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the Land of the "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:" Psalm 103:2 One of our men preached on this passage recently. What a great reminder to count our blessings!

Ministry Blessings

I mentioned in my last letter the salvation of one of the boys I used to teach in the pre-primary Sunday School class. What a blessing it was to see him be baptized recently (picture on the left), along with a sister and brother who were also in the same class. It is so exciting to see these little ones take this step of obedience.



The Lord continues to bless here at Yokosuka Baptist Church. Our attendance has been high, with the Sunday morning service averaging nearly 120. We continue to see people saved regularly, and have had **at least** one new member or member family each month so far this year. One that was a special blessing occurred recently—a young man from the states, who had visited with his mother and sister several times in years past while they were here visiting his Japanese grandparents, has returned to spend a year with his grandparents. On his first Sunday here he joined our church, and did so ready to serve the Lord--in fact he joined the choir that very evening.

Perhaps the biggest blessing—our Japanese lay leader was able to lead his elderly mother to the Lord recently.

Personal Blessings

On my annual trip home to visit my brother, I was able to make a brief stop at my home church. What a blessing to be there for their Ladies' Seminar. It was so nice to reconnect with my home base, albeit briefly. Then I was able to attend a Majesty Music conference in another state. This was a blessing that I hope will help with the choir and music ministry the Lord has given me. The time spent with my brother was a blessing too. He is doing well.

My most recent health check once again showed no significant changes. I praise the Lord for this blessing also.

Prayer Needs

Please pray for our Vacation Bible School, *August 8-12*. We have several new children registered already along with most of our regular church kids. Some of my Japanese students' parents have expressed interest in them coming; please pray that some will come and that the Lord will open their hearts and give them understanding.

Please also pray about the following matters:

- for Ms. Fukuda, whom I had the opportunity to speak with for an extended time during our most recent ladies' soul-winning, to open her heart to the message of the tract she received and to come visit our church so that we might be able to share the gospel with her more fully
- ➢ for wisdom in some ministry decisions that are on my heart
- ➢ for guidance in finding a new place to live that would be easier on my knees (that is, fewer stairs)
- ➢ for an increase in average monthly support and/or more favorable yen rate once again

In His Service,

Cthol

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