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Missionaries to



For those who have been praying for us and our church events since we last wrote, we are very grateful. God worked in many ways through these events. We had some first time visitors and unsaved come for our Thanksgiving Banquet and Church Christmas Sunday. We praise the Lord they were able to hear the gospel and we felt the Lord truly pricked some hearts.

Christmas Party We also thank the Lord for the opportunity to share Jesus' birth and the plan of salvation at our English class Christmas Party. We had over 30 people with students and their families. Many listened to the Bible time and even nodded their heads, but others looked uncomfortable. We pray will open up their hearts continue to have Bible week during our English Classes.



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New Missionaries!

Thank you for praying for Mr. and Mrs. Derry's survey trip. The Lord solidified in their hearts and ours that they were to come and work with us as they learn the Japanese Language. They are praying about starting a church in another part of Nagano. We really enjoyed their fellowship and are overjoyed in finding we are of like doctrine and standards. Please pray for them as they continue deputation with three little ones.

Christmas Recitals For five years now our church has prepared and shared a Christmas Recital at the main area of the Hospital as well as the ICU and rehabilitation wards. This year it was very challenging for all of us as we sang in the ICU where Pastor Rich passed away. The Lord sustained us, and we have been asked to return again next year. We are so thankful for this opportunity to show the community we care, and for them to hear about the true meaning of Christmas. This year we gave out Christmas tracts, cookies, and Christmas Cards. It was so exciting the Derry's could be a part of this recital also. We had a visitor come to church right after the concert. One of the nurses at the rehabilitation ward who took care of Pastor Rich 6 years ago, got teary eyed and thanked us for coming every year. Please pray the Lord will keep this door open. This year we did much of the recital as part of our Christmas Sunday at church. We were so excited that Mrs.



Kohama brought four of her unsaved friends and they could hear the gospel. We believe the Lord was at work in their hearts, and they went home after the Christmas Banquet saying they would like to come again. We pray that they will.



New Church Tradition and Opportunities After the Christmas banquet we enjoyed caroling at some Apartment complexes and a park illuminated with lights and decorations. The children ran around with tracts and candy to give to the people. It was such a wonderful memory, and we hope to make this a tradition for our church. At first our church people were a little timid about singing outside, but by the end of the night we were all bellowing out Christmas songs with pure joy as we sang to the World about our Savior's birth! Afterwards everyone came to our house for hot chocolate, pizza, and more precious memories.

We are so glad the Mr. Luiz and the Okada family have moved to be near our church. God has used this in many ways already. Mrs. Marissa started work at Lionheart Rehabilitation very close to our church and God opened the door for our church to share a Christmas recital there as well. We read the Christmas story and we are excited about getting to go back there again in September. Michael has started a Bible study with Luiz every Tuesday so please pray for that.



Born Again! Marissa's son **Joshua** (20) who was living in the Philippines, came back to Japan in January. He was living a wicked lifestyle but the Lord got a hold of his heart and **he received the Lord as his savior February 1st!** He has started the New Converts class with Michael on Sundays and has a real burden for his brother **Kazuhiro who is not saved.** Please pray for Kazuhiro as he is not living with his mom anymore and has turned his back against God and needs to be saved.

Church Growth and New Ministries The people in our church are truly jumping in & volunteering to do many different things for the Lord this year. We look forward to starting Faith Promise Giving, a church newspaper that Mr. Kido has taken the responsibility to be chief editor of, and Saturday Park Evangelism called Good News Club! Mr. Kido has started teaching the adult Sunday school class so Michael can teach the New Converts class. April is overjoyed that Caroline and Claire are practicing piano now so they can start helping. Praise the Lord!

Also we had a little girl, Mio, come to church a few weeks ago. She said she would come again. Please pray for her salvation.

As we continue the ministry here we are so blessed to have such a special Christian family surrounding us Michael has been preaching from I Thessalonians and every week many of us have been making decisions for the Lord. Requested by Pastor Rich a week before his death, Michael has started a new series on Music in the English Service, and our Church family is excited as we seek to give the Lord our Heart in every area of our life.

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