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Missionaries to



But those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength... Isaiah 40:31

As we begin this New Year, we thank the Lord for all He did in 2018 and continues to do in 2019. We have started the year excited as we have had two ladies join the church: Marissa Okada and Reiko Yokoyama (pictured above). They are both a joy to us as they continue to grow in the Lord.



Thank you for your prayers for all our Thanksgiving and Christmas outreaches. We praise the Lord that this year we saw the most we have ever had come to these events at our church. The Lord blessed through the cookie bake, as many of our English students came. We were also blessed as one of our English student's family came to the



music Concert at the hospital. Please continue to pray for these families to be saved. For our Christmas service, the



devil was sure working to keep the gospel from being preached. Michael went to print off his sermon on Saturday and we couldn't get it or the church printer to work. So, he finally said I just have to preach from the laptop, but then that also was acting up so the text couldn't even be readable. But God blessed despite this and the gospel was preached to many unsaved. Please pray for God to water what has been planted. Everyone did a great job in the Christmas play, and we are so grateful for Claire for writing the script for us.

Since Claire Okada has become a member, she has been a big help to us doing our church prayer sheet, bulletin, event flyers, etc. We are so thankful for her. She is preparing to teach the children's Sunday School this March in April's place when we go on furlough. Please pray for God's guidance for her future and for her and Marissa to find better jobs.

We are also thankful for other church members who are volunteering for responsibilities while we are on furlough March 26-July 9. Please pray for the rest of our preparations for furlough and for God's protection for our church during that time. We have some other missionaries and national pastors lined up to speak as well as Mr. Kido. Michael will also be doing some messages from America by video.

As we continue to see God working, we see the devil hard at work as well. The other day a strong lady who follows a rare Bhuddist sect came to our church and was yelling that there is no God and we are all liars. Other people in our church have been facing real spiritual battles that need your prayers. Also, please pray for a lady needing back surgery and another lady having surgery on her sinuses on Feb. 14th. We are thrilled that Mrs. "I", who has been meeting with Mrs. Rich regularly for English and Bible study, has decided to come back to Church. We thought she had trusted Christ a while back but it seems that it might not have been real. Please pray with us, that we can help her truly understand and trust only in Jesus. Also, please pray for Mrs. "R" to be able to burn her "butsudan" (Buddhist altar).

Please pray we will have wisdom in how to help the people here and reach them with the gospel. It breaks our hearts when we see people reject Christ. Please pray for God to continue to work in bringing folks to church and for souls to be genuinely saved and transformed through the power of God's Word. Please pray for our Valentine Outreach Sunday, February 10th.

Abigail's Corner

Abigail just finished her yearly piano and violin recital and is improving steadily. We have also been really impressed with her increased ability in Japanese recently. She might not always know how to express herself exactly but is doing a great job and understanding a lot more these days. She seems to be growing up so quickly before our eyes and there is nothing we can do about it.

We want thank those who gave us special Christmas gifts. They were a big help and blessing to us. Thank you for your part in helping us get the gospel to the people of Japan,



Michael, April, and Abigail Riffel