

## MISSION PRAYER

July 1, 2017

**Character of God: Lord Strong and Mighty**

**Key verse: Psalm 24:8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty.**

**This month's focus is on: Joel and Seiko Lovestrand, Patricia K., David and Yuka Mills, Makoto and Amy T., The Young Family, Julie Nitao, Mitsuo and Akiko Fujishima, Andy Jeung, Todd, Jayne, Jeremy, Ayumi Fong, and JEMS Special Camp, Holly Yamagata, NAOMI House, Chiba VBS Japan Mission, and Jondy Natividad**

**Missionaries: Joel, Seiko, Akari, and Leo Lovestrand**

**Country: Japan**

**Praise: Thank God for:**

1. the godly legacy left by their Field Director, David Ferguson, at the age of 52 after a year-long battle with a rare blood cancer. He is survived by his wife, Lorna, and four sons, Daniel (22), Matthew (2), Calum (16) and Alistair (13). The day after David passed away, another missionary colleague, Shinobu (James) Ito, also succumbed to a blood cancer. He left a wife and an eleven-year old son. It was David's desire that his funeral be a testimony to God's grace and the power of the gospel and it certainly was that. Many of those who attended, including a number of Japanese classmates of the Ferguson boys, had never been to a Christian funeral or heard the gospel clearly presented.
2. They had their second youth meeting at their church office and it was well attended. The following Saturday evening they had their first session of the Alpha Course (introduction to Christianity) for youth. Several of the same girls came.

**Please ASK God to:**

1. guide the OMF Japan leadership in the weeks and months ahead as a new Field Director is chosen and this leadership transition takes place.
2. bless their church's overnight retreat July 16-17 and use it to strengthen their fellowship.
3. guide Sendai Evangelical Church and provide them with suitable property. Recently an American woman they had met after the tsunami of 2011 contacted the Lovestrands to ask about donating a piece of property in Sendai that she inherited! Even though the property is basically free, the whole process is rather complicated and will require some effort and outlay of funds from the church in order to make the property usable.
4. allow the Lovestrands to serve Him with joy in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Missionary: Patricia K.**

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

**Praise and Requests:**

1. Patricia recently helped with a project called "Essentials 24" which is a high-tech on-line Bible study. The subscribers can go through the study on their own or as a small group. Before going through a short teaching and Bible passage, they view a short video which portrays the Bible message in a modern day setting. This Bible study helps the younger generation (especially those who don't have a Christian background) relate to the Bible and won't see it as "ancient writings". **Would you please pray this Bible study will be completed soon and that many in C---- will learn God's truth through it?**
2. Praise the Lord, in March-May they saw over 400,000 visitors to their evangelistic website and over 10,800 indicated a decision for Jesus! One of the visitors who wrote Patricia asked "Do you really believe God exists? Have you actually experienced Him? Why does God exist?" After answering his question, Patricia shared a brief testimony of having a personal relationship with God, of how God comforts and guides her, even correcting her when she is wrong. She sent him a couple of links to their website articles so that he can continue investigating God's existence. **Would you please pray this visitor will believe in Jesus and receive Him?**
3. This month Patricia will be attending their biennial Cru staff conference. They look forward to learning from the speakers and hearing from Cru leadership about their direction and plans. They also look forward to seeing old friends whom they haven't seen in 2 years. Praise the Lord, Patricia was able to snatch up a plane ticket right when there was a discount; otherwise, it would've been an additional \$130! **Would you please pray for safe travels for over 5000 staff and children, that each staff will have sufficient funds to attend the conference, and that they will be renewed in their walk with the Lord.**
4. Recently one of Patricia's largest ministry partners had to stop supporting her due to her health. These past 2 years, two older couples have also stopped, also due to health reasons and medical expenses. **Would you please pray the Lord will provide new ministry partners?**

**Missionaries: David and Yuka Mills**

**Country: Japan**

**Praise and Requests:**

1. About a year ago David's mother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Last April, David made an emergency trip to Phoenix because her condition had become dire. He was able to be with his mother for the final hours of her life. About 24 hours after arriving in Phoenix, she passed away quietly and very peacefully into the awaiting arms of Jesus. Sadness and praise mingled in their tears and they comforted each other in their grief.
2. As you may know, David and Yuka took over the ownership of Jlodge beginning on April 1<sup>st</sup>. At that time Bob and Teresa Matsushima, a wonderful couple who came to serve with them for two months, arrived there! Although they have been planning to come for more than a year, God's timing was so perfect! They were there to help them not only working at Jlodge, but to also give them personal support through their emotionally difficult time.
3. Jlodge continues to be the anchor point for their various ministries and they continue to have many spontaneous conversation with various students as they seek the meaning of life. They are rejoicing and are excited about the impact that God is making on so many young lives. Please pray for a work of God's Spirit among the many students, Kairi, Akiko, Ryo, Shogo, Anna, Tsuyoshi, Sato, Yuta, Yoichi....as they seek deeper conversations and friendship.
4. David has also started helping in a local church called, Son Chapel. Please pray for Pastor Motoichi and his wife, Sakae.
5. This month, David and Yuka are going to participate in the event at University called, "Onshoku (music and food). They have done this several times in the past. It's a busy and fun event! Please pray that they will organize it well and meet more students!!!
6. Jlodge has always run with a deficit. Now that they are the owners of Jlodge the deficit has become theirs. This means their financial obligations have increased. Please pray for the Lord to provide the needed support.
7. Please, as always, pray that God will provide many opportunities to share His love and His good news with others!!

