



Dear family and friends:
Greetings in the Lord!

Every November, it's the season of Thanksgiving in the United States. This year's Thanksgiving in Japan felt unique. Since Thanksgiving isn't celebrated here, there wasn't much of a festive atmosphere. However, the warmth of greetings and gifts from brothers and sisters made it special.

Wei, a seeker who lived in Canada for many years and has now relocated to Fukuoka. She met us a few months ago. She started meeting with us individually to hear the gospel. For Thanksgiving, she brought some food hoping to celebrate together and engage in more gospel discussions. We're so grateful and prepared dinner to welcome her! Previously, we also shared the gospel with her husband, James, who owns a company and has a busy schedule. Though Wei feared he might not be receptive, we found him to be open. He asks questions and listens to our replies. The conversations went very well and were meaningful. Please pray that God continues to prepare and cultivate their hearts to receive salvation.



In addition to this we have so much more to be thankful:

******1. God Has Again Done Great Things******

****Renewed Life****

If you remember, in March's prayer letter, we mentioned a sister (SS) who came to Japan for treatment. That was the first time we met her and her husband (WG), who was not a believer yet. WG initially came to accompany SS to our gathering. After the sermon, SS was deeply moved and, with tears, shared how the message touched her heart. She said: the words in the message went straight to my heart. Although I was baptized years ago, I haven't sought God

message went straight to my heart. Although I was baptized years ago, I haven't sought God much since then and haven't attended church for over a decade. Now, facing late-stage stomach cancer, I desire God's resurrection power to reignite my life." Later, Alan and some brothers and sisters anointed her with oil and prayed for her (see March 3rd photo).



Despite undergoing treatment in subsequent months and only being able to join our worship online, SS faithfully attended our gatherings, even from the hospital or back in China. In private visits and prayers, her husband WG also expressed a willingness to read the Bible himself. We thank God for reigniting SS's faith, giving her courage to face her illness and treatment.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. —Romans 8:28

Healing Grace

A few months passed, and at the end of last month, we learned in a prayer meeting that SS had been rushed to the ER due to a gastric perforation that day. Surgeons found the perforated area impossible to suture because of the surrounding cancer cells. They closed her abdominal cavity and declared it untreatable. During the prayer meeting, brothers and sisters tearfully interceded for her. Alan sent a message to encourage WG which summarized as the following: Pray to the utmost, trust in the fullest, hope for the best.

A week later, we received a message from WG saying that God had done a miraculous thing. When doctors were powerless, cancer cells somehow blocked the perforation. The doctor was amazed, and said: while natural healing might occur in 10% of cases, cancer cells aiding healing was medically inexplicable—something he could only attribute to "mysticism." Of course, we know it's the work of God.

Two weeks later, to our surprise, sister SS joined our worship online again. She was in tears, as were many of our brothers and sisters in Fukuoka. Glory to God!

Meeting Again

Three weeks later (November 21), SS and WG came to Fukuoka to see her doctor and visit us at church. When Joan went downstairs to greet them, SS embraced her with tears, and WG

remarked, "It feels like coming home." We prayed for continued healing and protection, and WG acknowledged that this was God's work. Joan later prepared noodles for lunch, and SS even managed to eat some. Hallelujah!



Please continue to pray for SS. Pray that the new medication in Japan will effectively target and eliminate the cancer cells while minimizing side effects. May the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory in Christ, restore, establish, and strengthen her after this brief suffering (1 Peter 5:10).

****2. From Sadness to Joy****

Do you remember Grace, a mother from China we mentioned in previous letters? She came to Japan seeking treatment for her son, who was severely injured in a motorcycle accident, resulting in high-level paralysis. By God's grace, her son has recovered enough to walk and care for himself. In November, they joyfully returned to China to reunite with their family. Below is Grace's testimony:

On September 18, 2023, my son's motorcycle accident caused him spinal cord damage, paralysis, respiratory failure, aspiration pneumonia, fractures, digestive bleeding, and other complications. After multiple surgeries and a month in the ICU, we received numerous critical notices. It felt like every decision we made was a race against death.

The prayers and support from the church were our strength. Even though many didn't know us, the love of Christ connected us, holding us up in faith. Daily, I silently meditated on Psalm 18:2: "The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."

