



Dear family and friends: Greetings in the Lord!

In May, Fukuoka not only has blooming flowers but also delicious spring bamboo shoots. Recently we tasted the fresh bamboo shoots given by our Japanese friend Ju, grown in his own yard. He not only dug them up and peeled them himself but also cooked them to remove the bitterness before giving them to us, which is so thoughtful. When he heard that we shared them with others, he gave us more before Mother's Day. We were very touched! These were gifts that money couldn't buy.

On Mother's Day Sunday, there were 11 mothers, and Joan gave the spring bamboo shoots as Mother's Day gifts, allowing each mother to take one home. At the same time, everyone who came to the gathering enjoyed the cooked bamboo shoots together during a communal meal.

Let the love flow...

"No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." - 1 John 4:12



In the past month, God has given us the opportunity to meet with some new people and experienced new things. We are happy to share some of them with everyone and ask you to continue praying for us, so that Fukuoka church may be blessed by God, used by Him, and a blessing to others:

1. On Sunday, May 26th, Sister Wang and her family of four, who live in Germany, came to Japan for a trip. Her parents came from Shanghai join them for this family trip. They found our church and attended Sunday worship. Sister Wang was very grateful that they could find a church in Japan, especially that her mother was able to attend church for the first time. And, although her father had previously attended a few times elsewhere, but didn't

understand much. This time, he said he understood and gained a lot. Her father had looked for a church in Shanghai, but now they can no longer gather. During the pandemic, he hand-copied the entire New Testament, he told us.

They will return to Shanghai after a week, the father expressed a willingness to know about God and join our online worship via Zoom. Because both cities Shanghai and Fukuoka are in the similar time zone, it made the online access more suitable to them. We pray that God will use our online service to reach the sincere seekers and remove their fears. 🙏🙏

2. Thank God, on Sunday, May 19th, we met a new sister, Lin. Although she stopped coming to church many years ago for some reasons, she came to Sunday worship that day. Those who knew her hugged and welcomed her, happy for her return to the church! We believe that the previous quarter's sermon series on restoring relationships was helpful to the brothers and sisters, and that God is doing His work in people's hearts, which amazes us. Although Alan didn't know she was coming, the Sunday message was speaking to her situation: "👉 [The Courage to Let-go](#)" (click the blue text to watch the sermon or other [May sermons](#)). It talked about how Joseph could "Let-go" the past by relying on God's grace. After the service, she asks Alan if he knows her past and prepared the message just for her. What we can say is that only God knows. Many brothers and sisters were also particularly touched by the message. Perhaps we ourselves are facing situations where we need to let-go; when we come before God and pray, He truly gives us the ability to let-go.

Through our obedience, God's anointing came down through the sermon message to the humble hearts who need His healings.

"The one who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God; he has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee." - 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

3. At the beginning of the month, Joan saw a video about TSMC building a factory in Kumamoto, which is also in Kyushu. She also saw news from Taiwan reporting on a newly established church in Kumamoto.

Since Kumamoto is about a 2-hour drive from Fukuoka, one of the sisters was interested in visiting Kumamoto. We arranged to go to Kumamoto together, hoping to visit the church there.



We were fortunate to meet a Japanese pastor, Pastor Nakamura, and hear his testimony of salvation. Before he turned 12, his mother passed away from cancer, and his father, after a business failure, ran off with his girlfriend, leaving only him and his sister. One day, he met a preacher on the street and was invited to hear about Jesus and His love at Starbucks coffee shop. He was touched and baptized that same day. Although his life grew up and down. God was able to find him back. Later, he became a youth pastor, and eventually, he and his wife planted a church in Kumamoto, which now pastors over 70 people. By talking with pastor Nakamura, we were awed how God miraculously used a Japanese pastor to pick up young Nakamura from a street, transformed him with unwavering love, and used him greatly. His testimony fulfilled the Bible verse: "Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me." - Psalm 27:10

In this Japan hard ground for the Gospel, in this unremarkable small town, God is still doing new things. "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." - Isaiah 43:19

God can do new things not only in North America and Africa, but also in Japan. The question is: "Am I part of any of these new things God is doing?..."

4. After the Sunday service on May 5th, we had a coworkers' meeting. After it ended and all people left, Alan went downstairs to get his car parked some distance away. And unexpectedly, he ran into brother Lian and his family of three from Wenzhou, China, who were wandering in front of our building and looking for our church. He invited them upstairs, and Joan shared some food with them. As We talk and share, little we know it has passed several hours. We felt a spiritual connection with each other and were very joyful. We also prayed for their decision about possibly relocating to Japan, asking for God's guidance. They also attended the following Tuesday prayer meeting.

In May, our prayers continued in the Book of Acts, one chapter per week, both in-person and online. We prayed together in the same spirit and for the furtherance of the gospel. We felt the strong presence of God and the joy of His love. When we finished the meeting, we took a commemorative photo. They were also moved to make a donation to the church. We thank and praise God! We truly experienced the joy Paul speaks of in Philippians 2:1-2: "So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind."



Something wonderful happened at this week's (5/28) prayer meeting too: Sister Xu, who came to Japan on a work visa, joined us. She had been looking for a Mandarin-speaking congregation but couldn't find one, so she attended a Japanese church, even though she couldn't understand a word, but she worshiped God in her heart. Last Tuesday, on her way back from her Japanese class, she overheard one of our church sisters spontaneously say, "Thank the Lord." She asked if she was a Christian, and as a result, she joyfully followed her to the prayer meeting that evening. Although it was her first time meeting us, the Holy Spirit connected us, allowing us to have fellowship and share spiritually. This connection was not man-made but created by the Holy Spirit within us, making us one body and communicating with each other.

Our prayers:

1. Continue to pray for our church to shine and serve the Lord better in Fukuoka. Although the church currently exists as a home gathering in a residential building, we believe that if His people humble themselves under His mighty power and pray in unity, God will be pleased to send His Spirit to help us overcome physical limitations.
2. Thank God for answering our prayers from last month. This month, every Sunday, new people have been invited to attend worship. One seeker has already attended Sunday worship for the third time. We have followed up by having meals and discussing faith with her. We pray that God will continuously remove the obstacles preventing her from knowing the Lord and that she may truly understand the Gospel.



3. Pray for God to grant faith and love to the brothers and sisters. Even though some people have only come once, let us rely on the Lord to remain undiscouraged and warm-hearted, continuing to follow up and be ready to seize God's timing.
4. Pray for the youth training camp in July, May God move the hearts of the youth and their parents, preparing their hearts and making time to receive God's blessings.
5. Pray for Pastor Shao's surgery on May 31st. Ask God for a successful operation and a speedy recovery. May the Lord grant peace to the pastor and his wife. Pray for God's continued protection over the new site.
6. Ask God to grant a spirit of unity, so that pastors and deacons may share responsibilities in the Lord and may communicate well with each other.

Live for Him,

Alan & Joan

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news," Isaiah 52:7

"在山上报佳音，传平安，报好消息，传扬救恩，那人的脚踪何等佳美啊" 以赛亚书 52:7

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