

MISSION PRAYER

Nov. 2, 2019

Attribute of God: Our refuge and strength

Key verse: Psalm 46:1, God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

This month's focus is on: Michiya and Asako Tanaka, Joel and Seiko Lovestrand, Daryl and Sun Young, Mitsu and Karen Nakamura, Charlie and Yumiko Chen, and Roy and Nancy Toma.

Missionaries: Michiya, Asakao, Cocomi, and Isshin Tanaka Country: Japan

Praise and prayer requests:

1. Night de Light gave a concert at Zepp Sapporo, the biggest live house in Sapporo on Oct. 19, 2019. They challenged their home city, Sapporo. The people there didn't need to buy a ticket for the concert. They could come and enjoy it for free then decide and pay the price for their concert in the end. This is a crazy idea, but Night de Light's desire is for anyone to hear the Gospel. The live house is located in the 'SUSKINO' area where there is much distraction with drinking and prostitution. Their vocal, Hirano, used to be working in this area before he met Christ. Now he came back there transformed to be a testimony for Christ. How amazing God's plan is.

Please pray God's glory is shown and many will come to know the Hope of Christ.

2. The Tanaka's daughter, Cocomi turned 7 years old. She loves to write worship lyrics and Michiya made a melody and recorded it. She gave a birthday song to her mom on her birthday in August.
3. Their son, Isshin turned 5 years old. He is always laughing. He's good at running at sports events in preschool.
4. Asako is doing well even though Michiya is out of town many days. She is a great wife and mom. **Please pray for their family.**
5. **Please pray the Lord provide for their needed support for ministry.**

Missionaries: Joel, Seiko, Akari, and Leo Lovestrand Country: Japan

Praise and requests:

1. Shortly after the Lovestrand family's return to Japan, they received word that Joel's father had died. He returned to the U.S. for a week, during which he was able to attend not only his father's funeral, but also that of his mother's sister who died shortly before he left Japan. Joel's father and aunt were both believers who had lived to an old age, so both funerals were homegoing celebrations of a sort, full of thanksgiving to God.
2. Upon their return to Japan, they were also immediately involved in responding to Seiko's father's needs, as it has become clear that he is no longer able to live alone. They felt that the best thing to do would be to have him move in with them in Sendai. They are encouraged that he has been quite positive about this change. They are also very encouraged to see that he appears to have opened up spiritually and are hopeful that he will not object to disposing of his Buddhist altar, which they would not allow to be put in their home.
3. After a number of delays and problems, Akari was finally able to begin her online studies for her final year of high school. She is applying to four of the colleges she was able to visit while they were in the U.S.
4. Leo has had difficulty readjusting to his local elementary school, having become quite Americanized during their year of home assignment. Besides the difficulty of cultural adjustment and catching up in his Japanese studies, he encountered bullying from several classmates. After they finally took the step of discussing this with his teacher, the two ringleaders were severely reprimanded and since then the situation has improved somewhat.
5. They thank God for sustaining their church in Sendai in the year of absence while on home assignment.

Requests: Please pray:

1. Almost every week for the past several weeks, Seiko has spent a couple of days a week away from home, sorting through her father's things and preparing for his move. Pray for the Lord to save Keiko's father and sister.
2. For God to help Leo with his challenges at school and help him to trust Him.
3. For God to use the concert given on Oct. 25th with gospel singer songwriter Greg Hager. Pray for the many who heard the gospel.
4. For God to confirm Mrs. Sedgfield's faith and move her toward baptism.

Missionaries: Daryl, Sun, Abby, Caleb, and Hannah Young Country: Cameroon
Currently on Home Assignment

Praises... Rejoice with them:

1. Cameroonian New Testament translations completed during 2018 in Oroko and Bambalang
2. Completing their 4th term in Cameroon, this one being for 5 years. PTL for sustaining them through difficulties.
3. Good family health, safety and fun in traveling from Cameroon to California via Thailand.
4. Enjoying reconnecting with their families, friends, and home church.
5. Faithful ministry partners that pray, give and encourage.
6. Financial aid and scholarships for Caleb (at Westmont College) and Abby (at Point Loma Nazarene University) and Hannah (at Maranatha High in Pasadena). All are making good adjustments to new settings, responsibilities and opportunities.
7. Their apartment at Providence Mission Homes (PMH) established as a ministry to furloughing missionaries.
8. God's provision of a needed car for their use here.
9. For a restful period, allowing them to catch their breath and find their equilibrium.

Prayer requests... Stand with them:

1. Cameroon is suffering. Pray for peace and stability.
2. Safety and wisdom for the aviation team in Cameroon.
3. God's word to advance throughout the remaining 2,263 world languages still awaiting translation programs.
4. Their family's continued good health, safety, faith journey and home assignment activities/objectives.
5. Wherever they find themselves, that they are prepared to be Christ's ambassadors of love and compassion.
6. Abby, in final year at PLNU, this year to include classes, work, internship and new responsibility as an R.A. in her dorm, assisting the Resident Director. For God's leading as she applies and decides about further study.
7. Caleb, making new friends and establishing habits and priorities that will help him achieve his goals.
8. Hannah to enjoy a good year although her heart remains in Cameroon...good new friends, strong learning and positive experiences.
9. That they would reach 100% of the ministry budget that Wycliffe has approved for their ministry. Currently they're at 89%.

