

MISSION PRAYER - JANUARY 2019

Attribute of God: God of all comfort

Key verse: 2 Corinthians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort

This month's focus is on: Jon and Maki Robison, Mitsu and Karen Nakamura, Julie Nitao, The "T" Family, Kuni and Kristen Onishi, Daryl and Sun Young, Fong Family, Munetaka and Sandy Mori, Gay Hongo, Steve and Nilza Kawamura, and David and Yuka Mills

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

Preparing to return to Japan

Praise and prayer requests:

1. The Robison family is locked in on their next assignment! They will be working with a team of church planters comprised of an experienced couple and two families in language study. They would fit as sort of an intermediate piece, they have language abilities, and they still have little kids to try to connect with young families.
2. The Robisons are excited because the plan is not just planting a church, but planting multiple churches at the same time, sharing resources among the team and having a strong team for encouragement.
3. The planting church and the first two church plants are already working toward launch, **please pray for God's leading!**
4. **Jon's visa application has been sent to the Japanese government and they anticipate being ready for a March return to Japan.** When they return to Japan, they'll need to set up housing and life in Kawasaki, also they'll need airplane tickets for five (Rhea is still free, yay!) **For these costs they're looking at \$14,000 in one-time gifts that they need before purchasing airfare to Japan. They've had some encouraging donations, but they're not at their goal yet. Please pray for the Lord's provision.**

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

Country: Japan

Praise:

1. For God's work in giving their staff refreshment and unity at the Men's and Women's Retreats, leading to their serving Him effectively, with healthy and happy hearts!
2. For the many friends who are so open to hearing the message of His love.
3. For God's guiding and blessing the MIP (Mom's In Prayer) Thanksgiving/Christmas dinner!
4. Dec. 7th, six friends (all not yet believers) came with Karen to the concert with beautiful music and Christmas message. Karen's elderly neighbor Mrs. Shimoda really enjoyed the time with her English class ladies and kept saying how fun it was. They felt the love and warmth of Christ.
5. Dec. 8th, Karen was so honored to sit next to dear friend, Yumiko, at her daughter's wedding reception. Later that day, Karen took turkey, stuffing, gravy and pumpkin pies to their annual Moms in Prayer Thanksgiving/Christmas dinner. They had 41 people there, 15 of whom do not yet know Jesus! Their blind friend, Mr. Fukuda also came.
6. That God is blessing Abe, Miye, and Emi at their jobs and school!

Requests: Please pray:

1. For Mitsu's and Taka's preparation for IBS (Institute of Biblical Studies) - that it will be an excellent time of growth for their staff. Thank you for partnering with the Nakamuras so that Mitsu can help equip their staff in Japan! Now, he is preparing to teach the Book of Hebrews in January. This is a great book, but it has some difficult passages. Mitsu's teammate, Taka, will teach Old Testament Survey. Pray for both of them as they prepare.
2. For Campus Forum in February, that staff, short-termers and students will be encouraged in the vision to build multiplying disciples to reach all the college students in Japan.
3. For Emi, who has two important auditions in January and February. For Abe, who is seeking guidance for his next job. For God to continue to give Miye strength and joy in her new job.
4. For God to continue to work in the hearts of their friends, drawing them to invite Jesus into their hearts.
5. For their support needs to continue to be fully met.

Missionary: Julie Nitao

Country: Japan

Praise:

1. Christmas at Oasis Chapel in Rifu is always a busy season but also a big opportunity to invite others to join a service to celebrate Christmas together.
2. Julie is grateful and encouraged by all your prayers and support.

Request: Please pray:

1. For Julie as she prepares to share with SanLo on Sunday, Jan. 20th both morning services and also evening service.
2. For safe travels and good health.

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

Asia

Praise:

1. Amy continues to serve local orphans and migrant students by leading stories, crafts, and music. She is also connecting with more local moms.
2. Makoto has enjoyed teaching a course on public speaking this semester. Also, his new book is out.
3. Mia has seen some friends come and go this year, but she is still grateful for her school and local classmates. Her C---- teachers are always telling them how well she is doing.
4. Samuel has had a great semester at preschool. He loves his teachers and is learning to speak so much more in both languages.

