

## MISSION PRAYER

April 1, 2017

**Attribute of God: Our Living Hope**

**Key verse: 1 Peter 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...***

**Focus on: Todd and Jayne Fong family, Patricia K., Jim and Terui Grace, Daisuke and Cheryl Ikegami, and Munetaka and Sandy Mori**

**Missionaries: Todd, Jayne, Jeremy, and Ayumi Fong**

**Country: Japan**

**Praise: Praises for:**

1. The Fong family is at full support, thanks to the Lord through your generous and consistent giving to their ministry. Praise the Lord for all of you!
2. an amazing short term mission to Thailand. God provided the perfect team to minister to the needs they encountered there.
3. Kathy's continued strong relationship with nearby Musashi University. She will be teaching six classes in the coming school year giving them access to meet many new students who may desire to improve their English conversation or learn more about the Bible. Pray for good opportunities to meet students this year.
4. the kickoff for planning their English Summer Camp 2017 in August! They hope to have continuity of leadership from both California and Japan and increase their enrollment to 350 children this year. They'll need a lot of prayer to make this happen!

**Requests: Please pray for:**

1. Jeremy as he has a full schedule through the rest of the school year with his robotics competition, SAT and AP exams, Student Council responsibilities and running 300km per month.
2. Ayumi to have a good trip to Kyoto and they don't lose any students on the way (or the way back).
3. their church's new game club which has engaged over a dozen middle school kids who have not been connected with any church activity or ministry in the past. Todd helped out with the club on March 19<sup>th</sup>.
4. the Keiyu Gakuen free school, Moto Kimura (JEMS affiliates) and his family. Pray for more opportunities for the church to serve children like the ones who attend his free school.
5. each of their Japanese language skills to continue to improve. Each of them are on individually tuned plans to improve their reading, vocabulary, and speaking skills.
6. their family: communication, patience, grace, and love within their relationships. Pray for special protection against spiritual attacks that commonly occur to missionary families.
7. Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with friends, students, and family. Pray that the Holy Spirit will use them when they don't have the right words.
8. for the Redwood ESC Kickoff Rally on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Missionary: Patricia K.**

**Internet Ministry to C-----**

**Praise:**

1. They just received more wonderful, encouraging news. The Valentine's Day article which Patricia wrote was shared and viewed over 250,000 times in just a few days. The article talked about the origin of Valentine's Day and God's unconditional agape love for us. Patricia was sent a list of 24 western and C----- holidays to write about.
2. Praise the Lord, in January and February they saw over 121,000 visitors to their evangelistic website and over 3,900 indicated a decision for Jesus!

**Requests: Please pray:**

1. for "Steve"...he wrote saying he has placed his trust in Jesus but hasn't been baptized. Pray Steve will find a Bible teaching church which loves the Lord and that his home church leader will give his blessing. Many Christians in C--- feel when they become baptized, that's when they are truly a Christian, fully committed. Please pray Steve will be baptized.
2. on-line visitors will find a church in their city and that they will feel connected to the churches which they are referred to, will build friendships with the local believers, and will be rooted in their faith.

**Missionaries: Jim and Terui Grace**

**Country: Japan**

**Praise: Thanks for praying for:**

1. Chelsia's move from Sapporo to Sendai, where she is joining the student ministry team and preparing to teach at Shirayuri Women's University. She is settling in.
2. the Jessop family, Paul, Melissa, Heidi, Pippa, and Annelise- they have found a suitable house for their family and their ministry. They moved on the 21<sup>st</sup> to join the church planting team in Hirosaki.

**Requests: Please pray for:**

1. Keimei and Grace Suzuki and their children from New Zealand, whom they welcomed on Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup>. Pray for their adjustment to life and language study. Grace will study Japanese for 5 months, while Keimei, who is Japanese, will manage the household, and work at a church as training.
2. Keion (girl), Onken (boy) entering primary school, and Keichi (boy) in kindergarten- none of the children have Japanese language.
3. The past week and a half was quite busy- Terui helped with Tonden Church's children's program on the 11<sup>th</sup> Jim preached at the Tonden Church on the 12<sup>th</sup>.
4. the financial needs of part-time teachers at JLCC, (Japanese Language and Culture Center)- as student numbers are low and teaching hours are reduced until at least July.
5. the ongoing review of the JLCC's language and culture learning program.
6. Hokkaido University students Rikako and Hanako who have been studying the Bible with the Graces; they had a meal with them Fri. March 10<sup>th</sup>. Pray that they will come to faith in the Lord.
7. their son, John, who is in his final college semester and is looking for an internship to complete his graduation requirements.

