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Missionaries to



“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:57 Thank you all for your continued prayers for us. They are so needed these days as we have had to face some spiritual battles in our church this year. Praise the Lord, He has shown Himself “strong in the behalf of those whose heart is perfect toward Him.” 2 Chronicles 16:9

### New Comers to our church and a salvation decision!

We praise the Lord for a new mother, **Mrs. Goto**, and her two teenage daughters, **Sarasa** and **Akira**, who started coming to Church in March. Sarasa knew Kyle from Kindergarten and this year they met again in the same Junior High class. Caroline invited them to church and they have been coming ever since. *Please pray for their spiritual condition.* We were also really excited to see two more people start coming to church that had not been coming faithfully for years: **Mrs. Reiko Ito** and **Mr. Koido**. It is always so neat to see God working and always drawing us back to Him. Mrs. Ito was the first lady Pastor Rich baptized here at Faith Baptist Church. *Please pray for their growth and for Mr. Koido's and Mr. Takagi's wife to come to church. Also, please pray for the salvation of Reiko's sister who has been given a short time to live.* Last month, two other young ladies, **Maribel** and **Karla** started attending our church after seeing our church website. They are on work visas from the Philippines. Maribel actually came from the same home town as Marissa and they all hit it off well and were really happy to find our church. After talking with them, it became clear that they had church backgrounds but **Karla** had never prayed to accept Christ. The second Sunday they came, **Clair was able to lead her to the Lord!** *Please pray for their spiritual growth.*



### Wedding Bells

The devil is sure attacking marriage these days. Recently, the Lord worked in the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Kido from near divorce to them standing before the church and recommitting, for the first time before God, their wedding vows. When they married each other 13 years ago as unbelievers, they had no thought of the seriousness of their vows and did not know what love really was. Carolyn did not even know what she was saying, but just memorized the Japanese lines to say. Now they desire to honor God in their marriage and wanted to do a whole new wedding and commit their vows to each other in Jesus' name. It was a wonderful time and a first for our church and for Michael to do a wedding. We pray the Lord will bless their marriage.



### Spiritual Growth

We are excited how God is growing the faith of the believers here. Before his death, pastor Rich had talked about two plans for 2018. One was to start faith promise giving to missions and the other plan was for Michael to do a series of messages on music in the English service. We are thrilled how God is using those decisions and His Word to strengthen our church. Folks have stepped out in faith to start giving for the work of world evangelism. Also, several families and individuals have made decisions about the music they were listening to and have gotten rid of the worldly music in their lives. Praise the Lord! We are so thankful for the good spirit and unity of our church as we serve the Lord together.

### Special Events

This quarter we were blessed to have some special time of fellowship together during our church retreat. The Lord also gave us a wonderful day celebrating **Mother's Day** as the men cooked Mexican food from scratch!



We were thrilled that Mrs. Ikegame and several unsaved ladies came out for our **Ladies Tea outreach** and heard as April shared the gospel. A couple weeks before the tea, April and mom were at the store and met one of the Buddhist ladies who came last year. They invited her and she came again this year and even brought a friend and offered to read the Bible. *Please pray for God to continue to work in their lives to bring them to salvation and for our next outreach events: Father's Day and our annual BBQ and Fireworks out-reach on August 15<sup>th</sup> at Mrs. Rich's house.*

### Furlough and Support

We are starting to make plans for our furlough next year around June, but as there is no one to fill in the ministry here now it is going to be difficult to be gone for any extended period of time. Please pray for this need and wisdom. God has been good to us over the years. We came to Japan not fully supported (90%) but in God's timing. The same year we were able to continue the ministry here as Pastor Rich was in the hospital for four months. Our English teaching has helped a lot but we still have months where we really are in need of more support. *So please pray for this need.*

### Abigail's Corner

Abigail is turning 10 this year and really growing up fast. She has been surprising us on how much her Japanese is improving and lately she has been doing so well in helping us in our English/Bible classes that we were able to let her teach the younger kids while we listen to the students read. We are always thankful for our home church providing her video streaming classes. It is time again to purchase the homeschool books for next year. If someone would like to help with this need, funds can be sent to our mission and marked as a gift for Abigail's schooling.

Praising the Lord for His working,  
Michael, April, and Abigail Riffel