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January 2015

*“As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him:
for he refresheth the soul of his masters.” Prov. 25:13*

Praising the Lord

I have some news that I know will be refreshing to your souls as my financial and prayer supporters. It is always my prayer that I will be a faithful messenger in sharing the gospel. I remember being told by my home pastor that the Lord often rewards faithfulness in handing out tracts by giving other unrelated opportunities to share the gospel and lead people to Christ. Recently, I had such an experience.

One Thursday, as part of my office duties, I visited the police station to turn in our application for a permit to hand out tracts for the next month. There was an unfamiliar officer on duty at the permit desk, and instead of merely accepting the application with the attached bilingual tracts, he commented on the title of the tract—“How to Go to Heaven.” Since he seemed truly interested in whether we can know for sure, I handed both him and his assistant their own copy of the tract from my purse. I wasn’t sure they would accept it there at work, but I was glad that they did.

I then proceeded to a nearby stationery store and noticed that a song from Handel’s Messiah (which I love) was playing. As I made my purchase, I began to discuss the music with the owner. He told me he had sung the Hallelujah Chorus in choir when he had gone to a Christian high school. (There are several of these, colleges too, throughout the country, originally started by missionaries; but many are now Christian in name only.) Once again, I had the opportunity to share a bit about our church and give him a tract.

We have not seen any of these men come to church yet. However, the very next Sunday, we had several other Japanese visitors in our service. Following the morning service, the wife of one of our deacons came to me with one of the Japanese visitors, saying, “She wants to know how to become a Christian, but I can’t explain in Japanese.” So this young lady and I went into the Pastor’s office, and I explained the plan of salvation to her, using the same gospel tract I’d been handing out just days before. She had previously attended a Japanese Christian university and her fiancé is a Christian; therefore, she already had some background to help her understand what we were talking about. After we went through the gospel plan carefully, she prayed to trust Christ as her Savior. Praise the Lord!

Thankful

“Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain.” Prov. 25:14

A study note for this verse made me think about my supporters the other day. I am so thankful for the many faithful financial supporters that the Lord has given me who are NOT like the verse above—NOT like clouds and wind that fail to bring that which is promised. Your gift of promised support is such a blessing to me, enabling me to be here on the field serving our Lord. I know that many churches have been going through difficult financial times, and I appreciate your sacrifices. I also appreciate the faithful prayer support of those who cannot or do not feel led to support me financially at this time. Together, all of us are a team.

Health Update

Shortly after my last prayer letter, I ended up in the hospital once again—this time with pneumonia (and this time a different hospital). I often wonder what the Lord has in mind with these various illnesses and hospital stays. I am thankful though that I was able to give a tract to a lady in her 80’s who was suffering from lung cancer and had been given a very discouraging report from her doctor. She was not open to talk with me about spiritual things, but I’m thankful that she was at least willing to receive a tract and said that she would read it.

There are so many needs here. Please pray that the Lord will continue to use me to help reach the Japanese people. Please continue to pray also for our military families, that we will be able to reach many of them as well. Thank you again, for being part of my support team. May the Lord bless you for it.

In His Service, *Ethel*

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