**Missionaries: Daisuke and Cheryl Ikegami**

**Country: Japan**

**Praise:**

1. During their time of reflection over the past year, the most memorable thing that happened was two university students making a decision to accept Jesus and be baptized. It is always a great privilege to see the moment that the seed of God spreads out. It is also amazing to be part of God's work as He moves in the students' lives. They are so excited to see how God will guide these students in the next stages of life.
2. This past year they met over 200 students through the YWAM mission team, Budo University's English classes and all of the ministry work at the university. Through all of these meetings, God invited some students to different events that allowed the Ikegamis to build closer relationships outside of the classroom.
3. God provided 7 students for their home stay program. Praise God for how He provided host families through South Bay Community Church in Los Angeles, Streams Church in Arizona, and Fremont Asian Christian Church and San Lorenzo Japanese Christian Church in the San Francisco Bay Area.

**Requests: Please pray:**

1. Through the past homestay trip, God worked in each one of the students' hearts and made this trip a part of His great plan to cultivate their hearts. Please continue to pray for the day that they each will accept Jesus as their Savior in the future.
2. In their personal life, Cheryl and Daisuke celebrated their 10 year anniversary. In their marriage, they give thanks to God who guided them and made their bond stronger over these 10 years as husband and wife allowing them to encourage and support each other. God didn't allow them to have a family yet, but through that, God continues to guide them to think about what is the true meaning of seeking God's best and to have trust in His plan that they haven't seen yet. They would really appreciate it if you could remember this in your prayers.
3. that all the work that they do will be filled by God's presence.
4. for God to provide national leaders in the ministry.
5. for salvation for the students.
6. for the Lord's encouragement for local Christians.

## **Missionaries: Morry and Sandy Mori**

## **Short term in Kumamoto, Japan**

### **Praise:**

1. From the last two weeks and continuing for another two weeks, the Moreys will be hosting guests from Shanghai (Joanne Wang); from Chiba (Kazuko and Maki, Morry's sister and niece, and also, Eiji Nakadai); from Hayward (Anna Hudson); and from Honolulu (Kay Takara). While there, they will get a firsthand view of the ministry activities that they have the privilege of participating in.
2. Their life has developed a satisfying rhythm there and while there may be a routine, new people keep coming into their lives and new opportunities for meaningful conversations keep coming along with them.
3. The work in the temporary housing communities is going forward, but with some starts-and-stops. The children's English classes have given way to cooking and arts and crafts classes and the adult English classes are now craft and sewing classes. Together with the Christian Disaster Relief group, they're trying to experiment as to what activities will draw the greatest interest and participation in the four communities currently being served by the relief center.
4. Morry's Bible teaching opportunities continue and are consuming more and more of his time and attention. His conviction that the Good News needs to be shared continues to drive his study and teaching.
5. Sandy's Sunday school classes have grown from one to two classes and are a highlight of her week. They have helped her get better acquainted with the endearing younger people in the church, as well as, some special ladies.
6. This month they visited with Lily Suzuki, a JEMS missionary (Japanese Evangelical Mission Society) who is serving in Amakusa, an hour and-a-half to the south of their town. They had a wonderful visit with her and as they listened, they heard stories from the last eleven years, during which she has shared Jesus with the young and the old as a teacher, a visiting pastor, a baker, a host, a bedside worship music leader and a friend.

### **Requests: Please pray:**

The Moris continue to seek opportunities to tell others about Jesus in an area and at a time when being a sophisticate means proceeding with skepticism and ambiguity towards religions, especially Christianity. Please join them in prayer for God's purposes to be accomplished in Japan.