

MISSION PRAYER

May 6, 2017

Attribute of God: God's Faithfulness

Key verse: Lamentations 3:22-23 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

This month's focus is on: Todd and Jayne Fong, Jim and Terui Grace, Joel and Seiko Lovestrand, Mitsu and Karen Nakamura, Julie Nitao, Munetaka and Sandy Mori, Roy and Nancy Toma, Rev. Ozaki, and Richard and Keri Nakamura

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 another great event promoting their English Summer Camp. Interest has been so strong that their church is launching a Saturday worship service at the preschool once a month focused on building relationships with families in their community.
3. for a new year for their University English Club. Though the turnout has been light so far, they are in the process of making some changes they feel will be positive and enable more students to attend. Praises to the student who has already expressed interest in learning more about Jesus.
4. For Jeremy's safe trip to Kentucky for the Robotics competition. Though the team didn't do as well as they would have liked, it was a good experience for the students.

Requests: Please pray:

1. For a strong finish to the CAJ school year for both Jayne and the kids. They can't believe this year has gone by so quickly.
2. As the Fongs prepare for their visit to California to clean out their old house and take Jeremy on some college tours in preparation for his graduation next year.
3. For the English Summer Camp team there in Japan and their partners at Redwood Chapel. Pray for the team that is being built, for smooth planning and for many children to be excited to join them this August for the camp.
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.
6. For opportunities to share the gospel with friends, students, and family.

Prayer for upcoming events:

Monthly:	Redwood English Summer Camp Planning Mtg
Every Monday:	University English Club
5/10, 5/24, 5/26	Helping at Pastor Kathy's English Class
May 26	Ayumi's Graduation
May 31	Keiyu Gakuen Chapel Message

Missionaries: Jim and Terui Grace

Country: Japan

Praise: Give thanks for:

1. The opportunity to celebrate their son, John's graduation on May 6th; Terui and Jim are on vacation in the SF Bay Area, April 25th-May 22nd.
2. The smooth transition for Keimei and Grace Suzuki from New Zealand. Grace has made a good start at Japanese study, and their three children are in school and making friends.
3. A lovely retirement celebration for Fujita sensei; they appreciate each teacher who is helping build the Church in Japan by equipping new workers.

Requests: Please pray for:

1. OMF Japan Director, David Ferguson's wife, Nora and sons, Daniel (22), Matthew (20), Calum (16) and Alistair (13) as David went home to be with the Lord Tuesday, April 25th. They will miss David as a colleague, a leader, and a friend.
2. fmZero student ministry as the new academic year begins.
3. Hokkaido University students Rikako and Hanako who have been studying the Bible with the Graces. Pray that they will come to faith in the Lord.
4. The financial needs of JLCC (Japanese Language and Culture Center) part-time teachers.
5. Jim and Terui, that they will work in the Lord's strength, patience, and wisdom as they help new workers as they prepare to serve the Lord in Japan.

Missionaries: Joel, Seiko, Akari, and Leo Lovestrand

Country: Japan

Praise: Thank God for:

1. Men who are studying the Bible and see the need for God's blessing on their marriages.
2. Bringing Miss Pinebottom back to church.
3. Sparing Mrs. Rightdale's mother's life.
4. A good first youth meeting.

Requests: Please ask God to:

1. Bring comfort and support to the family of their field worker, David Ferguson, who went home to the Lord at the end of last month.
2. Heal Mrs. Rightdale's mother, who is in a coma, and guide her to faith in Jesus.
3. Give Miss Pinebottom and Mr. Straitfield repentant and submissive hearts.
4. Bless their men's study and strengthen their marriages.
5. Bring unbelieving young people with seeking hearts to their Alpha course.

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

Country: Japan

Praise:

1. When Karen was a young, single missionary, her 3rd year in Japan, her roommate introduced her Eri, who was led to the Lord. She started coming to Karen's church and now she is one of the leaders of their Moms in Prayer group, leads another "Moms' group in her church, is very active in her church's children's ministry and outreach, as well as in counseling. Through her, many women and kids have come to the Lord, come to be a part of the church, and many are experiencing life change. Thanks to the LORD!
2. Their Moms in Prayer group is exploding! Many members have started their own groups in their churches.
3. A missionary lady, Dawn, who felt a deep burden for unchurched towns in the tsunami area was driving into Iwate in 2011. She now has a church very near to Chiko, Karen's pre-Christian friend's parents' home! Chiko is eager to meet her and introduce her parents to her! Karen is praying that all of Chiko's large extended family will come to Dawn's church and come to the Lord.

Requests:

1. God led Karen to do "on-site prayer" in Wheaton for two weeks as they felt in addition to human weakness, there was also some spiritual warfare going on in their kids' lives.
2. Miye graduated from Wheaton College on May 5th.
3. After a week of missionary debrief, Miye's graduation, and a trip to Canada, the Nakamuras will be visiting churches and individual supporters:
Northern CA 5/16-25;
LA 5/25-6/12
Driving trip to Texas 6/12-23
LA again 6/23-7/27

Thank the LORD that all church visits have been arranged! Please pray for wonderful times of fellowship with their individual friends/supporters also.

