

## MISSION PRAYER – September 5, 2020

**Attribute of God: King eternal**

**Key verse: 1 Timothy 1:17**

**Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

**This month's focus is on: Todd and Jayne Fong, Mitsu and Karen Nakamura, Nick and Erin Petkoff, Kuni and Kristen Onishi, Daryl and Sun Young, Mitsuo and Akiko Fujishima, Morry and Sandy Mori, Daisuke and Cheryl Ikegami, Jon and Maki Robison**

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

**Country: Japan**

**Praise the Lord for:**

1. A successful on-line English Summer Camp this year!
2. Their many partners in California who contributed their time and resources to make the on-line English camp successful.
3. Keeping Jeremy safe and providing him an on-campus job and housing over the summer in Minnesota.
4. A nice summer break at Lake Nojiri with their dog, Aoba (and Todd's wonderful cousin cat-sitting Ollie back in Tokyo).

**Requests: Please pray for:**

1. the staff and students of CAJ as school resumed in person the last week of August.
2. The big transitions coming up in their ministry over the next year. Since arriving in Japan, Todd has enjoyed 6 years of being able to work in full-time ministry, exploring areas of interest to him and playing to his particular strengths. Meanwhile, Jayne has worked full-time supporting them financially and through her work visa which allows them to live there. In the coming year, they are planning to switch roles, with Todd returning to full-time work after 8 years of part-time or full-time ministry (in the US and Japan) and Jayne getting the opportunity to explore areas of ministry that cater to her experience and interest.
3. Ayumi as she begins applying to universities in America for next year.
4. Jeremy's safety and that he will be able to go on his program in Italy of Spring quarter 2021.
5. As always, thank you for your faithfulness in prayer, encouragement and support to the Fong family and their ministry. As they anticipate big changes in ministry and family in the coming year, please continue to pray over them and their ministry. If there are ways they can pray for you, do not hesitate to let them know.

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

**Country: Japan**

**Praise:**

1. When the pandemic began, Karen seemed to hear God say, "Just pray." And then, to just do the next small thing He shows her. *"In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."* Isaiah 30:14. Karen took time daily to pray for revival in God's church and spiritual awakening in the world, now she is using prayer guides to pray for every nation in the world.
2. Karen believes that the renewed awareness of centuries of sins of slavery and oppression are meant to lead us to deep repentance, cleansing and reconciliation. *"If My people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."* (2 Chronicles 7:14).
3. When the virus prevented their staff and students from meeting in person, they began to put their meetings and Bible messages on-line. As a result, in-person meetings that used to have around 20 people in each city, now have thousands of views! One student responded and began an on-line conversation with their staff. He said, "What is scary is not the Coronavirus, but sickness in my soul...Only God can cleanse my soul." Their staff shared Knowing God Personally with him, and he received Christ! Now they are doing follow-up Bible study on-line.
4. In another city, a student who couldn't make it to the in-person weekly meetings because she had a long commute home, joined the on-line meetings and now she is one of the student leaders.
5. A Japanese high school exchange student at a mission school in Fiji read Knowing God Personally with her teacher there. When she saw KGP on an Instagram post by their students, she contacted them, and now has been coming to the on-line weekly meetings.

6. One of their new international staff who is still in language school, met a student at a college cafeteria last year, shared with her and she received Christ. She has attended church, been coming to the on-line weekly meetings and invited her friend to a CCC on-line game event. God is using on-line outreach to draw students to Himself!
7. Thank you to those who helped with funding to put Mitsu's translation of Evidence That Demands a Verdict into Kindle form. They received an e-mail from a man who said that he had read Evidence in English and was happy to see the translation. He is teaching the material to his church youth group! Through these books, may a generation of Christian young people have firm conviction that to trust in Christ is the only logical response for one who seeks after truth.
8. Mitsu has regular accountability and coaching meetings with Seiji, one of their CCC national leaders and with Naoto who works with translation and distribution of Purpose Driven Life and Celebrate Recovery materials. Last year, a pastor asked Mitsu if they could meet for regular accountability, too. Many pastors in Japan are alone, unable to share the burdens of their hearts. This is a priceless ministry.

