

MISSION PRAYER

Aug. 5, 2017

Attribute of God: Our light and salvation

Key verse: Psalm 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation-whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life- of whom shall I be afraid?

This month's focus is on: Richard and Keri Nakamura, Rev. Ozaki, Mitsuo and Akiko Fujishima, Michiya and Asako Tanaka, Joel and Seiko Lovestrand, and Randy and Gay Hongo

Missionaries: Richard, Keri, Alisha, Brandon, Hanna, Kayla, and Nathan Nakamura Ministry: Japanese Diaspora Praise:

1. The Nakamuras praise God for His provision of their 8th house since 2011. The Lord has provided them a home in the Renton Highlands, about 5 minutes from where they were. Nathan is especially thankful for the park behind the house and the many friends he has made from day one!
2. The Nakamuras were planning to visit Japan for the summer but due to the sudden move, they had to cancel their Japan trip. By God's grace and many hours on the phone, they were able to change the dates to December without penalty. They continue to make plans, but the LORD definitely directs their steps daily.

Requests: Please pray:

1. for Richard's Japanese Buddhist mother to come to know Jesus as her Lord and Savior.
2. for a breakthrough among the people of Japan.
3. The Nakamuras are down over 10% in support and need to raise it up back to 100%, especially now that they are in the new Diaspora Field. Please pray with them in this. If the Lord should lead you to partner with them, or increase your existing support, please contact SEND: <https://www.send.org/give/missionaries/nakamura> or www.send.org
The Nakamura's new address: 6828 SE 5th St., Renton, WA 98059

Missionary: Rev. Kazuo Ozaki

Ministry: Reach Beyond Radio Ministry to Japan

Praise and prayer request:

1. This year Rev. Ozaki's son, Michio, accompanied him for the entire three-week trip to Japan. Music with a Latin American flavor was a nice addition to the messages. Everyone enjoyed the mini-concerts and asked him to visit them more often. For Rev. Ozaki, the highlight of the trip was getting together with all the friends who have supported their radio ministry for years and years. He took the opportunity to record an interview with each person. Later they are able to listen to their interview on their own radio.
2. Listeners came to the meetings from all over and in every possible way. One listener traveled 350 miles by train, and rented a bicycle at the train station to come to a meeting!
3. One Sunday Rev. Ozaki preached a sermon on faith and trust at the church that commissioned and sent them to Ecuador in 1963! On that Sunday there were eight listeners in the congregation! After the service everyone was invited to stay for lunch. Rev. Ozaki had a chance to share his life story and his journey with Jesus. Days later he received a letter from one of the listeners, *"This morning I heard the 'Message of Life' for the first time. I had never been inside a church. The meaning of 'Faith and Trust' touched my heart deeply. Thank you for teaching me the most important thing in life."*
4. There is no age limit for the hobby of radio listening. After the listeners meeting at Yodobashi Church in Tokyo, three young listeners gathered around Rev. Ozaki and talked about the organizing of their own "Young Listeners Club". They want to encourage their peers to listen to shortwave radio by sharing their own experience with radio stations that carry the vital message of LIFE. Most of their listeners are not non-believers but not-yet Christians. **Please pray for those who are listening that they may be touched by the gospel and come to know Jesus who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.**

Missionaries: Mitsuo and Akiko Fujishima

Country: Japan

Praise and prayer requests:

1. Another seaweed season is over, and they are so thankful for your prayers on their behalf. It was good to see many of their co-workers from last year and they also met some new ones. Their prayers continue to be that they will be the light and the salt among these people.
2. When a number of women work together all day long for 7 days, conflicts can happen. They witnessed an argument between two ladies in their 70s; they exchanged words, and one of them ended up leaving the workplace in the middle of the day not to return. They had been friends for over 30 years. They have seen so many unresolved relationships because of unforgiveness. Whenever chances arise they share the importance of forgiving. They want to be intentional about sharing the fact that we are all in need of forgiveness.
3. During most of the season, Mitsu and Akiko were both strong and healthy until the very last day when Mitsu suffered so much pain in his shoulder and back. **Please pray that God will give them much wisdom regarding how often/when to rest next season.**
4. Mrs. Kameyama was the first person the Fujishimas met when they visited the Oshika Peninsula. She has had a hard life. One of her daughters died in her twenties after a failed surgery and the other left her husband and three children for another man and does not want to be contacted. She doesn't have any income other than her widow's pension. She lost her husband in the tsunami and scarcely survived by clinging onto an electric light on the ceiling. Mrs. Kameyama supplements her income by working during the seaweed season. She is independent and stubborn and has not opened her heart to Jesus. However, she seems to like the Fujishimas and trusts them. Please pray for Mrs. Kameyama, their very dear friend, to accept Jesus as her Savior.
5. Mayuko, a rather new believer, moved from Korea to Japan to marry a fisherman in this area. She learned Japanese to be a fisherman's wife and to care for his parents. It was a very difficult time. On top of that her mother-in-law was mean to her. In the midst of her suffering, she experienced the earthquake and tsunami. Mayuko assisted Pastor Kishinami, who brought much needed goods to the Peninsula in coordinating volunteer groups. God sent many believers to this area to encourage and help her grow in her faith. When her mother-in-law was hospitalized, Mayuko took very good care of her and shared the gospel. As a result, she accepted Jesus and was baptized. They are now meeting twice a month to study the Bible with Mayuko and Akemi, another believer in the peninsula.
6. Thank you so much for your friendship, prayers, and financial support. During their brief stay in California last month, they had the opportunity to meet with some of you. That was such an encouraging time! Your interest and affirmation of what they are doing meant so much to them. God knew that they needed encouragement and the people in the peninsula need so much prayer. Their hearts are hard and their eyes are closed. **Please pray that the Spirit of Jesus will work in their hearts and open their eyes.**

Missionaries: Michiya, Asako, Cocomi, and Isshin Tanaka

Country: Japan

Praise and prayer requests:

1. Night de Light released a new album called 'SHIFT' last March. They have been touring not only Japan, but also Hawaii twice this year! They performed a concert at Ala Moana shopping center and were selected as the official musicians for Hawaii and Hokkaido to become sister cities.
2. God gave them a vision at the end of last year to give a solo concert at Zepp Diver City Tokyo on July 30th, 2017. They had an urgency to sing and testify His hope and victory in Tokyo. Pray that Japan will become a country that sings worship and testifies the Lord over the world. July 30th was a day of declaration that God has already won and overcome spiritual warfare! **Please pray for the people who attended and heard the Good News that they will have changed lives. Pray for protection for the members and their families of Night de Light from any kinds of spiritual attack and temptations.**

Missionaries: Joel, Seiko, Akari, and Leo Lovestrand

Country: Japan

Praise: Thank you God for:

1. blessing their church retreat and for the unsaved friends and family members who came. It was starting to rain when they arrived at the lodge where they were staying, but the men found a spot under some tall trees where they could fire up the barbeque. It was still sprinkling, so they prayed and started carrying firewood to the campfire spot. They set up the wood and covered it with a plastic tarp. By the time supper was over the rain had let up and they were able to get a roaring fire going. Two unbelieving husbands of church members, Mr. Basefield and Mr. Thousand Leaves, helped out with the barbeque and campfire. They were also very encouraged to meet Mr. Mumfield's unsaved wife and daughter when they stopped by to drop off his grandson and then joined them for supper. Miss Highbridge, a member of their English class who has been showing a keen interest in the gospel, stayed for the whole retreat and seemed to enjoy their church family.
2. giving them the chance to introduce the gospel to so many at their Summer Club.

Please ASK God to:

1. help Mrs. Rightdale grow in her faith and grant her and others in their church mental healing.
2. help church members grow in holiness and love as they live out their faith at home.
3. use their time with Seiko's family for their benefit, now and eternally. Akari and Leo will be at a camp for missionary kids for a week, after which the Lovestrand family will go to visit Seiko's father and sister.
4. bring their unsaved English class members to faith in Jesus.

Missionaries: Randy and Gay Hongo

Music Ministry

Praise:

1. Randy and Gay praise God for the funds that their supporters continue to send in for the building of the Hongo Music and Life Center. They continue to be in the fundraising mode for construction so do not know when they can break ground. What they do know is that God is the One who will dictate the progress. They are grateful for volunteers like Nelson Kanemoto, Robin Kumabe, Adele Stevens and Cheryl Sanders who are giving of their time and ideas toward the building of the Center. They are hoping to start classes in the near future, even before the building is constructed and using Kalihi Union classrooms for the instruction. Again, as the Lord leads and in His time.
2. It has been their joy to have worked with the Kalihi and Hoanalua Church youth in the past few months as they prepared for two concerts at Honolulu nursing homes: the Plaza at Punchbowl, and the Hawaii Kai Assisted Living Facility. The latter was meaningful to the young people as their former church leader Genie Keanu is now a resident there. The talented youth, led by Johnnie Ku, Kipalani Kaupu and Kala'iku Kaowili, sang favorite Hawaiian songs and hymns, played the ukulele, danced hula, shared Scripture and testimony with the residents at both homes.

Requests: Please pray:

1. for the Hongos as they continue to seek the support of Hawaii businesses for funds to build the Hongo Music and Life Center. They also have an ongoing tile campaign where people can give \$1,000, \$2,500 or \$5,000 toward the purchase of a tile on which can be inscribed a dedication to a loved one. Also any donations from supporters toward the Music Center will be gratefully received.
2. The Hongos hope to spend time in the studio in the coming months and into next year to work on recordings for their new CD.
3. Randy is still waiting for a kidney transplant. After being rejected by Queen's in Honolulu and Legacy Clinic in Portland, Oregon, he is now working with his nephrologist to be considered at the University of California in San Francisco. A team will come to Hawaii in August to interview island candidates and Randy hopes he will be considered. If so, the next step is that Andrew, Randy's son, will be tested in New York. Randy's heart is so full of thanksgiving.