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

**Serving in East Asia**

**Praise:**

1. They have been serving in C---- for 4 years.
2. Their central theme is: "Our hearts are for mentoring and journeying with local believers."

**Requests: Please pray:**

1. for the processing of Makoto's work visa for a new job teaching English at a local university.
2. for transition into a new semester and a new season of work.
3. for God to meet their support needs.

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

**Country: Cameroon**

**Praise:**

1. The Young family just left Cameroon to spend a few precious weeks in California, helping Abby adjust and get settled in preparation to begin her studies at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego. On Thurs., June 9, she graduated from Rain Forest Int'l School. They are so proud of her, for the lady she has become, for her hard work and many achievements.
2. This year has been marked with amazing blessings and not a few challenges too. But God's faithfulness is ever-present and ever-lasting. They hope and pray that you too are experiencing amazing blessings in the midst of a world that is often chaotic and where some things don't make much sense.
3. This time in Calif. is not a furlough, while they would love to see every one of their friends, family members, and partners, it's too brief a period to attempt to schedule speaking engagements and a lot of visiting. During the 7 weeks they are there, they are traveling most of 3 weeks, leaving precious little time to spend with family and their church family. If they don't get to see you this time, know that they'll be back in SoCal again following Caleb's graduation in 2 short years.
4. They arrived safely to Pasadena, CA and are settling in at their "home away from home" for the next few weeks, the PMH Apartments where they've been privilege to stay each furlough. The time will pass very quickly, but they'll enjoy it.
5. They praise the Lord for safe travels, for His making them fruitful for His glory, for this time to connect with family, for Abby and Hannah's upcoming baptism, for a good completion of another school year, with Abby graduating soon beginning studies at PLNU in San Diego.

**Requests: Please pray:**

1. for safety in their traveling here in California, for a refreshing time.
2. for Abby as she sets out in a new chapter and for all their family as they adjust to this new dynamic- feeling the loss of her Presence with them while cheering her on.
3. for good health for a return to Cameroon with renewed energy and strength.

**Missionary: Julie Nitao**

**Country: Japan**

**Praise:**

1. Thank you for all the prayers until her departure, for her sister's college graduation, and that she was able to give her grandma a Bible.
2. Julie arrived safely in Rifu, Japan on June 22nd. She will be living at Pastor Makito's house until she finds her own place. As she arrived, the first place they took her was the café, "Oishian". She got to meet the staff working at the Café and enter the café. It was amazing to see the results of the prayers and passion of the church to build this café to SERVE & LOVE the community...how much time and effort was put in. This is the love of Christ one can put in action knowing the real God. Julie couldn't hold her tears experiencing how God is alive and working at the café. May God continue to be the rock of this café.
3. Praise the Lord Julie support is now at 84% (only \$385/month left.) This journey of partnership has been a time of trust in God's provision and gratitude to all. If you are still praying or have questions about financial support, please feel free to contact Julie at [julitao214@gmail.com](mailto:julitao214@gmail.com)

**Requests: Please pray:**

1. for Julie to find a good living space that can also be used for ministry.
2. for good bonding with the children at church as they went cherry picking on June 24.
3. for good interaction and conversation with church members.
4. GVBC Mission Team, July 8-19.

**Missionaries: Mitsuo and Akiko Fujishima**

**Country: Japan**

**Praise and prayer requests:**

1. Akemi, a baby Christian who was working with the Fujishimas at the seaweed farm, asked them to start a Bible class. When they were talking about it at church, another lady overheard them talking about the schedule, and she said she wanted to attend it. So on June 28<sup>th</sup> they had their first Bible class in Ishinomaki. They will meet once a month for starters.
2. They invited the two Christians in the Oshika Peninsula and told them of the importance to meet to pray and study God's Word. They have accepted the challenge. They will be meeting once a month at their house to study God's Word.
3. Another baby Christian showed interest in studying. Since she works, they will meet with her in the evening. The Fujishimas see God's hand in all this. This is what they have been wanting to do for a long time. They are very excited and also tremble at the responsibility. Please pray that they will teach the Word accurately and that they will all grow in their walk with God.