**Missionaries: Nick and Erin Petkoff**

**Country: Japan**

**Prayers and Praises:**

1. Nick and Erin have so much to be grateful for! As of last month, they have been in Japan for two years, and the fact that they're able to continue living there despite the current condition of the world is amazing. Thank you all for faithfully supporting them and allowing them to stay in the country.
2. This summer was actually quite bearable since it basically rained for a month straight. Nick and Erin enjoyed the weather, but they know the excessive amount of rain caused other problems for the nation. Also, the virus situation in Tokyo seems to be worsening, so please keep Japan in your prayers.
3. And of course, they have many decisions to make soon. Pray for Nick and Erin as they take steps toward ministry internships. Their internships will impact which church they go to next and will likely involve another move. It is especially difficult to do all of this planning when operating remotely, so please continue to pray with them.

**Missionaries: Kuni, Kristen, Shion, and Maray Onishi**

**Country: Japan**

**Prayer Requests: Please pray:**

1. Please continue to pray for their spiritual and physical health so that they can be filled with the Holy Spirit to do the things of the Lord alone.
2. Since the world is changing due to the pandemic, they would like to be creative to still reach and disciple people in Japan. Please pray for wisdom to raise up the disciples of Jesus Christ according to God's will.
3. Please pray that God will deliver Japan from the danger of COVID-19 as the virus spreads in Japan and the world. They were originally going to start gathering together from July, but due to the rising number of new cases in Japan, they had to postpone and reconsider re-opening their church service to the public. Although their church is going strong with the on-line ministry (ZOOM Service and small groups), a few members are struggling to survive in this desperate time. They started having a monthly prayer meeting on ZOOM from August! So they (and those who can make it) will be praying together for the community, nation, and world on every first Wednesday of the month.
4. Please pray as they had their 24-hour retreat mid-August.
5. Please pray for Kuni's father and the family. Kuni's father was diagnosed with dementia and it has been pretty difficult for their family. He was in a group home and they thought he would have found peace there. However, a few weeks ago, there were some incidences that led him to move to a psychiatric hospital. After a few weeks, by God's grace he now has moved to the dementia facility at the hospital. They are praying that Kuni's father will be able to go back to his previous group home. Honestly, this whole situation has taken a toll on their family emotionally and physically and it was very difficult for them to update you all.
6. Their kids are growing well. Even in the pandemic, they both go to preschool. Shion was sick for a week. She had a cough and fever for a few days so that worried them but she seems fine. Please continue to pray for their family.

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

**Country: Cameroon**

**Praises....Rejoice with them:**

1. Daryl and Hannah and all baggage had a really pleasant travel to Cameroon.
2. In spite of security challenges and restricted movement due to COVID-19, Bible translation continues in Cameroon.
3. Their replacement C206 airplane is at JAARS undergoing prep for service there.
4. Blessed again by wonderful Pasadena housing at Providence Mission Homes, their 4<sup>th</sup> furlough there – affordable, well equipped, and with loving, caring staff.
5. They really enjoyed reconnecting with their families, friends, and the church.
6. Faithful ministry partners that pray, give and encourage.
7. Good health and safety in all their travel and activity this past year.
8. Partnering churches that have blessed and encouraged them.
9. Both Abby and Caleb were able to complete their last semester from home with them in Pasadena, finishing the year strongly.
10. Hannah enjoyed much “sibling time” this spring and a good school year.
11. May 9 was official graduation day for Abby from Point Loma Nazarene University. The drive-by graduation was on July 25. They were so pleased they could be there!

**Prayer requests....Stand with them:**

1. Pray for peace and stability in Cameroon, especially in the Extreme North and the NW and SW regions.
2. Safety and wisdom for the aviation team in Cameroon, solutions for challenges.
3. God’s word to advance throughout the world’s many languages, not for the purpose of publishing Bibles, but for the impact His word has in hearts and lives.
4. Their family’s continued good health, safety, faith journey and the newest reality of distances between them.
5. Living a testimony of Christ’s compassionate love, mercy, grace, power and truth.
6. Abby...for God’s leading as she applies and decides about graduate study.
7. Caleb...to persevere in hard work this his second year at Westmont College.
8. Hannah...to re-integrate well into life and school there in Cameroon.
9. Sun...to benefit much from a few more days in California and for safe and trouble-free travel to join the rest of the family, arriving in Cameroon on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>.
10. That they trust God and adjust to changing realities as a result of COVID-19.

