



Ethel Wilson

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It's hard to believe it's already mid-June. Thank you so much for your graciousness in waiting on this prayer letter. It certainly has been an interesting few months, and there have been some challenges and changes along the way.

Challenges

I know that all of us worldwide have been affected by this new coronavirus in one way or another. Many churches here continued to meet during February and March because the congregations are generally small. However, once the country declared a state of emergency, two of the three churches I'm associated with went to online services; and the main church I've been serving with reduced to just the pastor's family for their services. I definitely struggled with worse-than-normal loneliness and with cabin fever at times. But what a wonderful opportunity to spend extra time in fellowship with our Lord. And how thankful I am for modern technology that allows God's Word to go forth even during these trying times. Our "lockdown" conditions weren't nearly as strict here as in many other countries, but we were encouraged to avoid non-essential travel, close contact with others, and closed spaces. Masks are already very much a custom here for cold and flu season, so wearing them is nothing new.

My health has been fine, including another all-clear cancer check-up in late May. I did have a slight health scare at the beginning of April though. I had begun to run a fever and developed a cough. Knowing that a respiratory infection can quickly take a bad turn for me, I went to the doctor fairly early. However, when they heard that I had been in contact with a traveling American within the two previous weeks, they became alarmed and sent me for a covid-19 test. **Praise the Lord, the results were negative, and the antibiotic that was prescribed took care of the infection very quickly.**

I also faced an unexpected financial challenge in late March/early April. I was very surprised to learn that my current city handles some things differently than the city in which I had previously lived. This resulted in a several unexpected past and current tax and national health insurance premium bills. **The Lord has already provided in some amazing ways to meet many of those needs.** But I will also be facing additional expenses to meet these continuing increased needs going forward. ***Please pray with me that the Lord would provide the needed increased monthly support to meet these and other needs.***

Changes

"As for God, his way is perfect..." Psalm 18:30

In early May life changed from very quiet to very busy. I unexpectedly became the host to a dear missionary family of 6 who stayed in my home for a month as they are looking toward making a transition. My approximately 900 square foot apartment was a bit crowded with 7 of us, but we managed and are still close friends. ***Please pray that the Lord will continue to guide, bless, and direct the Durden family as they move back to Aichi prefecture.***

I had planned to begin a several-month furlough in July of this year. However, before I was even able to begin contacting pastors and churches to schedule meetings, travel restrictions began to be implemented. I'm so glad that none of the craziness of pandemics and other problems takes the Lord by surprise. I am still uncertain as to what my furlough plans may be. Before I leave Japan, I want to make sure that I will be able to return. ***Please pray that the Lord will give me wisdom as to when He would have me take my next furlough or other trip stateside.*** As many of you know, I try to visit my special needs brother once a year, but I have now not had the opportunity to see him in almost 2 ½ years.

The Lord also seems to be leading in a slight change in where and how I'm serving Him. In mid-February the pastor I have been serving under was asked by his sending pastor if I could serve with them for a while. Pastor Yamazaki (the sending pastor) spent a couple of months in the hospital, and he and his wife were asking if I could help with their English ministry and assist in some other ways for a while. I served with them until the end of March, and then services transitioned as I mentioned above. With the recent resumption of services, they are requesting that I be allowed to continue to serve with them part of the time. Thus for the foreseeable future I will be splitting my time between Baptist Megumi Chapel in Okazaki and Toyohashi Megumi Baptist Church. ***Please pray that the Lord will use me in these two sister churches and that both churches will be used to reach more souls for Him.***

In His Service,

Ethel

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