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Missionaries to



It's a Miracle

As we prepared to come back on furlough, sister Reiko called asking us to visit her sister in the hospital in Tokyo before we left. She knew her sister needed to be saved and the doctors were not giving her much time to live. She was dying of brain cancer and as a result had lost her vision and hearing. We prayed for God to do a miracle and when we got to the hospital the Lord had opened one eye so she could see. Through typing the message of salvation on our cell phone, she was able to read it and she right away prayed to accept Jesus as



her savior! With tears running down her face, she yelled out, "Thank you! Thank you!" We will never forget that miraculous day. She has since gone home to be with the Lord. *Please pray for Reiko's family to come to know the Lord.*

Furlough 2019

We hit the ground running since we arrived for furlough on March 26th. So far we have been in 21 churches reporting on the work in Japan and have a full schedule until we go back on July 9th. We will be traveling through 25 states altogether and speaking in 30 churches. *Please pray that we will have safety traveling and be able to get refreshed spiritually, physically and emotionally as well.*



We thank the Lord for all our supporting churches. They have been so welcoming and gracious to us and it has been wonderful to connect again with some folks we haven't seen in up to ten years. We are thankful for the opportunity to present our work in a few new churches as well. *Please pray that these would be able to take us on for support (currently 90%).* God has been blessing us with other needs being met. The widows jar ministry in Indiana helped provide many of Abigail's future textbooks as well as other supplies. Others have given us books for our church library for which we are so thankful. Another man provided us with a car for 3 weeks until we could fly to Missouri and pick up a van from BMTM (Baptist Missionary Transportation Ministry).

It has been wonderful to see the Lord use us in our furlough ministry. People have been making decisions and the other day we saw two young ladies receive the Lord in Junior Church. Praise God! Others are realizing more the need for the Gospel and missionaries in Japan. *Please pray the Lord would call more laborers to come to Japan.*

News from Japan

The Lord has also been working in our church in Japan. We are so thankful for all our members at Faith Baptist Church in Japan working so hard to continue the ministry there. Carolyn has been playing the piano and Mr. Kido preaching once a month and teaching the adult Sunday School as Clair teaches the children. Mr. Takagi has been overseeing prayer meeting and many other aspects. The Okadas have prepared for guest speakers and helped organize the church events. God blessed our Easter Sunday as Marissa's co-worker's family visited church for the first time. We are thankful that Mr. Kido preached a strong salvation message and it sounds like they will be coming again some time. Also, Sophie invited her neighbor friend for Mother's Day, and she came to church for the very first time on. *Please pray for these folks to come again and be saved.*



We are also thankful for missionaries Eli Gultner and Will Hill, as well as pastor Tanii for filling in for a few of the Sundays we are in the States. *Please pray for Michael as he prepares messages for the remaining Sundays while traveling on furlough and sending them by video to Japan.*

Abigail's Corner

Abigail has definitely hit a growth spurt and is getting a little too close to mommy. One of God's blessings this furlough was that it "happened" that our home church was doing achievement testing in their Christians school the same week we were there and Abigail was able to participate and experience a real classroom for the first time. She thoroughly enjoyed it. She has been enjoying meeting new friends here and has been playing her violin in churches across America. She is getting homesick for Japan though, *so please pray for her as we have another 5 weeks to go before we return on July 9th.* However, she loved seeing her cousins and is looking forward to our family reunion in June where all 20 of them will be there!



As always, we are so grateful for all of you who faithfully pray and support our ministry to the Japanese people. We could not do this without you. May the Lord richly bless you for your ministry,

Michael, April, and Abigail Riffel