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Summer – September 2013

## "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

I still do not fully understand why the Lord chose to allow me to go through cancer, nor why He chose to have me go through it here in Japan. But I know that it was His plan for me. All along the way, I have seen His hand at work.

## Health Update

I'm happy to report that I'm finished with chemo and have been given good reports from my doctor. My last chemo treatment was on July 25, and in mid-August various tests showed that there is no recurrence of cancer. PRAISE THE LORD!!! I will need to go back for check-ups every three months for the next 3 years, then with the frequency decreasing after that. Those frequent check-ups are certainly one of the areas in which I can see how the Lord was working all things together for good. If my surgery and treatment had been in the U.S., the financial burden of returning for frequent checks would have made it very difficult to continue ministering here in Japan.

I did have one additional hospital stay in mid-September. This one was for the surgical removal of my chemo port. It would normally have been just a two-night stay, but because of a blood-clot and blood-thinner complication, they needed me to stay for a full week. Prayerfully, this is my LAST hospital stay for a very long while.

## Summer Blessings

The summer included several highlights at Yokosuka Baptist Church. In June Dr. Ron White, who spent many years here in Japan as a missionary, was with us. In addition to teaching and preaching in English, he also preached in our first ever Japanese Worship service. I was pretty weak from chemo and fighting a respiratory infection, but was very glad to be able to be there.

Then in early July, just one week after another chemo treatment, I was blessed to be able to attend our church retreat at a lake up near Mt. Fuji. What a blessing that was!! The fellowship was wonderful, especially times spent around God's Word. Some of the activities I could only sit and watch, but it was fun to be able to do even that. I think there must be something in that mountain air, for I felt physically strengthened upon our return.

In late August, we had BIMI Far East Director David Harris with us for our Faith Promise Missions Revival. Not only did YBC members commit more than last year to missions giving, but also several souls were saved. One of those saved was one of our single sailor ladies whom I was privileged to counsel after the service. She already knew what she needed to do, having grown up in church; but she realized that she had never personally called on the name of the Lord and put her faith in Him. What an honor to be used by the Lord in His harvest.

Finally, we've seen three Japanese souls trust Christ as Savior in these last few months. One was Kumi, a lady who has come several times with Haruko, a lady I had discipled. Then also, after many years of prayer, Mr. Takashi Yasukawa, the husband of one of our members, and their teenage son Daisuke both put their faith in Christ.

## THANK YOU!!!

I cannot thank you enough for being such a wonderful support team. Your prayers have meant so much and have been a crucial part of my recovery. Your regular financial support is, as always, appreciated. And I'm extremely thankful for the many special gifts and offerings that several individuals and churches have sent. You've been such a blessing! I pray that the Lord will give us many more years of partnering together to reach the Japanese for Christ.

By His Grace, Ethel

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