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Missionaries to



We “rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience.” Romans 5:2b-3

Baptisms!

We begin this letter with great joy seeing Luiz and Samantha growing in the Lord and being baptized on March 21st. Luiz has been helping out in the church in various ways and God has provided a job that has allowed him to stay in Saku near the church. This was a matter of faith for him, and we are so glad he chose to stay in Saku. Along with the rest of the church, Shoko was encouraged by the baptism and we hope to baptize her this summer. Her unsaved husband wanted to come because we were having a pizza party afterward but sadly, he had to work. Please keep praying for Mr. Maeda to be saved.



Twins!

Samantha’s mother Rose had twin girls in February! Please pray for Samantha as she helps her mommy with the twins and her other two siblings, Anna and Mia, who are one and three years old. Rose has her hands full, and we would appreciate your prayers as she trains all of her little ones to love Jesus. We are so glad Rose’s husband, Yuichi, is taking the new convert classes with Michael once a week. Please continue to pray for his growth in the Lord and that he will decide to get baptized.

Covid, Covid go away, don’t come back any other day!

We also are very glad that Covid numbers have gone down in our area and we have been able to resume our usual schedule: English /Bible classes have started again and we are holding all church services and activities at church again. We had great Easter Sunday with our church family. It has been hard to get visitors to come to church as people are still afraid to go places here in Japan. Claire has added to our church flyer a gospel message concerning the fear of Covid and the how God wants to heal our sinful condition. We pray that God will use this to draw the Japanese to Him as we go out on Saturdays passing them out with the Gospel of John.

English Classes

Our English classes have been going well. Please pray the children and mothers will truly accept Christ as their Savior. Most of them have already heard the plan of salvation. We are currently going through the story of Paul’s missionary journeys with them. Some of the children get excited when Michael leaves the story at a climax only leaving them to wait until next week to know what happens.

It is great to see them excited about the Bible. Please pray that the Lord will continue to work in their hearts, and that they will remember the Bible lesson throughout the week.

Abigail’s Corner

Now that things are back in full swing, time has been flying. Abi is finishing up her seventh-grade classes and is so excited about summer break. She recently has started becoming a Sunday school assistant to April’s mother, Cathy Rich. We are so thankful that Abi is learning many good qualities of how to be a good teacher from her. Shoko’s daughter Lisa has also joined her class this year. Please pray for the children to listen and come to know the Lord.



Teaching us Patience

As we share these joys there also has been some areas in our life that has taught us much patience. Last week Michael fell off a ladder that collapsed from under him and sprained his ankle. We are so thankful he did not get hurt any worse. Then this week, April fell down some cement stairs fracturing her upper bone in her left arm. After multiple tests the doctor has said for her to rest her arm for two weeks and then he will decide if she needs surgery. The doctor sent her home with a sling saying do not move that arm. This is truly trying April’s patience. We are so thankful April did not hit her head or break a bone. Please pray with us that her pain will subside, for her to get good rest and the fracture will heal quickly without surgery.

Happy Resurrection Day

As we feel the aches and pains from these different falls, we are reminded of how Christ was battered and torn and killed on the cross for our sins. Our pain is nothing in comparison to what he did for us. What a wonderful Savior we have to take our sin upon himself and allow himself to be beaten and killed. Easter truly is the time to remember what victory we are given through Christ! As He claimed victory over death so we can claim victory over the penalty of sin. Life has its ups, downs, joys and sorrows, but there is no greater joy than knowing our Saviour. We continue to pray for the lost soul’s here and for God to bring others across our path that we can lead to Him. Maybe someone is reading this letter today and has not yet received God’s gift of forgiveness and salvation. May you receive Him today and find great peace, hope, and joy in knowing Jesus.

May the Lord continue to work in all of our lives in the times of joy and learning patience. God bless you all today. Thank you for all your prayers and support, they mean so much to us. Love the Riffel family