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Dear Prayer Supporters,

“I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness:” Psalms 7:1a As we write this letter, we rejoice in all the Lord has done since we last wrote you. After a very busy fall schedule, we had the wonderful blessing of going to Japan for a month and a half as a ministry, deputation, and survey trip. It was such a refreshing time, but also very busy as we worked with the Riches in Saku, right were God has called us, and traveled to several other churches in Japan to present our ministry.

The first Sunday in Japan, God allowed April to get to witness to Mrs. Koiro (right). She and her husband have been coming to church every week since September along with Mr. and Mrs. Morioka. She thought Jesus did not die for the Japanese people and salvation was only for Americans. It was amazing to see her light up when she finally realized that Jesus died for the whole world and that she also could be saved. She did not get saved that Sunday, but we prayed hard for her and six weeks later Pastor Rich lead her to the Lord. Praise God! She is such a sweet lady and we pray that she will grow to be a very strong Christian for our Lord. Yesterday we found out that her husband, Mr. Koido, also got saved. **Please pray for Mr. and Mrs. Morioka’s Salvation.**



God gave us many opportunities to serve Him in Japan. Michael preached two Sundays and shared our ministry three times (by interpreters). Many decisions were made and April was able to talk further with an older Japanese lady who chose to accept Christ as her Savior. We also gave a Christmas concert in a community hall filled with singing and playing the piano and trumpet. It was a joyful time as we shared our Savior’s birth to the Japanese people. April also spoke at a ladies tea. One of the ladies had never heard the true meaning of Christmas and never realized that the name “Christ” was in the word “Christmas”.



As always, Abigail was a great help. She loved playing with the Japanese people and brought a spark into the conversation wherever we went. We are very thankful she adjusted to Japan very quickly and even started saying a couple of Japanese words. By the time we had to return to the States, she was bowing when asked to say thank you. The Japanese people were very excited to see how much she loved their food and learned their customs. It was hard for us to leave Japan, but we know that we must raise our support so we can minister in Japan full time.

After we returned, we hit the road running. We had good solid meetings every Sunday with people making decisions and wanting to back our ministry. We praise the Lord for our new supporters: East Side Baptist Church in Milwaukee, WI; Bethel Community Church in Fort Scott, KS; Midway Bible Baptist Church in Rochester, MN; Mary Treibley in Sonestown, PA; John and Joy Shung in Alexandria, VA; and Dunes Baptist Church in Michigan City, IN (they just voted last night when we were there to take us on). Another church will be voting on us shortly. We truly appreciate your prayers and ask that you **pray that we would be able to book solid this year** so we can get to Japan by next spring. We know it is all in God’s timing, but we have urgency in our hearts as we saw firsthand on this last trip the great need for us to be in Japan.

In Christ’s love, The Riffels

