



Prayer Letter
Catherine Rich

*Taking the Living Son
 To the Land of the Rising Sun*

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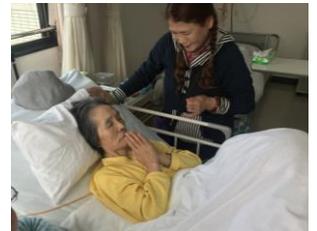
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Dear Friends,

May/June 2019

It was March 24th. The cherry trees were soon to burst into their beautiful blossoms as we traveled down the Japanese expressway. We would stay overnight near the airport and fly out the next day to America, our beloved country, for furlough until July 9th. On our journey we had one stop to make. Reiko, who is one of our church members, asked us to come and lead her sister to the Lord. The doctor had said she had only about a week to live and Reiko told Michael that her sister could not see or hear but could talk. He asked us to pray for a miracle to be able to communicate with her. When we arrived at the hospital in Tokyo and went to her room, we found her propped up in bed waiting for us. One of her eyes was opened and she could see. Reiko had been writing to her on her phone and preparing her for our visit. Pastor Riffel told April what to write and she wrote it quickly in Japanese. He told her the plan of salvation and she was able to read it. She prayed repenting and asking Christ to be her savior. The Lord gave us a miracle. He gave sight so she could be saved. Praise His name. She couldn't thank us enough for coming and has since gone home to heaven. What a wonderful way to end a term on the mission field. God is so good. Psalms 36:7 How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.



We arrived in the U.S.A. on March 26th and were so happy to be in our home church, Grace Baptist Church in Plymouth, Indiana, the first Sunday. We also appreciate being able to stay in the missionary apartment and come and go to meetings from there. This was a great, great help to us. It was great seeing Pastor Elliott and all our friends. Have you ever been away for several years and gone back to see friends and family? If you have, you know what a precious time it is. Now we are on the road and will not return to Plymouth because our meetings are taking us to distant places. If all goes as planned, when we are finished, we will have visited 30 churches in 25 states. Have you ever wondered what missionaries do as they pass the many hours traveling? We really enjoy playing the flag game where we have a contest counting as many American flags we can see. Whoever sees it first gets to count it. We are really happy to see so many across our nation. Great Fun!



We are deeply enjoying seeing some of you who have prayed and given so we can be in Japan doing the Lord's work. We are sorry we cannot visit all of you this furlough but thankful that Rich and I were able to visit many of you before he went to be with the Lord. April, Abigail and I were very happy to attend a lady's tea at Faith Baptist Church in Muskegon Michigan. April spoke and we enjoyed good fellowship with the ladies there. We are also enjoying the land of plenty and the abundant variety of food you have. The rows of cereal are unbelievable. The sweet treats are delicious and everywhere. I never saw so many candy bars. We are especially enjoying the vast beauty of America as we travel and how green it is.



We are also thankful for the modern ways to communicate with our church in Japan. Things have certainly improved in that area since we came in 1973. Phone calls were so expensive back then. We are thankful for the people of our church who are working hard for the Lord and making sure things get done. The church had a pretty bad water leak, but the members quickly took care of the problem. Mr. Takagi is doing a good job leading the prayer meeting on Wednesday evenings. Easter Sunday went really well with 2 ladies and their children visiting for the first time. The ladies of the church made a special meal for everyone. On Mother's Day, Mr. Kido gave a message and the men and children fixed a meal for the mothers. On Father's Day the women will fix a special meal for the Fathers and Pastor Tanii will be coming to preach. Michael is preaching messages and sending them to Japan for them to watch for many of the Sunday services. It makes us so thankful the church people are doing their best to keep everything going.

Prayer Requests:

1. Please keep our church people in Japan in your prayers.
2. Please pray for Sophie's friend who has been coming to church recently to be saved.
3. Please pray that our ministry in the churches will be used of God to win souls and call out others to the mission field of Japan. Recently April and I were asked to take Junior Church and were very happy that a young boy and a teenage girl accepted Christ as their savior. Please pray for their growth in the Lord.
4. Please pray for our safety as we continue traveling to the churches.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support.

Your missionary to Japan,

Catherine Rich