The T. family appreciates all your support and prayers!

Missionaries: Kuni, Kristen, Shion, and Maray Onishi

Country: Japan

Prayer requests: Please continue to pray:

1. For an accurate diagnosis and effective treatment for Kuni's father. Please pray that God will heal Kuni's father with faith. There is nothing impossible in Him.
2. For his mother. May God's peace and assurance be upon her, so she will be able to sleep and regain her strength.
3. For the process of finding a pastor for Shuza Church. May God prepare and grant a faithful pastor to the church.
4. For their family. This lifestyle is wearing them out (Kuni going back and forth from Nishinomiya to Ikoma, and Kristen taking care of the family alone. Please pray that they will stay focused on what God has promised them and be faithful to small things.

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

Country: Cameroon

Praise:

1. Abby's safe arrival to join them in Cameroon for Christmas. They are really enjoying her visit and the chance to be together again.
2. In their work domains of mission aviation and Rain Forest International School (RFIS), witnessing God at work through these ministries that enable Kingdom work to be accomplished in this part of Africa
3. God's Word advancing into languages not yet having translated scriptures.

Prayer requests: Please pray:

1. Adjustments in their work domains of missionary colleagues coming and going with varying furlough schedules, even changes in assignments... a reality that is a continuous challenge.
2. Peace in Cameroon and the region. Security concerns in Cameroon have increased, with certain parts of the country inaccessible to their presence as a mission. Pray for peace, justice, and revival.
3. For their family, pray for safe travels for Abby returning to California in January, for good learning for all three in the coming semester, for Caleb making decisions about college this year, for strengthened family and marriage.
4. For their upcoming furlough planning...for God's direction and leading as they look ahead to 2019.

Missionaries: Todd, Jayne, Jeremy, and Ayumi Fong

Country: Japan

Praise:

1. Christmas 2018 gave the Fong family a bittersweet taste of what family holidays may be like for them in the near future. With Jeremy in California, and Jayne flying out to be with him and her parents for the holidays while Ayumi and Todd take care of their post-surgery (spayed) puppy Aoba there in Tokyo. It has always taken a little more effort to get into the Christmas spirit in Japan, but this year was even more so. But it is a reminder for them that reflecting on the gift of Christ Jesus to mankind isn't an automatic thing in much of the world and that is the reason they are there in Japan.
2. The Fongs moved into their new home on March 14th, 2018. It has been a blessing to them in so many ways, they stopped counting. They've been able to part-time host a CAJ student whose parents returned to the States for support raising, have family over to visit and had Todd's dad and step-mom during Jeremy's graduation in June. And of course, owning their own home made it possible to adopt a new family member, Aoba, who joined them in Sept.
3. They recently received the outstanding news that Jeremy was accepted to Carleton College in Minnesota for the fall of 2019! Carleton turned out to be a better fit for Jeremy than Vassar and their offer of financial aid was generous enough to allow them to send him. Jeremy will be returning to Japan in February to study Japanese, do some volunteer work and enjoy the rest of his gap year.
4. Ayumi has a very full schedule with two demanding extra-curricular activities, Chamber Singers and the Robotics team, on top of her full schedule of classes. Ayumi also wakes up early every morning to take Aoba on her morning walk. Talk about dedication.
5. Jayne is doing the same work as head teacher for Middle School and Curriculum development on top of her speech therapy duties. She goes walking with a small group of friends every evening. She also sometimes hangs out with her friends at various cafes around the area to do bullet journaling.
6. Outside of ministry, Todd has been getting a lot of photography projects especially relating to the kimono world. They are very close to wrapping up a two year kimono project which Todd has been doing photography for once or twice a month. He also published a kimono style book with his friend, Sheila Cliffe, which has gotten a lot of media attention and made Sheila a minor celebrity when she is out in the city.
7. Todd has been doing some freelance travel writing and photography for Voyapon, a company whose founder Todd was introduced to by a friend and former Japanese homestay student. Todd continues to practice tea ceremony and his tea teacher has joined their English Conversation class at church every week, which she has enjoyed immensely.
8. In July, the Fongs spent a couple of weeks in California, visiting friends and family and getting Jeremy settled in to life in the states.
9. This past August they hosted their third Redwood English Summer Camp event with the help of their partner, Redwood Chapel from Castro Valley. This was the final year Redwood Chapel was the formal leader of the event and now the leadership is passed over to them in Japan at Nerima Biblical Church. They are excited to know that year after year, many children are having the same message of God's love and salvation planted in their hearts. Knowing they are building a new generation of children with knowledge of the gospel in their hearts is what keeps them pushing forward despite the difficulties they face every year.
10. In April, the wife of one of their pastors at San Lorenzo JCC joined Jayne in hosting two events focusing on special needs education. Both events were extremely well received and Jayne followed up with evaluating a couple of the children at the preschool on behalf of the teachers who had concerns about their behavior. They hopefully will be following up with future work in the coming year.
11. Todd participated as a mentor to university students through a program run by a friend who teaches leadership and entrepreneurial skills to students. Over the 8 week program, he was able to build some good friendships with some of the students.
12. Your support and encouragement has been a Christmas gift every day to the Fongs as they serve in Japan. They thank you for blessing their ministry and enabling them to share the good news of Christ Jesus with as many as possible. May you be blessed with love and joy in the coming year.

