

MISSION PRAYER

Dec. 2, 2017

Attribute of God: The Prince of Peace

Key verse: Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given...

and His name shall be called... The Prince of Peace."

This month's focus: Julie Nitao, Patricia K., Todd and Jayne Fong Family, Kuni and Kristen Onishi Family, Makoto and Amy T., Mitsu and Karen Nakamura, Mitsuo and Akiko Fujishima, Jim and Terui Grace, the Jon and Maki Robison Family, and the Young Family

Missionary: Julie Nitao

Country: Japan

Praise:

1. Being in Rifu, Japan for 4 months now, God has been showing Julie the importance of relationship building in Tohoku (Northern Japan) while getting to know the land. Some of the continuing and new precious relationships Julie has been enjoying are:
 - a. Joining a young adult small group! She will be a regular member and assisting the leader of the group.
 - b. Visited a grandpa who lived across from her last year in Ishinomaki.
2. Julie has been working at the Oasis Chapel Café. Christianity in Japan is seen as a "taboo" topic. If you share your faith with others you might be seen as weird or even dangerous to be with. In such an environment, Julie often thinks of the social freedom of expressing our faith in America which is such a blessing we take for granted sometimes. People in Japan often have to be very intentional about sharing their faith since the society does not accept it. Julie shares the Mt. Fuji Strategy for ministry work at Oasis Café. They wait for the opportunity to share the Gospel to come in a spiritual timing through the 3 "Gakus."
 - a. The first "Gaku" signifies entertainment. They share entertainment at the café through God's nature, blessings of food and coffee.
 - b. The second "Gaku" represents some kind of learning. At the café they already started an English class (taught by another missionary) but hoping to do other classes such as parenting classes. Through these classes, there will be many relationship building where deeper conversations happen. They, as believers, would have more opportunity to share their core values of why this café exists which is the third "Gaku".
 - c. The third "Gaku" means peak, symbolizing the peak of the mountain: the Bible, God, and their faith.
3. Praise God, the Kid's Camp in August was a blast! Three days of fun time together and of course, it was an exciting thing to share the story of Jesus and what He did on the cross to the children! Thank you for praying!
4. Julie's mother visited her at the end of September! It was such a blessed time to share God's work there!

Requests: Please pray:

1. For continued relationship building.
2. For their preparation for Christmas.
3. For physical adjustment to the first winter in Japan.
4. Julie is currently at 90% of her monthly support (\$2,500/month). Only 10% left and she is amazed with His provision. God is indeed, *Adonai Yireh* (The Lord will provide). Please pray for the Lord to bring in the remaining 10% support.

Missionary: Patricia K.

Ministry: Internet Ministry to C-----

Praise and prayer requests:

1. Patricia encourages us to remember to set aside quiet times with the Lord as we enter this beautiful yet busy season of celebrations. She also encourages us to pray and ask our Lord how we can use Christmas to show God's love to those around us. We can invite non-believers, especially those who are new to the U.S., to join in our holiday meal/celebration and share with them the meaning of the holiday. We may be the only Christian in their life who will take the time to tell them about the Lord.
2. They have been having issues with Google advertising, so these past 3 months they've only seen an average of 22,000 visitors/month, as compared to the usual 120,000/month. But praise the Lord, almost 1,500 indicated a decision for Jesus in August-October! **Please pray the issues with Google advertising will be resolved soon.**

Missionaries: Todd, Jayne, Jeremy, and Ayumi Fong

Country: Japan

Praise:

1. The Fongs are at full support, thanks to the Lord through your generous and consistent giving to their ministry. Praise the Lord for all of you!
2. Praises for God's leading them through the process of buying a new home. They move in next March. Please pray for the building process to go smoothly and for the safety of those working on the house.
3. Praises for a great time of fellowship and rest at the CPI (Church Planting Institute) Conference with their fellow JEMS co-workers. Praises for their new JEMS Japan Director, Roy Toma.
4. Todd has started to teach the adult English class that meets at church early Sunday mornings.

