LORD.

Abigail's Corner

Abigail has truly been enjoying being with her cousins since we have been in the States. We were blessed to be able to get together with the whole Riffel family for a few days at the Riffel family reunion. Abigail loved every second of it and so did we. We're so thankful for a Godly family. It was so special as we would sit around the living room at night and sing and give glory to our Lord together.



We have had a wonderful time in the States, but are so ready to return to Japan and see what the Lord is going to do in this next term. Thank you once again for keeping us and the Japanese people in your prayers. Michael, April, and Abigail Riffel