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Missionaries to



*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord forever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength. Isaiah 26:3,4*

## Hello dear Family and Friends,

We thank the Lord for His abundant peace and strength as much has happened in the last two months. We know that God has listened to the prayers given on our behalf. Thank you!

## Down with Covid

Well, the first week of April we came down with Covid. Abi got it first but thankfully bounced back in about three days. Next was April and then Michael. We were pretty sick with the virus for about ten days but thankfully never ended up in the hospital. We are also so thankful for God's protection and that mom Rich did not contract it even though we live together. Praise the Lord for His healing. We are feeling much better now and thankful we could be in church on Easter Sunday. It was interesting as the government health department would call us daily to check in on us. The Lord gave us an opportunity to tell them that Jesus was helping us. Please pray for those and the Japanese here who face lots of stress but do not have the Lord to lay their burdens on.

During this time, the doctor ran several tests and also found out that April has a liver disease. She has since had much pain in her side and is on a strict diet now to help heal it. This will take time, but we are thankful that with diet and the Lord's help, the liver can be healed. She has seen some relief, but it tends to depend on the day. We would appreciate your prayers for her liver and that she will get back to feeling better quickly.

## Children's Day and Mother's Day

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> we celebrated Children's Day early by going on a picnic with our church people. It was a special time of fellowship and helped us understand more the spiritual needs of some of our people. Mother's Day was very special too as the church prepared a very delicious luncheon for the mothers. It was a very special time of fellowship for the Ladies as they are usually too busy to have much time to talk with one another. It was a good bonding time for our ladies.



## New Member

On the last Sunday of April, we were so excited to listen to Rose Okada's testimony and for the church to receive her as a new member. She is a blessing and we love being with her and her five beautiful daughters. Please continue to pray that her husband, Joshua, will come to church with her and grow in the Lord.

## Waiting for baptism but receiving Salvation

We were sad that we had to put off Shoko's baptism in March because of sickness, but so thankful how God worked to lead her to salvation. At the end of the New Convert/Baptism classes, we go through some doctrinal questions and also listen to their salvation testimony. At that time, it became apparent that although Shoko had believed in Jesus, there was never a specific time that she could remember of praying to confess and trust in God's work of salvation. We praise the Lord that she could pray on March 13<sup>th</sup>, and make sure of her salvation. Her baptism is rescheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup> when her unsaved husband will be able to attend. Shoko will share her salvation testimony that day, so please pray for her husband, Kentaro, to be saved.

## Missionary Sunday

On May 1<sup>st</sup> we had a special Japanese missionary, who is on deputation to go to Taiwan, come and share her burden. Miss Shinobu Suzuki was a great blessing to our church people. Her testimony really touched some of our members and helped them to grow closer to the Lord. Our church hopes to take her on for support.



## Other Prayer Requests:

1. Ladies Tea Outreach on June 4<sup>th</sup> and mom as she speaks.
2. Father's Day Event on June 19<sup>th</sup>.
3. Moving Mom Rich's things out of her house by end of June. (The White Family will be moving into her home.)
4. Preparation for our Church Family Camp in August and the visit from the president of our mission, Dr. John O'Malley.
5. For the Derry and White Family to raise the rest of their support so they can move to Japan.
6. Japanese souls to be saved.

## Abigail's Corner

Abi has been doing well and finishing up 8<sup>th</sup> grade. She recently has been loving writing a children/teens Christian Fiction mystery book. She started writing it because she felt there were not enough books that are really good for young people her age to use for Book Reports. She now is up to chapter 6 in her first book and is already planning it to become a series. We are excited about how the Lord is leading her and that she is including the salvation message and guidance to children and teens in how to grow and draw closer to Jesus. Please pray for her and that God will use her writing for His glory.



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