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First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world." Romans 1:8

Yes, we are so thankful for your prayers and support without which we could not be ministering here in Japan. We especially want to thank those who sent us special gifts for Christmas this year; it was a huge blessing and we appreciate it so much. Thank You!

We are also thankful to have the Riches back from furlough just in time for our Thanksgiving banquet. This year we had our highest attendance with over 40 people! Brother Tanii, a fellow Baptist preacher from a town an hour away, spoke again for us this year.



Some of our new English students attended this church event and got to see what church is like. It was exciting to do some fun games at the end of the banquet! Can you pass things well with chopsticks too?

In December God blessed us with many opportunities to share the gospel with the Japanese people. We started out the first week with three different English class parties! In each class, we were able to share the true meaning of Christmas. This year we have added a new student, Wakana. **Please pray that all our students will be saved!**



Again this year, our church was able to present a Christmas concert at the hospital and share Christmas carols in the ICU and the old hospital's Rehabilitation ward. God blessed with a good turn out with many people who

had come last year as well. Praise the Lord!



Then on Christmas Day we had a wonderful Sunday with a church family Christmas theme in the morning and a Christmas play, candlelight service,



and dinner in the evening. We had some new visitors, and it was a blessed time! One lady has

said she will be back for Valentine's Sunday. Her name is **Rie**. **Please pray she will come and be saved at the Valentine Sunday, Feb.12th.**



We are so thankful for all the opportunities the Lord gave us in 2016 and we look forward to what He will do in 2017! We are especially burdened for our English / Bible students and their families! Please pray that they will understand their need for Jesus, and that they will see Jesus love through us! We are planning on inviting them all to our Valentine Sunday. Please pray they will come and be saved!

We thank the Lord so much for all of your prayers. Please continue to pray for us as we have been battling some terrible colds this year. We are so thankful the Joy of the Lord is our strength! That is the theme for our church this year, we look forward to seeing all God will do this year as we joyfully serve Him!

Praises/Prayer Requests:

1. Praise the Lord Michael's liver condition seems to be doing fine right now and has not gotten any worse.
2. Praise the Lord **Miss Mayo** has decided to make our church her own and has started a membership class with Pastor Rich on Sunday afternoons. Please continue to pray for her growth.
3. Please continue to pray for **Mrs. Kobayashi** and her daughter **Yuha's** salvation and that they will come to church.
4. Pray for our Valentine's Outreach Sunday.
5. Pray for our English Student's to be saved.
6. Pray for Michael and Abigail's continued Japanese Language studies.
7. Prayer for Hikaru and Nelly in second semester at PCC.

Thank you so much for all you all do to keep us here, and for your constant support and prayers!

For His Glory,
 Michael, April, and Abigail Riffel