Missionaries: Munetaka and Sandy Mori**Country: Japan****Praise:**

1. Morry is attending a one-year course at Tokyo Biblical Seminary and in his last quarter with his graduation in March 2019. He will not be a minister but decided to attend this course through the encouragement of some special pastors and their inspiring stories of how transforming the seminary experience was for them.
2. Morry and Sandy are preparing themselves to serve as missionaries in Amakusa, an area made up of two small islands in the southern part of Japan.
3. Sandy is spending more time developing activities and ways to engage people at Chuo Koen (Central Park) of Higashi Murayama, while also teaching English or teaching Bible in English.
4. Sandy felt God wanted her to hold some gatherings where people could ask questions that they had, so she made some flyers, got permission from the One Mission Society director next door to use their fellowship hall, and started handing those out. Their first gathering took place and Mr. T got the royal treatment as he was the only one among eight of the invited helpers, yet had no trouble diving into the material and sharing from his heart. By the end of the meeting, Mr. T was ready to join an individual Bible study, and today, Mr. T attended the second of them. Sandy is thankful to God for teaching her that “trusting” means following Him, initially, and following his lead from then on out.
5. On some days around campus, Sandy attends one of Morry’s first-year class prayer meetings where his eleven classmates get together and do games, sing praise songs and settle down to some praying. Of course, these opportunities to just enjoy each other’s company, build each other up and grow close as a class are few and far between in their everyday busy and demanding lives.
6. Their five granddaughters, that’s one more granddaughter since they last wrote, are as sweet as ever. They were almost all together, minus Morry, unfortunately, who couldn’t leave in the middle of the summer due to his coursework when Tammy’s family came and stayed in Alameda to get to know Meggie and Jesse’s newest arrival, little Evelyn.
7. They miss all their girls and their brave husbands and miss all of you, too, and want to extend their most sincere wishes and prayers for a blessed New Year.

Missionary: Gay Hongo**Music ministry****Praise and requests:**

1. It’s hard to believe that 2018 has drawn to a close and that it’s been a year since Randy went home to be with the Lord. It has been a big adjustment learning to live and minister on her own, but Gay is learning again the truth of that wonderful scripture Lamentations 3:22,23.
2. Gay continues to minister at her home church, Kalihi Union Church. They are very supportive of her as she gets back into ministry at whatever pace she feels comfortable.
3. Randy was such a wonderful spiritual leader for Gay, so now that he is gone she has to depend on the Lord even more to sustain her. She is grateful for good Bible teaching at KUC. Recently they had a sermon series based on 1, 2, and 3 John. They were exhorted to love others as God loves us and to put that love into action through words and deeds.
4. Gay’s loss has given her a greater empathy for people who need that word of encouragement or affirmation to brighten their day. She’s learning to be more sensitive to the needs of others, realizing that she too has those same needs. She is called to love others because God loves her. She has also come to realize that it is okay to be a needy person because God wants us to need Him.
5. Gay’s son, Andrew and his wife Meaghan are very much enjoying married life in Alabama. They had a busy summer: they bought a house, adopted a dog, and Andrew learned how to mow a lawn.
6. Meaghan works long hours at the children’s hospital, but she absolutely loves the kids; and Andrew is enjoying teaching broadcast news at the University of South Alabama. They love their church, Covenant Presbyterian, where he is part of the worship team and they’ve found a strong community of fellow believers.
7. Andrew and Meaghan have a year-and-a half more of residency in Alabama, so **please pray for them as they discern God’s direction in the future after that.**

Upcoming events: Please pray for Gay as she ministers at these churches:

Jan. 20- Makiko Christian Church, 7:45am and 10am worship service, 11:20am Japanese service
 Feb. 10- Excel (Mililani Missionary) Church, 9am with Lois Pannabecker

Missionaries: Steve, Nilza, and Issac Kawamura

Country: Brazil

Praise:

1. The Kawamuras give thanks to God for Isaac's recovery from stomach and intestinal illness that had kept him from attending many months/days of classes.
2. Isaac was able to complete his sophomore year in high school and served/performed with his liturgical dance group, Louvarte, at the Holiness Church of Londrina, and is taking voice lessons.
3. Steve's highlights include seeing two generations of leaders in biblical wholistic mission construct and maintain a wood-fired oven bringing income generation, food and community to a violent neighborhood in Londrina.
4. Nilza thanks God for all He did in and through the uncertain times. She praises God that her right knee is back in position.

Requests: Please pray:

1. For healing of a polyp found in Nilza's lung. She hopes to better exercise her mind, body, eyes and stomach and asks God to continue enabling her to serve at Steve's side, care for families and to organize their home to better serve their communities.
2. Isaac asks God to help him in his studies as a junior in high school, voice and start a video game development class.
3. Steve asks God for wisdom to train students at seminary and church leaders to become servant leaders transforming and pacifying their families, churches, and communities.

Missionaries: David and Yuka Mills

Country: Japan

Praise and prayer requests:

1. Praise God!!! The Mills now have an Ice Machine at Jlodge! This has been such a big help!!
2. New Year tradition finds the Mills in Chiba with Yuka's parents. This is always a great time to rest and prepare for the coming events of the new year. Lots of food, a lot of sleep and plenty of good time with family gives them time to step back and rest up.
3. School will reconvene and students will be around for a short time. They will welcome them back to Jlodge on Monday Jan. 7th and on the 11th they will host the first student fellowship meeting of 2019.
4. An electrical engineer will come to volunteer and do some major electrical fixing for them both inside and outside!!
5. They will create a new sign for Jlodge. The design is ready and they are looking for a sign company to work with.
6. The floor of the porch in the front of Jlodge desperately needs replacing! This will be an expensive and difficult repair. Pray for carpenters to help.
7. One inside project is to purchase a commercial grade waffle maker.
8. Please pray for the Mills financial support and consider whether God might want you to be involved. They are experiencing a shortfall in what they need to keep up the work there. As you know, beyond their living expenses they also continue to support the ministry of Jlodge.
9. Please pray that God will provide many opportunities to share His love and His good news with others!!

Current Ministries:

Second Sundays - Praise and worship and encouragement for all through the timeless Word of God.

Kingdom Conversations - their daily coffee shop ministry at Jlodge of spiritual conversations over coffee. Please pray for these opportunities to share their faith with others who have never before heard the Gospel.

2nd Story Roasters - "A new outreach doing business as mission" as they partner with other missionaries to expand their reach into Japan!

Student Fellowship - Weekly meetings devoted to bringing the presence of Christ into the lives of students who don't know Him yet.

Son Chapel - Sunday morning worship and fellowship with a nearby community of the Body of Christ. David teaches about 50% of the time and encourages Moto San as he pastors this church.