

Merry Christmas!
Christ came for us and He is coming again!



We want to give our thanks to each and every one of you for your faithful support. Thank you for your generous giving and for your continuing prayers for our church and for our family.

I am amazed at how fast the time flies these days. A year has gone by, and as I look back, I am reminded of God's faithfulness and His blessings upon our family.

Linn, a high school junior is at his critical phase as he will be preparing for college entrance exam next year. He will most likely be applying for colleges out side of Shizuoka. Tomoko and I are anticipating the financial challenge with both of our sons in college, as many of you have gone through the season and perhaps experiencing it now.

Kazuma is preparing for his study abroad. He just took the TOFEL exam (the exam required for foreign students to pass in order to come to US to study), and passed! One of the professors in the English Department at his University had volunteered to work with Kazuma for two hours weekly, and that had really helped. Praise God! He just increased his part- time job from 4 days a week to 5 days a week to save for when he comes to US to study.

As for Tomoko, she accepted a position as a "head teacher" and facing some challenges as a mediator between the principal and new teachers. She has such a positive attitude about all she is dealing . I am reminded of the gifts that God had given her. Tomoko and I were having a conversation about "five more years of college tuition" and she told me that she would continue to work as a "head teacher" for another five years. We will be in mid 50s then. The average retirement age in Japan is sixty years old. So, I asked her what she would do after the boys finish college. Her reply was "I want to have time to do more visitations and spend more quality time with elderly

members.” I am so blessed to have a wife who loves the Lord and loves to serve the church in such loving way!

I have been praying and asking God for quite some time about few things: first one is about our church building. As we continue to do some “patch work” to temporary fix things and places, it is evident to our raw eyes that it will not last for very long. As I had mentioned in the past, God had given us a vision and passion to establish a facility that will have a first-floor sanctuary, second and third floor for apartments for our elderly members who can no longer take public transportation to come to the service. We have done the preliminary research , but until we come up with the down payment, it is not a time to consult with builders yet at this time. We, as a church, have a vision that we believe God had given to us, but we are praying fervently that God will show His plan to us clearly. We do not want to step in to anything that is not the path from the Lord. Please pray with us.

There is a small revival that is taking place in our church. The leaders of the church have been convicted to evaluate the ways of our church, reconfirming those things that has no room for changes, and other things that we may consider implementing something “new”. Unfortunately, I can only share that much in this letter (for it will take too long to go into detail). There are a few members who have recommitted to serve our Lord, Jesus Christ since this revival has started. The Lord continue to bless our church, and I am grateful! Our desire is that our church will always remain true to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and will remain passionate to reach the people.

May you experience the blessings as you celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus!

Maranatha!

Michiya, Tomoko, Kazuma and Linn Nakahara

