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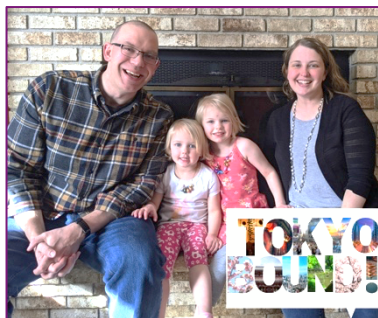
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NEWSFLASH: We are getting two new nieces!

Ellie and Joanna are coming to Japan, and the best part of that is: they are bringing their parents with them so they can join our mission team! Perrin and Jodi Werner have



signed with Resonate Global Mission and will become the new missionaries you and we have prayed for a long time for God to send. They have a lot to do before they get here to Japan though: applying for visas (a bit of a challenge

with this nasty COVID complicating things), raising support and recruiting prayer partners, preparing for an overseas move, getting into language study, etc. To learn more, you can check out their new website page here: <<https://www.resonateglobalmission.org/missionaries/perrin-and-jodi-werner>>. Send them a note of encouragement, a promise of your prayers, or even a support gift! You can contact them at <pwerner@crcna.org>.

WHAT DIFFERENCE HAS IT MADE?

On top of wars and rumors of wars, Jesus said that there would be earthquakes too before the end comes. And we have had more than our fair share of tremors lately! On March 16 at about 11:30 PM another very strong earthquake hit in the same area as “the big one” of March 2011. There was extreme shaking, causing one pastor friend to tell us, “we thought we were going to die.” It set off a tsunami alert for part of the coastal area that had been devastated 11 years earlier, and people had to evacuate to higher ground until the alert was lifted five and a half hours later. Even then, and even until now, there are some who were terrorized and who refuse to return to their homes. There was some significant damage, including a bullet train that derailed and knocked the whole line out of service for a month, heaves and cracks in the Joban Expressway, and damaged roofs and broken dishes. Colleague Ken Lee and I went to greet our friends and to try to give some comfort to them, and our trip was very successful beyond our hopes,



especially at the Nozomi Center, the 2011 quake disaster response project in which we were deeply involved for many years, and which now, in

addition to being a community center, is a church planting project overseen by our friends Woody and Laurie Lauer. We didn’t give the Lauers much notice that we were coming, but they went ahead and planned a community luncheon and worship time. Ken cooked, and I preached. The Lauers had contacted their neighbors, passed out handbills in mailboxes and made phone calls. They expected about 20 people to show up at our impromptu gathering. Well, people began to show up, then more came, and then still more. We had about 45 people come! It seemed clear to me that Nozomi Center has a place in the hearts of the people and that they turned here, urgently needing a place of peaceful retreat and a word from the Lord to help them process the terror and hopelessness many were feeling. Ken always makes too much food, but we almost ran out this time! As the time together wound down, a group of kids could be seen running around outside, and heard too, with their playground voices ringing out. Others hung around for more conversations. I do believe it was a time of much needed healing. And yes, it continues to make a difference! Nozomi means “Hope!”

Here’s a “hope-filled” factoid: Since the Great East Japan Earthquake 75 new churches (maybe 30 of these being house churches) have been started in the 2011 disaster area of NE Japan, notorious for its resistance to the Gospel!

Here’s a “did you know?” Japan and Russia never concluded a peace treaty at the end of WWII. Russia occupies a group of islands claimed by Japan. Any hope of moving forward ended with the invasion of Ukraine.

Here’s some advance notice: We, the Spalinks, hope to return for an extended visit to the USA beginning from mid-October. Stay tuned as we develop our schedule!

LONELY HOLIDAYS, BUT ALL IS WELL

At the top is a picture of our children and grand children. We were all supposed to gather for Christmas, but COVID eliminated our travel ambitions. The family got together though! We love it that they do that! We continue to keep in touch with Facebook, Zoom, email, and sometimes good old phone calls. Ruth’s mom just turned 92 in good shape. There are medical needs in our family; we are concerned about those and ask for the Lord’s healing, especially for our brother-in-law Paul.



please check out page 2 for more prayer requests and information!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND GIFTS

-- Despite COVID, or maybe because of it (?), we are enjoying several baptisms, professions of faith, and several new transfer members during the Lent and Easter seasons, this despite limiting church attendance and the cancellation of many membership classes to reduce transmission of the virus. There are new people at church almost every week! The Lord is at work! More of this please!

-- The Japanese are horrified and scandalized by the attacks on nuclear plants and the talk of possible use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine, as perhaps all of us are. But it's much deeper for the Japanese, having experienced the evil of atomic bombs and still striving to recover from the Fukushima meltdowns. We pray for an end to the insanity of the war there and for God to protect his people. You may be interested to know that the folks in the NE Japan disaster area, who were blessed by the compassion shown to them in 2011 and beyond, are generously giving from their hearts to help provide relief to the people of Ukraine!

-- The new school year starts in April while nature is blooming and birds are nesting. For new graduates, it is an intense time of trying to find jobs, full time ones with benefits. There is a shortage of these jobs, which leads to a lot of disappointment and depression, and these often cause thoughts of suicide. Pray for jobs! And we need our churches to be offering good intervention and hope to those who are struggling.

-- Pray for God's guidance as Ruth and I seek to map out our plans for the next couple of years, including a 6-month home assignment "Re-connect" stint from mid-October.

-- We are very grateful for so many of you who do keep us in prayer, and also to those who are able to send in financial support as well. We are humbled by your generosity and very thankful for all who are part of God's team to bring his salvation to the Japanese. Thank you for your partnership! -

-- Our perennial prayer request is for God's mercy and Spirit to be poured out on the nation of Japan. So many are in bondage to serving their ancestors and seeking "favors" from the myriads of "gods." Who can break those chains? Only the Sovereign Lord God!

TWO MORE SHOTS FROM NOZOMI CENTER

These two gentlemen come to Nozomi Center to play shogi (Japanese chess) every week! And since it was spring break,



we had a fair number of young people at our luncheon too. Many of these also come to Nozomi Center for English classes offered by staff.

SUNRISE, SUNSET

Rev. Yuji Kumada, under whom I have been serving at the Kamifukuoka Reformed Church, retired on March 31. It is



sort of the end of an era for the congregation and also for me! He will be 72 shortly and is still in good shape, so I expect he will have ministry opportunities in churches in our area that have no pastors. Meanwhile, one of those churches got a brand new pastor! Mr. Tsukushi Ito will be a nearby neighbor as he takes up service at the Tanashi Reformed Church, a group I used to supervise. Good man! I am very thankful for these faithful brothers!



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Please make checks payable to Resonate Global Mission and include the above # (802133) on the memo line. You can also give on line using the URL to the left. Thank you for your financial support! Please note that prayer support is also very important, and giving prayer support only is also very welcome and appreciated!