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Missionaries to



I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. Ezekiel 34:26b

When it Rains, it Pours

Recently we have been burdened because we had not seen anyone saved or anyone new coming to church regularly. We had been praying and really trying to reach folks but it seemed the devil was hard at work to keep them from Christ. However the Sunday before Easter, after Pastor Rich's message, the whole church came to the altar to pray and commit to doing more to reach people. That very afternoon the **Okada family** and their friend, **Luiz**, visited for the first time! They saw our church website and after visiting were very excited as they had been driving two hours one way to church every



Sunday. Now they are coming faithfully driving only an hour every Sunday. Later in the week a **Japanese grandmother, Mrs. Kohama**, saw our church sign and visited with her unsaved sister. She too has decided to come regularly. What a blessing!

Angels Rejoicing

Three weeks later, after the service **Luiz** prayed to accept Jesus as his Savior! This was a very interesting situation as he is from Brazil and although he knows some Japanese, and a little English, his heart language is Portuguese. Mrs. Okada is Philipino and can speak Tagalog, Japanese, and English along with her daughter Clair (21). She has an interpreter app on her phone that we used to help communicate with Luiz. He grew up catholic and always believed in Jesus but never personally received Him into his life. So here was Pastor Rich, Mrs. Okada, April, and I trying to communicate in Japanese, English, and, through the App, Portuguese to lead Luiz to the Lord. We wondered if he really understood, but the next week we could see a real change and he testified of how thankful he was to be saved. However he is facing a huge battle with his habit of smoking and drinking so **please pray he can get victory and grow in the Lord.**



Then last Sunday Mrs. Okada's son **Yuji**, who is 8 years old, raised his hand for salvation. He was not quite ready at the time however, after they went home, his sister Claire talked to him about it, and **he chose to trust in Jesus as his savior!** Please pray for him to grow in the Lord. He is such a kind and caring boy and had already brought a friend to church. It is exciting to think how God will use him in the future.

Special prayer for the Kido Family

Wouldn't you know, the same day the Okada family came, Mr. Kido started having severe stomach pain and went to the hospital. He ended up being there for about three weeks altogether and having a section of his small intestine removed. It ends up that it was all twisted up in knots. Praise the Lord he is doing better now and recovering in the hospital. This has been really hard on the family but **God has used it as a witness to his Buddhist parents.** The surgery was supposed to take 5 hours but God really blessed. Pastor Rich prayed with the family many times during the surgery and it only lasted 2 hours. Afterward Mr. Kido's mother gave praise to God for how it went! **Please pray for them to be saved, for Mr. Kido's quick recovery and God's blessing on the family during this time.**



We are thankful that for Easter we also had 4 unsaved that had not been to church in quite a long time, **Etsuko Ng & her daughter Emma and Junko & her son Yoh.** Please continue to pray for their salvation, and for our next outreaches: Ladies Tea- June 6th and Father's Day.



Other Prayer Requests:

1. Please pray for Mrs. Okada's sons to be saved, **Joshua**(19), who is living in the Philippines, and **Kazuhiro**(13). Kazuhiro was bitter and very negative when they first came. Marissa started reading the Bible together as a family every day, and praise the Lord, his heart has been softening some and he is beginning to listen in church and ask questions.
2. Please pray for **Miss Mayo** as she has backslidden, has not been to church in a long time now, and will be leaving for Malta for a 3 month trip.
3. Please continue to pray for **Mrs. Kobayashi** and her daughter **Yuha's** salvation. Yuha moved to Niigata for school and started attending a church there every Sunday.
4. Please keep praying for our **English Student's to be saved.** God brought a two more students to class that we are able to share the Bible stories with.

Abigail's Corner

Abigail is very excited about our friends the Motus family coming out to Japan for two weeks. They are planning to help us finally get some siding on our old Japanese home and Mrs. Motus will be speaking at our Ladies Tea. Abigail is growing up quickly and it is hard to believe she will be turning 9 this year. She loved receiving packages from a class in our home church and another supporting church this month. We really do thank you for your thoughtfulness and for all of you who support and pray for our ministry here in Japan. THANK YOU!

Many blessing to you, Michael, April, and Abigail Riffel