

Joyce Oshiro

January 2023

First some updates. Saaya is finishing up her 1st live semester at the Bible school near Tokyo. We miss her, but it sounds like she's learning a lot and enjoying serving the Lord there. Mami and Masahiro are growing as they continue baptism classes and stay busy in our church. Mami found a new job and moved closer to the church. Masahiro needs to move soon as well, hoping to find another job. We now have 5 young adults (including the 2 pastors), and they enjoyed going to an inter-church fellowship in the greater-Tokyo area with Saaya. It's so exciting to have young people on fire for the Lord!

The Lord blessed our children's Christmas outreach on Dec. 18 with 31 visitors (19 children, 12 parents), many of whom heard the gospel for the first time. This was our first attempt at doing it on a Sun. afternoon, and it allowed many of our church people to participate as helpers.

Our Family Christmas on the 25th was a big blessing as well. Few families celebrate Christmas at home here, but several church members' unsaved families came for our special program including handbells, children singing with our ukulele choir, boxed lunches for everyone, and a fun gift-exchange time. We were also surprised by a young US Navy man who walked in! Jaime had been in Okinawa only a couple months and was interested in learning Japanese. He enjoyed our friendly welcome and came back the next week for our New Year potluck even bringing a dish he cooked. But the best news is that after the meal, one of our men witnessed to him, and he accepted Christ! What a great way to start the new year! He's continued to come faithfully since then, and we're hoping he can be baptized together with Mami and Masahiro soon.

Next, I want to thank you for your prayers for my step-mom Kiyoko through her battles with Alzheimer's and stroke. The Lord gave her victory over her struggles and called her to her heavenly home in November. We celebrated her well-lived life at our church funeral service on Nov. 18, and her remains were interred in the church tomb, joining those of my dad and my mother, Kimiko.

My sisters, June and Janice, arrived this month to help sort through our parents' belongings. We're thrilled to have other MKs with visiting as well. What a blessing to reflect on our parents' faithfulness to the Lord through their past ministry here, and to recommit the remainder of our own lives to Him.

I am now preparing to make my long-awaited journey to America to visit my prayer supporters there. Although God used Covid and my mom's condition to prevent me from going for the last several years, I'm praying for His leading as I plan this trip and look forward to seeing many of you next summer!

Full letters are available at the missionary table.

OUR COUNTRY AND WORLD AFFAIRS: Remember to pray for our country and our government leaders. Pray that people's hearts would be turned to God, and that His Word would be taught in our churches. Remember also those who are suffering for their faith.

MILITARY: Remember to pray for God's guidance and safety for our military personnel: **David Casement, Brendun Deer, Aaron Good, Adam Good, Zack Hanson, Joshua P. Harold, Stephen Harold, Jarrod Harris, Justin Ivan, Zachary Ivan, Scott McKinney, Brendan Patrick, Eian Patrick, Lia Staats, Liam Thisse, and Alex Wallace.**

Year-to Date Budget \$232,592 / Year-to-date Giving \$250,350
Anniversary Offering - \$9,862



EVANGEL
BAPTIST CHURCH

Evangel @ Prayer

5/17/2023

May 17, 2023

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Praise the Lord! **Bev Breece's** MRI last week showed that she does not have a fracture in her hip! Continue to pray for healing for the muscles in that area.
- Praise the Lord! **Rob's** (Ray Simmonds' brother) prostate surgery successfully removed all the cancer! He will have a follow-up in three months for a PSA blood test. Please pray for continued healing from the surgery.
- **Donald Hurley** is doing well after having several seizures earlier this week. The plan is to discharge him today. They still do not know what caused the seizures. Pray that Amanda is able to schedule another appointment for him at the Cleveland clinic.
- **Amanda Hurley's grandmother** had some fluid removed from around her lung today and a large tumor was found pressing on the mid-section of her lung. The doctor believes it can be removed with little effect to her surrounding organs. Pray for the biopsy results and the future treatment plan.
- **Krista Bonesteel** started another round of chemo last Monday. She has started the testing with U of M for stem cell therapy and will also have a coronary CT next Monday to check if there is a blockage near her heart. So far, her doctors are pleased with the results from the scans and tests. Continue to pray for good results for any future testing as well as continued strength and energy.
- Please pray for **Candi Swift's mother** who injured her foot recently. Pray that she would acknowledge her need for regular assistance and choose to move into the nursing home from the independent living facility she has been in.
- Please be in prayer for **Bonnie Pyle's friend** who had her right foot and lower leg amputated because of complications from a previous injury. She is healing well but has developed a bed sore and is diabetic. Pray for quick healing and that her heart would be encouraged during this time.
- Pray for **Bob & Sandie Bates**. Bob has some upcoming tests regarding his heart. Pray for accurate results. Sandie fell and broke a bone in her wrist and will have a cast for the next 3-5 weeks. Pray for quick healing.
- **Dina Simmonds** has been going through a lot recently. She is having a lot of pain and the tests are inconclusive. Her car is also giving her trouble and she has been unable to work or receive financial help. Please pray for encouragement and help.
- **Pam** (Bonnie Pyle's sister-in-law) is in the hospital after completing her testing and will remain there until a suitable heart is found for her. Continue to pray for her health during this waiting period.
- **Becca** (Robin Brown's daughter) is having some difficulty with Michigan accepting her credit card so that she can finally update her teaching license. Please pray that she will be directed to the best person to help with the issue.
- **Barb & Henry Thimmes** need prayer for strength, encouragement, and wisdom as they make daily caregiving decisions.
- **Adrienne Johnson** has several health issues that have prevented her from coming to church and fellowshiping. Please pray for healing and encouragement.

- Pray for our Senior Saints: **Bill & Velma Blair, Barb Bondy, Dolores Boyd**
- Pray for our Young Adults: **Dillion, Faith, and Grayson Patrick**

CHURCH MINISTRIES

Office Staff & Custodians
Small Group Bible Studies

Living Truth ABF – Chris Bonesteel, Teacher
Rooted ABF – Joe Kiesznowski, Teacher

Pastor Rogier – Senior Pastor; DPRC; Christian Education
Pastor Diserens – Care & Connections; OASIS

Nick Scully – Deacon
Dave Svacha – Deacon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIDWEEK EVENING ACTIVITIES

We will have a two-week break from midweek evening activities on May 24th and 31st. On Wednesday June 7th, we will resume our midweek evening activities with Kids with Character, Children's Choir, Evangel Student Ministries (Teens), and our Adult Bible Study.

VBS CRAFT NEEDS

In preparation for Vacation Bible School our craft leaders are collecting large (28oz) aluminum/tin cans for a craft they will be doing with the kids. If you have any cans to donate, please place them in the marked box by the VBS volunteer signup table.

SUMMER CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Starting Wednesday, June 7th our summer Children's ministries will start at 6:45 pm. **Kids with Character** disciples children age 3 to 5 through age-appropriate teaching, activities, and crafts. **Children's Choir** is a summer ministry for kids in grades K through 6th (just completed). Our goals are to build (1) a theological framework through singing questions and answers, (2) Bible memory through singing, movement, and Bible story time, (3) musical experiences through exposure to instruments and ensembles, and (4) musical literacy through a variety of creative and fun activities. **Register** on the Church Center App or online at <https://evangelbaptist.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1747538>.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

5/21 – Ella Vreeland **5/22** – Sheryl Harold **5/24** – Emily Casement
5/25 – Dave Rudicil, Emily Morehead **5/26** – Sadie Searcy

5/20 – James & Katherine Lennon
5/22 – Gary & Cheri Anderson