

Aloha and Howzit from Tokorozawa.

Well summer has finally wound down. It's still pretty hot though so hopefully in the next week or two we'll get to that cool autumn weather.

Thanks to the Lord and all of your prayers we had a great summer here. Of course you know we've been traveling up to Higashi Matsushima, one of the tsunami hit areas, helping out with the community there in Ushiami. Well after we held the Hawaii Festival the first week of August, we hadn't been back. We had many things planned back home in our own town for the rest of August. Here in Tokorozawa we had a couple of VBS' with the church kids and the English School kids. Also we were able to participate again in the festival here in our building complex, and enjoyed summer with the kids off from school. I was able to go to Iwakuni and teach for a Worship conference. Also along with Calvary Chapel West Tokyo and Calvary Chapel Ginowan from Okinawa we were able to host another Women's Conference for the ladies of the Calvary Chapels here in Japan. And finally Zach Ruiz and Tokito Karimata from the Okinawa Bible College moved up to Fuchu to start doing classes in the area. Once a week they use our church to teach a class. A busy month for sure.

From the beginning of September the kids were back in school and we started to get back into the routine of things. Erika celebrated her 10th birthday and she got a new bike. She wanted to have an adult size bike and has been asking for a while so we got her one... a lime green one that she picked out herself. Hopefully this thing will last for a while. Size-wise I don't think it's possible for her to outgrow it... for a few years anyway.

On the church front we've been continuously plowing, loving on the folks and being loved in return. We do have a couple of military families and the bittersweet part of that is that after a couple years they are reassigned. So August marked the end of our time with the Uscanga family. They really were a blessing to the church family and us. We'll miss them but I'm sure we'll see them again soon. And anyway in this day and age of facebook and email, we'll definitely keep in touch. In a few weeks, the other family, the Morrison's will see James (dad) deployed to Kyrgyzstan for 6 months so we'd appreciate if you could remember to pray for them with us. For Suzzette and the kids holding down the fort on this end as well. Also, interestingly there has been a bit of an inconvenience even here with the earthquake and tsunami. Especially work schedules. Kenta for 3 months had to work on Sundays, part of a schedule realigning to save energy. Well, at the end of this month it ends and we will be able to fellowship on Sundays again. Looking forward to that.

As far as our trips up north, last week I was able to get up there with Santo from CC West Tokyo. It was our first time back since the beginning of August and all the evacuation centers there were closed up and people were all moved to temporary tract housing. So we really didn't know what to expect so we decided to go and meet with some of the folks we have built relationships with to hear what's been going on. We met with the Fukuhara family, Takashi, Misae and their 4 kids. We had lunch and he shared with us how things were going. Things are pretty much getting back to normal but there is still a lot of uncertainty because it seems that people are waiting on the government to see what they are going to do next. That's the short version anyway. We met with Chiba san and his family and he actually invited us to sleep at his place with his parents. We actually thought this time since it was just two of us we would not ask anyone for a place to stay and stay in the car, but we praised the Lord for the offer and enjoyed the time together. We also visited the Imaizumi's and some other families we knew in a tract home. Here's a funny story. When we went up for the Matsuri, we did a lot of shopping at Costco and bought some colored plastic cups. Turns out they really like those cups. They say they are very reusable and stronger than Japanese plastic cups, and they don't use glass cups. I thought that was hilarious. Needless to say, I went back to

Costco and will be delivering the cups (of all things) up there next week. Speaking of next week, there is a national holiday on Monday and Friday, so Thursday to Saturday day, Dawn, the kids and I will be heading to Higashi Matsushima to spend a few days with the Fukuhara's. We're praying for a fruitful time with them.

The one thing I did notice this last time up as far as future ministry opportunities was this: For 6 months since the tsunami, people were essentially put in a situation where they lived in the same big room with other people. And in that time, sure there were conflicts here and there, but over all it seems that they got used to the lifestyle. Now they were moved to different tract homes. It's almost like starting all over again, meeting new neighbors, getting used to a new lifestyle. So one of the things we are praying about continuing to do is having BBQ's in the neighborhoods to help with the community. Honestly, up until now we have been blessed with opportunities to do many of them, but there really isn't too much of a connect with the people just cooking and passing out food. We do meet folks and gain familiarity but don't really get the good opportunity to sit and really listen about how they are doing. So though we will be planning some of these events, in the mean time I feel strongly led to narrow our point of contact and spend time with folks we know... hence hanging out with the Fukuhara's. We know that the Lord is working in so many ways all throughout Japan, in different areas with different groups, different organizations. And we continue to pray for folks to hear about and receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. But for the Takamiya's here in Tokorozawa... just one tiny pinky finger in the Body of Christ... we will be continuing to build strong relationships and share the love of Christ. So we really appreciate the prayers for the 3 different Chiba families, the Fukuhara's, the Imaizumi's. Pray that the Lord softens their hearts. That the Lord continues to meet needs. From the outside we see that they have their needs but there is always the reminder that all they have has been donations and relief supplies. And that stuff is great but their greatest need is Christ.

Pray for the body here in Tokorozawa. We will be having family camp the second week of October. Then in November 7-9 we will be hosting our annual Calvary Chapel Pastors'/Ministry leaders retreat. We'll be blessed to have Pastor Bill Stonebraker, Pastor Tim Newman and Bob Haag joining us this year.

One last prayer request. Dan Bolinger, a missionary from Costa Mesa who has been here for a few years has a heart disorder. As I am typing this he is in the hospital on meds. Prayerfully in a few weeks he will be able to get a heart biopsy to see what the next step will be. Ultimately it could be a heart transplant. So please pray for him and his family, Mihoko and the kids. We know that God can heal. We know that all things work together for good.

God bless you guys. We appreciate all the prayers and support. Just want to remind you that we all share it spectacular rewards. Can't wait!

Til the last one's saved,
Aloha and God bless you,
Travis, Dawn, Erika and Evan Takamiya
Calvary Chapel Tokorozawa

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