

Nakahara News

June, 2019

Nakahara Mission

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I trust this finds you well and enjoying the summer. We are grateful to the Lord for the opportunity to serve Him in Japan. Let me share a couple of personal items with you.

In April I received a phone call from Lynn, our younger son in medical school. Since he normally has classes in the afternoon, I knew something was wrong. He told me that he was in the doctor's office. It started a few days earlier when he noticed some blood in his urine. The doctor ran tests and discovered his right kidney was bleeding. They scheduled him to have a CT scan at a nearby hospital in a few days, and when the result came back, the doctor wanted both Tomoko and me to be there.

We met with the doctor who reviewed the results of the scan, and he showed us that there was a tumor, about one inch in diameter, in his right kidney. He said that since there was no sign of a urinary infection, there was a possibility of kidney cancer. He told us it was very rare to have kidney cancer at Lynn's age, but in his 40-year career as a doctor, he had seen a few cases. He suggested that Lynn be admitted to the hospital immediately; so he was admitted into the teaching hospital where Lynn was a student.

We were told once Lynn was admitted, that doctors would operate to extract his right kidney. However, during the pre-op testing, they found out that he was running a high fever. According to the ultra-sound, the doctor found out that the tumor had grown to a 3-inch diameter (three times the size in 5 days). When the doctor checked his hip area, Lynn expressed pain causing the doctor to believe it might be some kind of an abscess. Cancer would not grow that fast in that short of time. He immediately ordered antibiotics and cancelled the surgery and decided to see how Lynn would respond to the antibiotics. While in the hospital, they kept the antibiotics via IV drips, and took CT scans each week. What originally was thought to be a tumor started to shrink rapidly. The doctor finally concluded that the mass was an abscess. Lynn was released from the hospital but was required to check in regularly with the doctor. He is scheduled to have his final CT scan in mid June.

It was a long month for our family. As we prayed, we asked God what He wanted to teach us through this scary experience. Lynn (in Japanese spelling) means "a life that has been given from above". When the doctor suspected "kidney cancer", we reminded

ourselves that Lynn does not belong to us, but to God, and we prayed that He would protect Lynn's life. While praying, it seemed as if God were saying to me, "If you believe Lynn belongs to Me, then can you accept it if I decide to take him." I had to pause for a moment. Then I prayed "If it is your will to take his life, then please give me, Tomoko and Kazuma a deeper love for you and a stronger faith to believe and walk in your path." As I prayed, I realized that God was waiting for me to surrender all to Him. Later, I shared my prayer experience with my family when Lynn was released from the hospital.

Tomoko and I are praying for Lynn to not only become a physician, but to be a doctor who loves the Lord and will serve the Lord and His people. We know that God will use this entire experience for His glory someday in his career.



Now, let me tell you about Kazuma, our oldest. On May 26, we had a congregational meeting. Kazuma shared with everyone that he would like to become a full-time pastor, and if it is God's will for him to continue the ministry in Shizuoka, he would covet everyone's prayer. He is willing! So many people listened to his testimony with tears of joy. He also shared with us he would like to continue teaching in his current position for another 3-4 years, and would like to save money and go to a seminary. I could tell our members were rejoicing with Kazuma and that God was orchestrating the future of our church. Kazuma shared with us that he is very happy and fulfilled with his current teaching career. He had been praying for clarity as he has had a desire to become a pastor. He wanted to know for sure that the desire has been placed by God, and not his emotions or feelings. He said that his desire to become a pastor has kept getting stronger and stronger. He is now very content with this decision. PTL

As I shared, God wanted us to surrender everything to Him through Lynn's illness, and now with Kazuma's commitment to go into ministry, I believe this is no coincidence. God is working in our lives, and we are so thankful for your prayers and feel so supported by each and everyone of you. Thank you for your continued financial support of this ministry. Glory to God in the Highest. Maranatha. Come Lord Jesus!
Michiya and Tomoko Nakahara

