



Ethel Wilson

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September 2020

“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” 1 Peter 5:7

The Lord put this verse on my heart as I began to think about writing this prayer letter. In these crazy and uncertain times, it's such a blessing and encouragement to be reminded that our Savior loves us and cares for us, and that we can always rely on Him. *Please pray with me that I will truly cast my cares on Him in a couple of particular challenges I've been facing.*

Good News

July, August, and this first half of September have been times of blessing in the churches here. At Baptist Megumi Chapel, we've had 2 new gentlemen attending regularly with one of them in the process of joining the church. Attendance has been climbing back to normal at Toyohashi Grace Baptist Church, in spite of a few more weeks of online-only in August due to a resurgence of Covid cases here in Japan. One new family has recently begun attending. I've had the privilege of teaching Sunday School and helping with the music in both churches. Just recently 2 children from the Toyohashi Sunday School class trusted Christ as Savior at home. *Please pray for the Lord to continue to work in both churches.*

More Good News

I asked you to pray about my next furlough, and the Lord has answered. Japan has now begun allowing foreign residents to leave the country with official permission to return. I believe the Lord is directing me to go ahead and take a brief furlough at this time. My home pastor and both pastors I serve with here are in agreement. It has all come about quite rapidly. I'll be departing Japan on October 5 and will have the opportunity to be at my home church's 50th Anniversary Celebration and Conference a short time later. My first year teaching at the church's Christian school was the year of their 20th anniversary and also about the time that the Lord began working on my heart about surrendering to missions, so this milestone anniversary is very special to me.



I would very much like to visit as many churches as possible in the approximately 4 months that I plan to be in the U.S. I would especially like to visit churches that I have not visited in several (or many) years. There are STILL a few that I have yet to visit since deputation, and I would really like to reconnect with those churches. I know that conditions are very strange right now, but if your church is having regular services (or some variation thereof) and would like me to visit, please email me at graceshines2japan@gmail.com so that we can work out a time. *Please pray with me for the Lord's will regarding scheduling.*

There are still several details to be worked out, especially regarding the use of a vehicle, insurance for the vehicle, timing of flights within the U.S, and a complicated matter regarding my stateside driver's license. Also, though it has been over 2 years since I've been able to see my special needs brother, his adoptive parents feel that in the interest of protecting his and their health during this COVID time it would be better that I not visit at this time. *Please pray for these many details, and that by the end of my time in the U.S. I will be able to spend some time with my brother.*

There are also some additional financial needs associated with a furlough. Praise the Lord I will not need to pay rent in the U.S. while still maintaining my residence here. However, there will be significant increased vehicle and insurance expenses. I also have some bills here that would usually be paid in installments that I would really like to pay in full before departure. *Will you pray with me that the Lord will meet these needs as well as the continuing need for additional monthly support.*

In His Service,

Ethel

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