**Missionaries: Mitsuo and Akiko Fujishima**

**Country: Japan**

**Praise and prayer requests:**

1. Most of the children in Japan are back to school after a two-week summer vacation. Even though the number of COVID-19 cases is increasing, the government came up with a GO TO Campaign, giving discounts on hotel stays to encourage people to travel and help the economy.
2. They had the opportunity to help at a Day Bible Camp at a church in Ishinomaki. They thank Charlie Parsons for building the rocket launcher for them. It was a big hit. The children loved it and many asked to have their rocket launched over and over.
3. Thank you for your prayers for Akiko’s mother when she had her major surgery in January. She is doing well physically and although she lost about 30 pounds, her appetite is coming back. However, she doesn’t seem to be doing well mentally. Akiko’s brother told them that she no longer laughs like she used to. Most of her childhood friends are gone and she can’t see the ones that are around. Furthermore, all her siblings are gone. There is no one with whom she can share her childhood memories and reminisce about the “good, old” days. Every time Akiko hears of her mom not doing well, her heart is torn in two; on the one hand, she longs to go to her and be with her, but on the other hand, they do believe that the Lord’s will for them is to continue working in Oshika. Please pray for Akiko and her mother.
4. They hear on the news of the upcoming US presidential election and the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in the States. There is much uncertainty and fear in people’s hearts, BUT their Lord and Savior is alive and well aware of all. They pray that we all depend on Him and persevere. May you find peace and hope amidst these chaotic times.

**Missionaries: Morry and Sandy Mori**

**Country: Japan**

**Praise and prayer requests:**

1. In early May they had the occasion to talk to some tourists who visited Lily's Mission House. They were seemingly on a personal pilgrimage and had been drawn to Sakitsu Catholic Church which sits in the center of this UNESCO Cultural Heritage Site. Two gentlemen gave them a glimpse of their deeper purpose for their travels—that is, to decide what comes next in their lives and what it all means. This level of openness is not typical for most people who one meets casually in Japan, but the ambience in Sakitsu changes all of that. Sometimes mission work is simply being intentional about listening and engaging seekers or wonderers who will come and sit down, and over tea, allow themselves to be engaged in meaningful exchanges.
2. Four weeks ago, Sandy had to return to the U.S. unexpectedly as her oldest sister, Keiko, was having serious medical difficulties. Her body was rebelling against the strong chemo drugs that had been administered to her since March to battle stage two pancreatic cancer. For several weeks prior to her arrival, it was touch-n-go for Keiko as her health began to spiral. Miraculously, her doctors found the cause of her lung and kidney distress (unrelated to the cancer, itself) and began treating her ailing kidney with dialysis. She is now, gratefully, out of the hospital and stable. Sandy praises God for His goodness and His faithfulness in answering so many prayers.
3. Morry finds time to support church members, two of whom are brothers whose mom is raising and supporting them alone. He takes the boys fishing, swimming, and lately to a batting cage and a golf range, all things that the brothers hopefully, and Morry enjoys! Part of mission work is simply being neighborly and doing the ordinary things that each of you do.
4. In addition to other existing classes, Sandy also teaches two younger children's English classes. The children's ages are roughly the ages of their grandchildren, so she can relate to them. Since all her classes take place in one of two different churches, they provide an open door for the students to become familiar with the pastors.
5. Mission work in a teaching context is all about building friendships. This means they simply show up for them and do the best they can for them and leave the rest in God's hands. **Please pray for hearts to be open in Amakusa as they engage people in simple ways, so that He will be known and experienced.**