**Missionary: Andy Jeung**

**Ministry: ERRC (Educational Resources and Referrals China)**

**Praise and requests:**

1. While Andy's boss is away, she is the technical support in the states for their 32+ program participants (which you sent by supporting her ministry!). Andy is also still working on getting work permits for their new Fall teaching applicants, which is quite a process. Andy would appreciate prayer for good communication across all parties.
2. Last Sunday, June 25, was the first event for their new ministry, *Mothers Sabbath*. This is in hopes of equipping mothers with young kids to find time to rest among their busy schedules. Child care is provided and they had quite a few vendors volunteering.
3. Nate has begun his "gap year" before starting the Dental Hygiene program (which is 2 years long) and is currently looking for employment. Please pray for his job hunt.

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

**Country: Japan**

**Praise:**

1. Praise God for the many who came out for their Ministry Update Breakfast on Sat. June 24.
2. Praise for Jeremy's sharing of his faith walk, making his faith in God his own.
3. Praise for Jayne's ministry working with 480 students at CAJ.

**Requests: Please pray:**

1. for the unreached: artisans and cultural practitioners. It takes time and effort to build relationships and trust. Pray they can build a bridge of context- things from their culture with Christianity.
2. for those who are interested in the gospel: young families, college students and housewives.
  - English Summer Camp – held in August. They are expecting 350 children this year. A team of 20 from Redwood Chapel will be coming. Pray for protection for those who will be attending and helping.
  - University English Club: pray students will come out as they try to move to Thursday nights.
  - Gospel Choir their church hosts as an outreach to the community, many housewives participate.

3. for the Fong family as there are sacrifices in relationships.
  - It is difficult to be away, especially when family and friends are going through difficult times and they are so far away.
  - pray for Jeremy and Ayumi, for emotional stability as 3<sup>rd</sup> culture kids.
  - for the Fong family as Jeremy will be checking out a few of the universities in California that he is interested in attending when he graduates next summer and for transitions for the family when that time comes.

### Short term missions:

1. Continue to pray for those who are serving at JEMS Mt. Hermon, **Special Camp July 2-8**.  
Directors Bruce and Val Satow; Bible Teacher Koko Yee and her support Rev. Rod Yee; Health Supervisor Eiko Kanzaki; Aides: Hajime Kanzaki, Gen Oshiro, Eric Kishi, Delbert Tsoi, Patti Okui, Nadine Yamamoto, Elizabeth Devey, and Randee Lee.
  
2. Holly Yamagata-**Brazil 2017 Summer Missions with JEMS June 28-July 17**  
Praise:
  - They landed safely in Sao Paulo, found the bus to take from the international Sao Paulo airport to the Congonhas airport for their flight to Presidente Prudente.
  - Holly Extends her deepest and most heartfelt thank you to those of you that supported this team financially. A week ago they only had \$3,000 and now they are at \$12,022 which is nearly \$1,000 over their goal....this just proves our God is a God who can do the impossible.
 Please continue to keep Holly, their team, and the people there in Presidente Prudente in your prayers.
  
3. **NAOMI (Native American Outreach Ministries, Inc.) House, July 22-28**  
Team: Scott/Michi/Dayla/Raymi Shimada, Naomi/Marissa Agraz, Eric/Stephanie Kishi, Helen/Cale Lee-Takaki, Crystal Tran, Patti Okui, Jaime/Gracielle Yee, Greg/Craig Ng, Doug/Daniel/Samuel Inori, Shinja Yoo Oh, Alex/Amy/Andie/Allison Oh. Serving in Joseph City, AZ  
Please pray for:
  - a safe journey.
  - good health.
  - the construction, VBS, Youth group, and cooking crew.
  - the children's hearts to be open to Jesus.
  
4. **Chiba VBS Mission: July 24-Aug. 2 Serving at the Sodegaura Church**  
Team: Rev. Sunao Shimada, Gloria Kama, June Harada, Kimi Sarena, Makiko, Makoto, Nozomi, and Kokoro Takasaka  
Please pray:
  - for the capability to meaningfully share about Jesus with a language barrier.
  - for the team to have the right mind set going in.
  - as the team continues to plan and prepare.
  - that the team stays healthy.
  - for safe travels
  
5. Jondy Natividad - Japan Basketball Summer Missions: **On A Mission- July 25<sup>th</sup>-Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>**  
OAM will send its first team of American basketball coaches and bilingual translators to partner with Japanese coaches, youth leagues, school teams, and basketball camps in Nagano, Yokohama, and Tokyo, Japan.  
Please pray:
  - For Jondy and team as they reach out to Japanese children and share the love of Jesus.
  - that they will see God at work in relationships with the team and people of Japan.