



Ethel Wilson

Furlough Address: 6903 Shackle Place, Burke, VA 22015

Furlough Telephone: 571-236-9605

Email: graceshines2japan@gmail.com

Serving at: Yokosuka Baptist Church

September 2017

Greetings, dear praying friends. Thank you once again for your faithful prayers and financial support. Both are vital parts of any missionary's ministry. I could not be on the field without both.

Things have been very busy over the last several months, and time has just flown by. We've had several souls saved, and several people baptized. One that was very special was a Japanese lady named Satomi. She and her husband were baptized on the same evening. We were also very glad to have a family that were previously members of YBC return to Yokosuka and re-join the church. In addition to the regular busy-ness of ministry, here are some highlights from the last few months.

In April, the Lord spoke to many hearts during our Spring Revival which started on Easter Sunday. Our choir presented a mini-cantata of 3 songs mixed with passages of Scripture.

In May, I was able to attend the anniversary celebration on Okinawa for fellow BIMI missionaries Dan and Terri Gardner, celebrating serving in Japan for 40 years. It was nice to have a few days away. I also enjoyed a brief visit from my Japanese "daughter" Eri during a busy Japanese holiday.

Two young ladies who both have a heart for missions in Japan visited and stayed in my home in June. One of these young ladies had stayed with me last year, so it was nice to have her visit again. It's encouraging to see others with a heart for the country of Japan.

Our BIMI Field Conference was held in northern Japan in early July. We had a wonderful time of fellowship, with great preaching and teaching from Dr. Jim Townsend, the father of one of our missionary wives. Mrs. Townsend had a very challenging and refreshing time with the missionary ladies as well.

Then near the end of July, my home church pastor and his wife visited me. It was such a blessing to have the Abbeys stay in my home and to be able to fellowship with them. We were able to visit the Kinoshitas, missionaries serving in Tokyo, and meet with a young lady who was a part of the ministry I was involved in when I first came to Japan. What a blessing to see her growth. I had hoped to be able to attend her baptism in August, but my health prevented that.

In August, I was able to finish discipleship courses with two Japanese ladies. I was also very busy getting ready to return to the US for a furlough. I was pleased to have another good follow-up appointment for my cancer—once again everything was clear, AND I now will have a follow-up only every 6 months instead of every 4. Once I returned to the states in late August, I was blessed to be able to spend some time with my brother, with a few cousins, and with a very dear friend from college.

September has been spent in taking care of many of the details involved with being home on furlough—getting a cell phone, making arrangements for a vehicle, getting new prayer cards and other furlough items prepared. I have thoroughly enjoyed being able to spend some much-needed time in my home church. I also was able to visit one of my supporting churches nearby. *Please pray for the additional details that need to be attended to, including scheduling.*

Other News and Needs

In addition to the last few months being very busy, it has also been a very difficult time for me personally. I have been through some very deep, difficult, and trying times—trials like I have never encountered before in my Christian life. But I am so thankful for God's goodness through every trial He allows in our lives.

Our church has also gone through some difficult times. We have faced a very heavy season of military transfers and other moves—10 families and 6 singles have left us due to military transfers or other moves or transitions. Then at the end of August Pastor Navato informed the church that the Lord has called him to another ministry.

Please pray for the following:

- *for the Lord to lead new families and individuals to join Yokosuka Baptist Church*
- *for Brother Steve Nutt as he fills in as YBC's interim pastor*
- *for God's guidance as the church seeks the Lord's will regarding their new pastor*

In His Service,

Ethel

Sending Church: Fairfax Baptist Temple ● 6401 Missionary Lane ● Fairfax Station, VA 22039 ● 703-323-8100

Mission Board: Baptist International Missions, Inc. ● PO Box 9 ● Harrison, TN 37341 ● 423-344-5050