



From the Mercers in Yokosuka, Japan – July 9th, 2009

Dear Ministry Partner,

Have you ever felt the sudden realization that life is short and each hour is precious? This becomes most clear to me when people close to me are facing death. Priorities change and eternity doesn't seem so distant. Recently we had to help break some terrible news to a family in our church. The father had a sudden heart attack while working in his yard – the wife and two young girls were devastated. Family and friends have helped them through this and several Japanese people attended church last Sunday for the first time to show support to the wife. I am praying that through this family's faith in the midst of terrible tragedy, many seeds will be planted (John 12:24)

At the same time so many good changes are happening in our family and in the church that it is sometimes hard to keep up. In the family, James was accepted at Sophia University in Tokyo. This is one of the top schools in Japan. I'm proud of him because he has worked hard at saving up for this and at getting in. He has big dreams, including campus ministry in Tokyo while he is there. He needs lots of prayer and will be working on finances even harder now that he knows he made it.

Alishea is getting braces. She has prayed for this for years and we were only able to say "God can make it happen." But prayer works. A family we know in Japan came to us and said that they felt God wanted them to pay for her to have braces. So now her dream is coming true. I've been praying for Alishea's teeth to straighten out since she was a little girl – I guess God sometimes uses doctors. Alishea is getting it done at the Kanagawa Dental College in Yokosuka. I've also been praying for connection with the three universities in our city and this is the third. Now we have a natural way to go on the dental college campus and meet people. Alishea's goal is to have straight teeth in time for her own college entrance ceremony three years from now.

The church is growing and we are going to take a big step of faith soon. We have negotiated a good deal for a bigger floor in our building. The bad economy is a challenge, but it is also an opportunity. We currently rent the 4th floor which is 90 square meters. We are going to keep that floor and rent the 3rd floor, which is 140 square meters, for a little less. Our rent will almost double but we will have room for Sunday school, preschool and office and about 100 people in the main worship service. I am amazed at how things are falling into place for this. I am working with three different Christian company owners making plans to renovate the 3rd floor. I met two of them within a week after making the decision. I know that it's not me who is building the church – God wants to build a strong church in Japan. Please pray for our church and others who are fighting the good fight here in this unreached nation.

I attended the 150th anniversary of Protestant Mission ceremonies in Yokohama yesterday. It was very moving to hear a 101 year old Japanese pastor who testified about what God was doing in Japan before and after the war. I hope I am as full of fire when I am 100 as he is. I also saw several friends from around Japan that I hadn't seen for years. It was man-seki (full occupancy) in the 5,000 seat auditorium.

I had the privilege of baptizing four people this month - a Filipino mom, a Japanese dad, an American girl and a Japanese girl. We will be hosting a team of youth from Hawaii in a couple of weeks. Also, we are sending several kids to a church camp in Yokohama. As always we really need your prayers and support. Thank you for sending us to the nation of Japan.

Love and blessings,

Ray, Satomi, James and Alishea



Yokosuka Grace Bible Church

特別スピーカー Special Speaker - Scott Douma

May 9, 2009

POWERED BY FEEDBURNER



Contact the Mercers at +81.46.856.6314

Email: mercerc@yokosukachurch.com

Give: <https://admin.everynation.org/giving/> (online, secure, tax-deductible)