Missionary: Julie Nitao

Country: Japan
(Preparing to depart for Japan in June)

Praise and prayer requests:

1. Julie told her preschool children the Easter story with Easter eggs. Each egg had something that symbolizes the story of Easter. Starting with bread (the Last Supper) and ending with an empty egg symbolizing the empty tomb, the Resurrection! It was so fun to open each egg with the children, hearing, "What's this?" Julie is excited that she will be able to do more children's ministry in Japan.
2. Family Time has been very precious ever since Julie returned back from San Francisco. It has been great to be able to eat together and even celebrate birthdays. Please continue to pray for their salvation.
3. Praise God for all the support. The prayers from family and friends have been a big support, remembering she is not doing this alone. Also, Julie is currently at 50% of her monthly support (\$2,500/month). She is hoping to be done with support raising by May 31, 2017 to focus more on preparing. She thanks all who took time to respond in any way. Please continue to pray if God is calling you to join in on this journey both prayerfully or financially. (If you have any question on how, please let Julie know!)

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Missionaries: Munetaka and Sandy Mori

Returned from short term trip to Japan

Praises and requests:

1. Morry and Sandy are ever so grateful for the three months God blessed them with in Japan and are at the same, grateful to be back in Hawaii (then California and Washington) where they will spend time catching up with family and friends, including the churches they attend. They are looking forward to visits with many of you.
2. There is not enough that they can say about Pastor Yoshida and the now retired pastor, Pastor Shibazaki, who is still very involved in the life of Kumamoto Ueki Christian Church. This church is a place where people are welcomed, spiritually fed, and is a place of healing for the over-burdened and weary. Please remember Yoshida Sensei if you could as he has great potential in the hands of God.
3. Serving with a church has turned out to be a useful way to lighten the load for a community of people who have experienced some setbacks whether they be natural disasters or other types. Anyone can do this work, they learned, and whether you are volunteering at a church, looking for opportunities to reach out to people outside the church, working in a ministry with a Christian organization, they learned that it's always important to watch, listen and ask the Lord to help you be present however people need your help. It's not what you bring, they believe, it's what you are willing to do.
4. Sandy and Morry understand more about the work that is going on and the needs that exist there where many churches do not have pastors and where there are fewer young people entering seminary than people retiring by an overwhelming ratio. They hope that they will be back and that those of you who are burdened for Japan will come too.
5. They were able to bring the church to Mr. "O", the gentleman who they visited with. He has also begun reading and discussing some materials that they had given him and fact-checking them against the Bible given him by a former visitor.
6. The Moris intend to remain in communication and keep up with the relationships with the people in Kumamoto as they did in Yamada where thankfully, because of the work that continues to go on, some have come to faith in Christ.

Thank you for being a part of this experience with Sandy and Morry and for your thoughts, messages, support and prayers.

Missionaries: Roy, Nancy, and Joseph Toma

Country: Japan

Praise:

1. Easter picnic - Many children and staff from the orphanage heard the Good News of Jesus.
2. God blessed their time with their children, Taiko and her husband Mark, and Sam and his wife, Paige, as they came to visit them last month.
3. Their Osaka relatives came to church with them.

Prayer Requests: Please pray:

1. For the orphanage children- God's protection, and that they will put their trust in Jesus Christ.
2. For their Osaka relatives- continued good relationship with them and for their salvation.
3. For Joseph- God's guidance and direction, smooth transition to life after high school in the States. Joseph will graduate high school this June and is planning to go to a Bible college in Southern California in the fall.
4. For the Toma family as they have decided to move back to the U.S. in early July. They will live with Roy's mom in Orange County, CA to help take care of her.
5. For God's guidance and clarity about Roy's future employment. Pray for Roy to know God's calling and purpose for him in the next season of their lives.

Missionary: Rev. Kazuo Ozaki

Ministry: Reach Beyond/ Radio Ministry to Japan

Praise:

1. Reach Beyond's Australia team produced a Christmas program especially for the Japanese listeners. Not only did the listeners hear their voices, but they heard beautiful Christmas songs performed by staff members. It was truly an unforgettable program! There were many, many positive responses to the programs.
2. This year Michio, Rev. Ozaki's son will be joining him on his trip to Japan. The meeting schedule is quickly filling up. So far, meetings are scheduled in five different cities. They will be meeting in homes as well as visiting six churches. It's a great opportunity to interview each listener that attends. They always look forward to hearing their own interview on a future program.
3. For many, it is their first time to step inside a church. This was true for Mr. Kamada, a mail man. He writes; *"The day I met you was the first day I attend the church. I am not a bystander anymore. I now enjoy singing hymns and studying the Bible every Sunday."*
4. Praise God that the Japanese programs continue to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who have never heard. Yodobashi Church in Tokyo has received 1,161 letters from the listeners, including new listeners, in 2016.
5. Thank God for all the co-workers who get the program on the air in Australia, and staff at Yodobashi Church who correspond with the listeners in Japan.

Requests: Please pray that God would open their ears so that they will hear the gospel and put their faith in Jesus. Radio programs and personal contact both play an essential role in communicating the Good News. Thank you for praying and giving to Reach Beyond ministry by your faithfulness to Christ.

Missionaries: Richard and Keri Nakamura and family

Ministry: Japanese Diaspora

Richard has an important prayer request. The owners of their house informed them that they are selling. They have to move out this summer. They didn't expect this. It's a seller's market in the Seattle area. Crazy times.

Please pray that they can find housing soon.

Thank you for your prayers!