

MERRY CHRISTMAS! I am excited this Christmas season to celebrate the birth of our Savior and the wonderful gift of His sacrificial love. My joy is even more pronounced this year because Mr. and Mrs. Sakamoto have accepted Jesus as their Savior !!! Thank you for praying with me for this couple. God had been at work in their lives a long time before they came to our church and they finally put their faith and trust in Jesus! When Mrs. Sakamoto was a child she had attended the children's Sunday school program in the Rakuyo Baptist church in Kyoto and Mr. Sakamoto had studied the Bible while he was a University student. I knew he had some background when his first question at the first Bible study was, "what does 'Trinity' mean?" It was during our study in the Gospel of John that they both made their decision clear. After their confession of faith, they jokingly said, "Next step is getting baptized in the Jordan River!". Praise God that they are looking ahead to getting baptized in the near future. We are continuing our study of the Bible together on Wednesday nights. Please continue to pray for their faith to be strengthened day by day.



**Mr. and Mrs. Sakamoto**

Thank you for praying for the disaster relief work back in October with CRASH. We were able to go to Iwate prefecture to visit the temporary housing units and the people there. We set up mobile cafes to serve hot coffee, tea and snacks. This provided us opportunities to get to know the people and to listen to their many stories of how they survived the earthquake and tsunami. On one hand I was encouraged to see that some were coping well with their new normal but my heart went out to many others who were elderly and very lonely. One lady cried as she told me her story of survival and she tearfully thanked me for bringing her a blanket. We also distributed blankets as a way to encourage and bring warmth for the cold months ahead. The purpose statement of the Tono base that we stayed at is: To bring HELP (resources), HEALING (emotional care) and HOPE (gospel of Christ) to the Tohoku region. This region is one of the least church areas of Japan. I am thankful that Christians are coming together regardless of denomination to come and help. Because of this disaster, an influx of Christ's Presence through His people are pouring into this needy region of Japan. I praise God and have hope that God is going to bring more and more into His Kingdom.

We are looking forward to this Christmas season to celebrate and worship Immanuel, God with us. We have the month packed full of many events and opportunities for people to hear the Good News of Jesus at Komyo church. Please pray with us that the Reason for the Season be clear and accepted joyfully by many, especially our English students and other contacts.

*Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year!*



**Mobile Café**

**Praise Items:**

**\*\*Salvation of Sakamotos!**

**\*\*Opportunity to visit the survivors in the temporary housing units to bring hope.**



**Prayer Items:**

**Christmas events:** pray that this season would lead our friends to accepting Christ as Savior

**Survivors in the Tohoku region:** during the cold winter months, they would be warmed by the love of Christ despite the lack of volunteers

**Upcoming Events:**

- Dec. 6: Ladies Luncheon
- Dec. 11: English Cafe
- Dec. 17: English Christmas
- Dec. 23: Christmas with Kongo church
- Dec. 25: Candlelight worship with potluck
- Dec. 27-28: Missionary Christmas
- Jan. 1: New Year's Day worship service

**"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."  
—Matthew 1:23**

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