Requests: Please pray:

1. For follow-up to the English Summer Camp in terms of relationship building and new events they can include kids and families in. They will have several outreach events around Christmas and New Year's to invite people to join. Please pray for the Christmas festival for the community.
2. For their little university Bible Study to flourish and grow.
3. For Jayne's new job responsibilities at CAJ (Middle School Head Teacher) and for a balance of her workload with her existing job responsibilities.
4. For 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. For their family: communication, patience, grace, and love within their relationships. Pray for special protection against spiritual attacks that commonly occur to missionary families.

Missionaries: Kuni, Kristen, Shion, and Maray Onishi

Country: Japan

Praise:

1. They just came back from the CPI (Church Planting Institute) Conference. It was a great time of meeting with church planting missionaries in Japan.
2. Shion turned 3 years old during the conference. Time flies!!
3. **FIREPLACE** (THEIR CHURCH PLANTING) is growing. FIREPLACE is not the name of their church but they call this Saturday morning worship/the initial stage of their gathering FIREPLACE. In the beginning they didn't invite people but now they slowly do. Due to this they are looking for a place for their ministry. **Please pray that God will give a place or a building to meet with people!**

Requests: Please pray:

1. For health of their family! The flu season has arrived and the weather is getting very cold!
2. For the property that they are praying to get for their FIREPLACE and for ministry!
3. That God will send more people to their church planting; people that God has chosen and set apart for their ministry!

Missionaries: Makoto, Amy, Mia, and Samuel T.

Serving in Asia

Praise and prayer requests:

1. They are thankful for many things this semester. Although it has been hectic at times, they are thankful to God for His faithfulness. Makoto is really enjoying his teaching job, Amy is adjusting more to her role at home, Mia is doing well in school, and Samuel started preschool two mornings a week.
2. Amy has started back up in going to the local foster care home to spend time with local orphans. She has been doing a circle-time and activity with the children once a week. Amy is grateful that she has a teammate that is also helping her and getting involved in the ministry.
3. Makoto is very happy that the local brother he has been discipling has started attending a new small group. Makoto has had the chance to attend and get to know the other brothers and sisters in the group as well. They are praying for good relationships with these local believers.
4. Please pray for them as they look forward to doing different things with local friends and families and continue to be a blessing to their community.
5. Please pray for Mia as she is a little sad that one of her best friends left to move to another city.
6. Samuel is now going to a local preschool. They are glad that he has a few friends that he already knew when he started.

Missionaries: Mitsu, Karen, Abe, Miye, and Emi Nakamura

Country: Japan

Praise and prayer requests:

1. Karen was able to meet with her new friend, the young career woman, whom she calls Peach girl! They talked about her work, about marriage, about her time in the US and her Christian friends and homestay family. When she asked Karen, "How do you know what is important in life?" Karen felt she needed to share how she used to wonder why we live and if there is a God, and how someone shared with her about true meaning in life. She was asking questions, and rephrasing what Karen said (about sin, forgiveness, growth). She prayed and received Christ! She said she still doesn't really understand, so Karen is praying that God will make Himself real to her, as she reads His Word and seeks Him for wisdom in her job. Please pray with her.
2. Perhaps you know of pastor's kids or missionary kids who are not happy being a part of a ministry family. As Karen is in charge of childcare for their **staff conference on Dec. 26-29th**, she is praying it will help all of their staff kids to be SO happy to be in this ministry family! Praying the older staff kids will be great big brothers and sisters, that there will be great bonding and they will all enjoy making a play out of some Bible stories. Please pray for their staff conference to give all their staff renewed vitality in their walks with the Lord.
3. Please pray that the cross-cultural communication seminar would lead to greater awareness, open communication and unity.
4. Pray for salvation for Mitsu's half-siblings (in Dec. Mitsu is meeting his half-brother for the first time!) and mom (in Dec. he is visiting her to see how to care for her, as she is beginning to have dementia and delusions).
5. Please pray for all of their financial needs to be met. They are so grateful for your generosity! Pray that year-end gifts will abundantly meet a present shortfall.