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

Praise:

1. Mitsu and Karen team-taught a seminar at the Tokyo student weekly meeting, about love, dating and marriage. They had discussion times during the seminar as well as Q and A time separately for the guys and girls, over dinner afterwards. **Pray the students will continue to seek God first in this area and let God fill their hearts with His love!**
2. Emily, a one-year missionary, had been wanting to bring her good friend Haruna to the meeting for several weeks but it never worked out until the night they were speaking. A couple weeks later, Emily and Haruna came over to their house for dinner, met their daughters, Haruna shared her heart openly, and they had a great time. About a week after that, Haruna decided that she needed to have Jesus fill her heart, and she received Him! **Pray for Haruna's continued growth in Him!**
3. When Karen was single, her roommate shared Christ with Eri, and Karen did follow-up Bible study with her. Karen took her to her church, where she has served ever since! A dream was born in Eri's heart to have VBS at her church in Japan someday. This year that dream came true, as an amazing team from a church in LA, came to Japan to do VBS at Eri's church! Almost all of the 75 children who came, were from the neighborhood and not connected to the church. They had a wonderful time, did not want it to end, clearly heard the gospel message, and since then, many have come back to church! **Pray for God's continued work in their lives!**
4. Praise God for His work in Tokyo college students, in Haruna, and in the children through Eri's church.
5. Praise Him for Mitsu finishing editing of New Evidence That Demands a Verdict.

Requests: Please pray for:

1. God's guidance and strength as Mitsu works on grading and preparing for seminary classes for staff. And for the printing and Kindle preparation for New Evidence.
2. For Karen's mentoring and guidance of new missionaries.
3. For His continued work in college students, Haruna, and through Eri's church.

Missionaries: Charlie and Yumiko Chen

Country: Japan

Praise and requests:

1. The Chens thank you for your outpouring of love, prayers, and expressions of concern for their well-being after Japan was hit by typhoons, one after another. They arrived back in Japan on Sept. 3rd, refreshed and recharged after their 5-week stay in the States. They resumed their ministries that week, just in time for Typhoon #15 to hit Chiba. On Sept. 9th, from midnight to 3 am the storm pummeled Toke, the town where they live. Some parts of Toke and neighboring towns had lost both power and running water, so residents couldn't even use their toilets. Pastor Nagata opened up Toke Chapel to the public so people could use the restrooms, take showers, charge phones/electronic devices, and sleep overnight. Church volunteers served supper to evening guests. Toke Chapel welcomed over 120 people that week, who under different circumstances might not have ever stepped inside a church.
2. They went south with a relief team from Oyumino Christ church to take a water tank, drinking water, a power generator, and chainsaws to help clean up debris and clear away downed trees in cooperation with a local church.
3. Just as things were starting to settle down after Typhoon #15, a new typhoon, Typhoon #19 (Hagibis) dubbed the super typhoon, came and devastated many areas west of Chiba. It was only by God's mercy that Chiba was spared the brunt of this storm. Yumiko's home town, Fukushima Prefecture, was hit hard and had the high number of fatalities from this super typhoon.

Please pray for Japan. Please pray for the victims who lost their loved ones, homes, and businesses and do not have the hope of Jesus Christ. Please pray that through this sadness and hardship, people will find true hope and security in Jesus, and that God will be glorified.

Missionaries: Roy and Nancy Toma

JEMS Mission Director

Praise:

1. It has been a blessed time in the JEMS Japan ministry. Paul and Rie Mizuki (Kobe) and Sarah Park (Nagoya) are preparing to start their missions in the fall of 2020.
2. They also have two new missionary units: Joanna Tien started her one-year mission in Aso (Kumamoto-ken) in July and the Inouye family started as JEMS career missionaries in Hokkaido in September.
3. They have new church plants happening in Miyako (Iwate-ken), Tokyo, Kobe, and Nagoya. These last few months have been a time of transition for several of our missionaries which has brought both blessings and difficulties. Among the blessing have been seeing lives changed and watching God's kingdom grow.
4. Currently, Julie Nitao is serving a three-year mission in Rifu in Miyagi prefecture, as a "ministry partner" at Oasis Chapel.
5. They are in the process of planning their JEMS Japan Missionary Retreat to be held March 25-28, 2020, at a retreat center in Karuizawa, Japan in Nagano prefecture. The theme of the retreat is "Clinging to God's Word," and their theme verse 2 Timothy 3:16,17: *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
This year's speakers are Rick Chuman, the JEMS Executive Director, and former JEMS missionary, Kevin West. Kevin is now a church planter and pastor at the Mustard Seed Church in Kobe.

Prayer Requests: PLEASE PRAY:

1. for their preparations and staffing for the Japan Missionary Retreat.
2. that Sarah Park would finish her last semester of college strong and that she be able to raise her full support by April 2020 for her two-year mission to Nagoya.
3. for Joanna Tien as she continues to adjust to living and ministering in Aso.
4. for Paul and Rie Mizuki to finish their preparation for their mission to Kobe to start in the fall of 2020.
5. for the people of Japan to come to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
6. for the staff at the JEMS headquarters to be in unity and filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit.