

THE Gardner Family

MINISTERING IN OKINAWA



“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few” Matthew 9:37

Faithfully delivering the message of NEW LIFE in Christ to the nationals of Okinawa, Japan.

Dear Praying friends,

Sept/Oct 2024



I can't believe that Heidi and I are celebrating our 25th anniversary this year. I planned a trip to Singapore for a few days. It was a nice time to get away and focus on our marriage and relax. During our trip, we met a group of Japanese college students and a young Pakistani man named Raj. He was so excited that **God** brought him there and away from persecution. When I asked him about faith, he proudly gave glory to the Lord the true God!! It was such a sweet testimony to hear!!



While we were away, Cody partially tore his PCL playing soccer. He was discouraged to hear that he cannot play ANY sports at all for 2 months!! Thankfully he does not need surgery and it is not too painful. He recently started a part-time job at Mc Donald's. He was thankful that he can still work with his injury.

We praise the Lord for some visitors that have been coming over the last few weeks!! Teriya san (terri-ya) is a single man that has been coming for several weeks now. Grandma Tamaki san (taw-maa-key) spent 50 years in America, but returned to Japan and has enjoyed being in church again. Kuniko (koo-knee-ko) is from Okinawa and her husband, Jim Sigrist, moved back to Okinawa and don't live far from our church. Our son, Cody plays soccer with her nephew. When they were talking about church, he said that his aunt was a Christian and is looking for a church. They are a sweet couple that have been a joy to have attend. Please pray for Jim, he is not much of a talker, so we do not know if he has trusted Christ yet.

The end of September, Heidi was able to go to Hokkaido (farthest island north in Japan) for a Baptist Missionary ladies retreat. They had 18 in attendance this year. It was an encouragement for her to be with other missionary ladies serving in Japan. They saw "real" pumpkins and had to take a picture with them. LOL



My heart overflows to say that the Japanese Pastor's Retreat was a huge blessing to those that attended!! We are thankful for those that gave to encourage these pastors. We were able to go deep sea fishing. This was a first for all of them. About half of them were seasick, but so excited that we caught a 244 pound marlin!!! We were able to freeze it and mail it out to them to enjoy with their families. It was encouraging for all to have prayer time together, challenge each other and talk about blessings and struggles in our ministries.



The end of October, I was able to take a group of 15 Americans from Maranatha Baptist Church to go help a ministry in Mainland Japan do some reconstruction. Over the years, I have been a part of MANY work projects, but the humbleness and the spirit was so sweet here!! We are thankful that we could be an encouragement to the Wakimasu family (walky-ma-sue) and the Adatada (ah-dah-tah-dah) Bible Camp Ground.



Thank you for your faithful prayers and support.

In His Service,

Dan & Heidi Gardner



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