

Mercer Family Newsletter – November 2009

From Ray Mercer - Yokosuka, Japan - December 1st, 2009

Dear Ministry Partner,

A late **Happy Thanksgiving** from the Mercer family in Yokosuka! We didn't have the traditional American holiday on Thursday to remember the pilgrims with turkey this year. In fact, James had school all day in Tokyo, so we didn't even have the whole family together until late at night. But I've been really thankful for all God is doing for us over here in Japan. It's amazing how many blessings have come our way this year, James starting college, Alishea getting braces, the church building expansion project, a quick trip to Singapore last month with Satomi, and a whole bunch of small miracles to keep us going and keep us encouraged. In fact I thought to myself that this year I would avoid the calories of "Turkey Day" while keeping the thankful part. I was OK with that - but on Sunday one of our American church members brought turkey and ham for the whole church so we ended up getting the feast after all!

That night we also had a free concert with some great musicians led by Gary Scott. Alishea's good friend Maiken Nabarrete was one of the singers and she will be performing her first concert in Tokyo tomorrow.

The pictures show Maiken and Gary performing in our new sanctuary. It was really great to have a live music event in the new floor. Although we only had about 30 people in attendance that night we got some good ideas for next time. I think we can use this kind of event to reach out in the community in the future with a little better planning and promotion.



We just decorated our living room for Christmas and we'll be decorating the church this Saturday. We have a tradition of collecting new ornaments each year. This year Alishea really took charge of setting up our fake tree and placing the ornaments, lights and tiny nativity scene. I was very happy to just sit and watch (signs of aging?) At church we're going to have a few special events during December but the one I'm looking forward to the most is a talent show on Sunday, December 20th. I'm hoping that to get a lot of folks to invite their friends for an after-church feast/show and share their hidden talents for all to see. Please remember to pray for our little group in Yokosuka. Every year I feel that this is a great season to reach out to the Japanese all around who celebrate Christmas without having a clue to the meaning behind the season. But I know that the only way we can be successful in this is with God's help!

Other prayer requests:

Alishea – braces – had her wisdom teeth pulled and now has spacers in her teeth, will get the first bands in a few days.

James – college finances – he passed the first round of applying for a scholarship to pay part of his Sophia University tuition. He has an interview on January 6th and he has a chance to receive a large scholarship if he does well in this interview.

The Church – now in a remodel project – please pray for needed finances to come in and for protection as we finish construction on new sanctuary, new office, new shower room on 3rd floor and remodeling the 4th floor to a youth/kids room and preschool room/office.

That's all for now – Happy Holidays to you from the Mercers in Yokosuka!

P. S. Here are some more photos!

Beautiful ladies at APEC (Asian Pastor's Equipping Conference) in Singapore (left to right; Satomi Mercer, Naomi Douma - Japan, Nancy Webb - Hawaii, ??? - Malaysia, Lynette Menezes – India). We had a great time of being refreshed and being equipped both spiritually and naturally.



I took this photo during a Saturday volunteer work-day at church when we were laying the new carpet (left to right; Satomi's head, Ossie Spencer, Neal Kawamoto, Fukushima-san's head, Jayson Jacoby, bunch of youth's heads, Stephen Zimmer's back, and Hiro Kashiwabara directing the youth).



We took this picture when Nancy Webb (in the front row sitting on the left of Satomi) came and preached for us. She was our very first guest speaker in the new floor. We are not done yet but we have new carpeting, lights, projector and sound system installed now. We are planning to have a dedication service on January 24th so we have to finish up by then!





Yokosuka Grace Bible Church
特別スピーカー Special Speaker - Scott Douma
May 9, 2009

POWERED BY FEEDBURNER

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