Each night when I couldn't sleep, I would silently and repeatedly meditate on this scripture. I prayed to God, asking that no matter the outcome for my son, I would accept it. I only pleaded with Him not to let me hang my head in shame before my enemies, bringing dishonor to His name.

Two months later, after transferring between several top-tier hospitals in the country where

all efforts had failed, God miraculously opened a way for us to come to Fukuoka. However, arriving in a completely unfamiliar place with a different language, I feel depressed, helpless, and overwhelmed. Every day, I prayed silently, yearning to find a church. A month later, God answered my prayers. He knew the longing in my heart and led us to the only Chinese church in Fukuoka. A missionary couple, Pastor Yins, made us feel incredibly warm and welcomed, like we had found a home. My heart was deeply comforted.

After many many prayers and perseverance, my son's condition started to change for the better, he can walk normally and do some light things. The speed of recovery surprised the hospital doctors, They even put his case into a specialized study program.

In our weakest and most vulnerable period, we received pastoral care. My heart began to brighten, and God's Word started to come alive. The doubts and confusion I once had were resolved. Later, I joined Pastor Yin and his wife in their missionary work, traveling to Kumamoto and Japanese churches, my heart filled with purpose once again.



"I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I was saved from my enemies." (Psalm 18:3)

Reflecting on the past year, whether it was dealing with my son, daughter-in-law, or various challenges and difficulties, not a single word of complaint escaped my lips. Even when facing the issue dealing with at-fault driver's insurance compensation, there was no resentment. I am immensely grateful for the Lord's protection and care.

I want to thank Pastor Yin and his wife from the Fukuoka Chinese Church, along with all the brothers and sisters in Christ, who helped reunite our family. Today, we have finally returned home, bringing this chapter to a perfect close.

Thank you, Lord, for Your abundant healing grace.

Grace

November 12, 2024

****3. The First Japan Alliance Gathering****

We are thankful for the opportunity to attend the First Japan Alliance Gathering conference, held from November 3–5 in Tokyo. We represented the Fukuoka church and shared about the

development of the Chinese church here.



The conference brought together nearly one hundred participants, including representatives from Alliance churches and Alliance missionaries across Japan. Our church is currently the only Alliance Chinese church in Japan, while there are over 20 Alliance Filipino churches in the country. Meanwhile, the Chinese population in Japan has surpassed 900,000.

We pray that God will place a greater burden on His people to revive this land, remove various environmental and human barriers, and allow the Gospel to penetrate this hardened land.

****4. Daughter's Support****

In the August prayer letter, we asked everyone to pray for Alan's father, who was hospitalized on August 28 due to a stroke. We thank God for His healing grace and miraculous works. Special thanks also go to his 90-year-old mother, who tirelessly accompanied and cared for him day and night, as well as to his sister and brother-in-law's family for their dedicated support. Hallelujah! Alan's father is gradually recovering.

Though being in Japan, we couldn't be there in person, we are deeply grateful that our two daughters traveled from Canada to the U.S. to accompany their grandparents. Their presence has brought much joy and comfort.


Currently, Alan's father is improving steadily. Our second daughter, while working remotely, has been able to stay with her grandparents for a longer period. She takes walks with them, cooks meals, cleans the house, and has even learned how to cut hair for them. What's even more precious is that they love listening to their grandparents sharing: testimonies about honoring God and loving others, their shortcomings in moments of failure, and their repentance. These spiritual connections, the passing down of faith, and worshiping together have brought great joy to Alan's parents. We are so grateful and praise God for His goodness!

**** Prayer Requests****

1. ****Mission Challenges****: Pray for wisdom and perseverance as we face challenges in ministry. May we follow Christ's example, entrusting judgment to God, and faithfully serve

without wavering.

2. ****Christmas Outreach****: Pray for our upcoming Christmas celebrations. May God move brothers and sisters to actively invite friends. Pray for Alan's message and the programs. May God prepare hearts to receive the gospel well.

3. ****Alan's Sermons**** : We are thankful for Alan's  [sermon messages in November](#). While there has been much positive feedback, we continue to pray that the lives of our brothers and sisters will be continually built up and renewed by God's Word.

Finally, let us be encouraged by Paul's words:

*"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace." —Acts 20:24

Living 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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