

December 5, 2020

Christmas greetings, dear friends and prayer partners. Thank you so much for your prayers regarding travel for this furlough and for other needs. I am so very thankful for the extra financial gifts that several of you have sent to help with additional furlough expenses.

It was a blessing to attend my home church's 50th Anniversary Celebration and Conference, and then to participate in the Midyear Missions Emphasis of a nearby supporting church. I enjoyed reconnecting with many friends and former coworkers in both churches. I've also been able to stop in at a few other churches in my home area. However, due to a rather odd medical situation that has arisen, further scheduling is on hold for the moment.

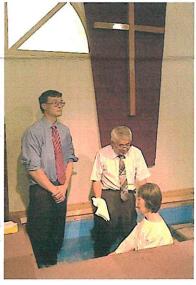
I would really appreciate your prayers for this medical issue. Please pray that the Lord will give the doctors wisdom regarding what path to pursue, and that He will give me wisdom in many decisions that will need to be made. Please also pray with me for the Lord's financial provision for these unexpected medical expenses, especially with medical costs being higher here in the United States.











I wanted to share a special blessing from Japan. On my last Sunday there, 5 people were baptized at Toyohashi Megumi Baptist Church. The three older children of missionaries Josh and Amy Durden had trusted the Lord during family devotions. Then as Pastor Yamazaki and Josh shared with a couple in their 90's the children's desire to follow the Lord in baptism, that couple decided to take the step of obedience and make their faith public as well. I'm sure I don't need to tell you how rare such

decisions are for people of that age, especially in Japan. Praise the Lord for His working in hearts of all ages!

Finally, a mundane but necessary matter. In order to be the best stewards possible of the funds the Lord provides, the friend who assists in mailing my prayer letters and I would really like to reduce the number of hard copies, sending primarily to those who do not have email, and to those who truly WANT to receive my prayer letter and ARE PRAYING for my ministry. We have carefully combed over our combined records, and I will be contacting some of you directly to ensure that you are not receiving double copies. If you are praying for me and desire to continue to receive a hard copy (even if you are not able to support me financially), PLEASE contact me to ensure that we keep you on the mailing list. Those who do not contact me and have never communicated with me may be removed from the list. Also, if any of you should need my mailing address for any reason, please contact me via email or the telephone number below since my schedule and location are rather unsettled at this time.

In His Service,

Furlough Contact Information: 571-655-1756 ● graceshines2japan@gmail.com

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