**Missionaries: Daisuke and Cheryl Ikegami**

**Country: Japan**

**Praise and prayer requests:**

1. Praise God, during the Homestay trip, one student, Hironori, accepted Jesus as his savior and was baptized while they were in the U.S. Hiro's decision to become a Christian was greatly influenced by his host family in the U.S. Through their relationship, he had experienced the love of God. God uses everything to invite each individual to salvation. One student, Shusuke a not yet believer, played a very important role in Hiro making the decision to join the homestay program and become a Christian. He wanted to share the goodness which he had experienced in relationships with believers with Hiro. Shusuke strongly felt that Hiro needed the goodness that Christians have, which is faith in Christ. Now Hiro became a Christian, so his life speaks to Shusuke. It is very interesting to witness how God reaches people. Please remember to pray for Shusuke's salvation.
2. Praise God Daisuke and Cheryl made it through a semester of teaching at the university online. Interacting with 300 to 400 students online and through messaging has been a challenge and blessing. There was a lot of new Japanese Cheryl had to use in reading and writing. She also experiences back pain from all the sitting at the computer. They couldn't see students face to face, but the blessing was that they could still interact with them. Some of them tried to reach out to them as well.
3. They are thankful that there are a handful of students that they have been able to connect with more and go deeper with. A few of them have shown more interest in learning about God and the Bible. Please pray that this desire will continue to draw them closer to God.
4. They are grateful for those who have come forward over the past few weeks in helping Daisuke with his ministry financial support. This past year they lost a lot of their support due to different circumstances.

Through several of you, they are now able to move into this next fiscal year financially stable. Their long-term goal is for Daisuke to continue to move forward towards full time ministry. If you feel led to help partner with them financially, please contact one of them. They are so blessed by how God continues to provide for them.

5. Like most ministries around the world, they continue to face the challenge of connecting with students and building new relationships. It is uncertain whether classes will continue to be online this next semester which starts in a few weeks. Please pray for creativity and eyes to see open doors and hearts.
6. In 2020 they have experienced a lot of death in their surrounding community and home, with the loss of our bunny, Mochi. It has been a difficult time of grieving and moving forward for them. Thank you for praying for them during this time.

**Missionaries: Jon, Maki, Aquila, Leon, Hugo, and Rhea Robison      Country: Japan**

**Praise and prayer requests:**

1. Between the end of July and August, Jon has had the opportunity to preach and share the word at both churches they are co-operating with locally, as well as both the English and Japanese services at a sister church in Tochigi (about 2.5 hours from where they live). He is also scheduled to share at the local House of Grace church plant twice more this month. He will be sharing about nostalgia and future hope in the English café ministry and be preaching from Mark 1 later in the month.
2. They also continue to progress in talks with the 'mother' church of the church plant to determine how they can assist that ministry. It is a strong re-planting/revitalization candidate as it has a building in a great location and a few key workers, but adult non-staff attendance is under 10 and Zoom attendance usually lower. Please pray they can go back to a safe on-site worship experience in the near future.
3. Understandably gifts have been lower in the past months than they normally are. Please prayerfully consider an extra donation to cover some of the lost giving due to COVID-19. They've been about \$1,000 short each of the past few months and any extra donations would be appreciated. We serve a big God and your prayers are more powerful than your financial gifts, so please consider both!
4. A few weeks ago, the Robison family drove by their local elementary school and saw the elementary school baseball team warming up. They decided to go watch the game. Maki quickly started chatting with some of the player moms and they realized that the group was much more easy-going than most kids' baseball clubs in Japan; they could even continue prioritizing Sunday morning church over baseball games. In the few weeks since joining, they've seen some really nice benefits.
5. Aquila, who had a terrible experience with Japanese elementary school in Kawasaki is enjoying time among Japanese kids (speaking Japanese and really being part of a Japanese group) for the first time since leaving Tohoku three and a half years ago. He even does some things with new baseball friends outside of baseball!
6. Jon has been able to become friendly with a number of the dads and coaches from both upper and lower elementary teams, and have spent more time conversing with Japanese non-believers than he has in a long time! Something that they had always thought would be a barrier to church life has actually become a new opportunity to build relationships for what they hope can be future outreach. Please pray for interest in the Gospel!