Missionaries: Mitsuo and Akiko Fujishima

Country: Japan

Praise and prayer requests:

1. Yoneko, whom the Fujishimas visited at the nursing home, peacefully passed away this past week. Her son was by her side. Mayuko, a believer and her daughter-in-law, led her to the Lord a year ago, and Yoneko was baptized last Christmas. They are so thankful for God's mercies. Yoneko's son decided to have a Buddhist funeral. At first, they were saddened, but they see God's wisdom in this. Mayuko lives surrounded by neighbors who are hostile to her because of her beliefs. Considering the fact that Yoneko's family members are not believers, having a Christian funeral would not be the best way at this time. It requires a lot of thinking since they live in such a small and closed community. **Please pray that the Fujishimas actions and words will be a testimony to all and that they will be an encouragement to Mayuko.**
2. Since they moved Ishinomaki, they tried with no success, to get into the schools to minister to the children. A week ago, they received a phone call from the vice principal of the local junior high school asking them whether they would consider being study hall supervisors! He shared that the school has been "desperately" searching for someone and would be very thankful if the Fujishimas would accept this offer. As a result, they will be working an hour most afternoons. They don't need any preparation and they will be paid and they will get to know the students and the teachers! **Please pray that they will shine for Jesus in the classroom and for opportunities to share. Thank you!**

Missionaries: Jim and Terui Grace

Country: Japan

Praise: The Graces are thankful for:

1. Their recent visit to **Obihiro Church**, 3 hours (and 33 km of tunnels) east of Sapporo. They were encouraged to hear Pastor Murata talk about this vibrant church-their past as a church planted by OMF missionaries 30 years ago and their vision for the future.
2. The birth of Timo (Swiss for 'Timothy') to **Simon and Kaori Huser** on October 10th. Simon has 4+ months of language study until they begin their first working designation at Obihiro Church with Pastor Murata.
3. The almost completed **remodeling of the Hokkaido Center**, where JLCC (Japanese Language and Culture Center) is located, looks great and provides much-improved functionality.
4. The opportunities to **guide and orient new missionaries** to Japanese culture; they appreciate their enthusiasm for exploring the culture and their humble willingness to put aside their own culture for the sake of the gospel.

5. **Their son John** completing his graduation internship requirement and now being employed at the company where he interned.

Requests: Please pray for:

1. **John and Birit Timothy** (UK) arrived in Sapporo on November 21st from their OMF orientation course in Singapore. Pray for their transition to life in Japan and language study. They are thankful that they have an apartment already for them.
2. **Their co-worker, Alaric**, whose father passed away on November 2nd. As Language Advisor, Alaric plays a key role in assisting new missionaries' progress in their language acquisition. He is back home in the UK (funeral was on the 23rd) and to support his mother; it is unlikely that he will return to Japan until after the New Year. Pray that important aspects of new workers' language study will not be overlooked in the interim. Alaric and his family have the assurance and hope of his father's faith.
3. **Jessy and Christina's** working designations will be discussed later this month after completing language study next year.
4. Terui's mother who fell and has broken her left wrist and fractured her left hip.
5. They enjoy a good relationship with the **kindergarten next door**. The school arranged for their children to "trick-or-treat" at the Hokkaido Center on Halloween. Over 20 children arrived in costumes to receive treats (provided by the kindergarten!) and Halloween-themed tracts explaining the gospel. They're now invited back for their Christmas party. Pray for JLCC preparations by students.
6. **OMF Japan leadership** as the fellowship is going through a critical time of transition and reorganization. Key leadership roles need to be filled after the passing of their Field Director in the spring, and other retirements and reappointments. Nevertheless, they continue to pray for 200 by 2020- a total of 150 long-term and 50 short-term missionaries in Japan (currently around 130, plus another 30).

Missionaries: Jon, Maki, Leon, Aki, and Hugo Robison

Country: Japan

Praise and prayer requests:

1. For the past five years, the Robisons have been partnering with Morioka Minami Church to reach the growing communities of Iwate. This year the church has been recognized by its denomination as a full church. They are so thankful to have been part of this work, along with Pastor and Mrs. Otsuka, the brothers and sisters there, and you, their prayer and support team. Next March they will move from this project confident that God has established the church, and that it will be a witness to the gospel for years to come. After home service in 2018 they will return to Japan to participate in planting another church.
2. Their next home service will be in April 2018, after their kids finish their respective school years. They're looking forward to seeing you all and enjoying the rich fellowship we have in Christ! **Please prayerfully consider a year end gift to their work fund**. Closing up their apartment, preparing for a move and flying to the States for home service will cost about \$10,000 (60% of that is airfare for five). God is good and has never failed to provide for their needs. Your prayers and gifts are greatly appreciated.
3. Along with new ministry plans come new ministry expenses. They anticipate a higher cost of living in their next location, church planting in Kanto (closer to Tokyo) area, as Iwate is one of the least expensive places in Japan to live. **Please pray for the Lord's provision**.
4. **Please pray for their next church plant**. They have used nearly as many outreach programs as they can think of at MMC (Morioka Minami Church). Their next church plant will utilize many of these programs to reach the community, but they also want to follow the Spirit's leading in sharing the gospel with those He puts in their path. The gospel changes lives and they look forward to seeing that in action.
5. **Please pray for their family adjustments**. In nine and a half years of marriage, Maki and Jon have lived in seven different homes. They will likely be serving in their third different ministry site in Japan, and their kids are too used to saying goodbye. They are hoping that their next project will last 12+ years, and they'll see a few kids graduate high school before they start another church somewhere else. God is good, and always gives them what they need. **Please pray for hearts that trust in Him**.
6. **Please pray for the ministries in Tohoku**. Their time in Iwate is coming to an end, but the work there continues. A church plant where Jon helps with English classes twice a month received a large donation, they hope to use it for a building. Jon's brother and Maki's sister (who are married), will begin church planting in Iwate's largest coastal town, and work continues at MMC. **Pray for God's blessing on these projects**.

Missionaries: Daryl, Sun, Abby, Caleb, and Hannah Young

Country: Cameroon, Africa

Praise and prayer request:

1. A new tool is on the way to Cameroon. Introducing....the Robinson R66 helicopter. This tool will help them to extend their reach toward “the ends of the earth” as it serves in remote and mountainous regions in Cameroon. Although it will arrive soon, its funding is not complete. Efforts continue, inviting folks to consider giving toward funding this aircraft’s service in Cameroon. While Daryl will not be piloting this helicopter, as Aviation Department Manager, he, and other department members do support the helicopter program in many ways. **Please pray with them, that this tool will be effective in reaching “the ends of the earth” with the Gospel message in heart languages and in saving lives through emergency medical transportation. It’s seafaring voyage in a container on the ship Demeter has not gone as planned. Delayed in port several times, then attacked by pirates off the coast of Nigeria has slowed its progress. Pray for its safe arrival all the way to Yaounde. Pray for speedy movement of required paperwork through various offices and its release from port. Pray for safe implementation into their flight program.**
2. Rain Forest International School (RFIS) is the middle and high school that their children attend as they serve in Cameroon. Next year RFIS is in a crisis of shortage in teachers. Many teachers are returning to their passport country for home assignments. Some are leaving due to health reasons. Being a teacher for missionary kids is not easy. **Please pray with them that the Lord will provide the teachers that they need. Second, please spread the word of the school’s need for teachers. Thank you!**

Praises:

1. Good health and safety in driving, flying and living in Cameroon.
2. Advances in their Aviation program, including the R66.
3. God’s provision for all their material needs.
4. Faithful ministry partners that pray, give and encourage.
5. A wonderful but brief visit to California this past summer, with delightful en route stop in Beijing. Time spent with family, friends, and their home church was much needed and a wonderful blessing.
6. Abby’s acceptance and scholarships to PLNU (Point Loma Nazarene University).
7. The Stoner family joining their Aviation Dept. PTL!

Requests: Please pray:

1. Pray for peace and stability in the region.
2. That their ministry would have life-changing impact, for eternity.
3. For their family’s continued good health, safety and development.
4. For staffing still needed in their aviation department.
5. For opportunities to boldly share with others Christ’s love and compassion.
6. For the safe arrival of the R66. Funding still needed.
7. For their family’s adjustmentsthey are missing Abby.
8. For Abby’s adjustments to college life in San Diego.