

Resonate™

GLOBAL MISSION

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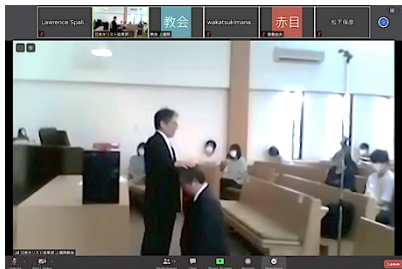
ZOOM, ZOOM!

The Mazda Motor Company used to run TV ads here that started with a child's voice whispering, "Zoom, zoom!" Then you'd watch as if from the driver's seat as a sporty sedan zoomed down the left lane (which is "right" lane here!) of a winding mountain road! You all realize that "Zoom" has another meaning! It's one of the sophisticated pieces of software we are using an awful lot these days for video conferencing, consultation and counseling, or "virtual" worship services and prayer meetings. It's remarkable to me that we have these tools that are critically important to keep ministry going in the days of the nasty COVID-19 pandemic. I expect many of you are



also broadcasting or receiving broadcasts using it, along with Facebook Live or Chat, YouTube, Skype, and a number of other tools that God has blessed us with. The churches have broken out of the

four walls on our buildings, and even though this handicaps us in some ways, it has enabled new outreach, meetings in far-flung places without incurring huge travel expenses, making it real easy to invite non-believing kids or spouses to "sit in" on worship, and helping bring the Gospel in ways we couldn't even imagine before! The novelty of this activity attracted more participants to services than ever had attended worship at the building. As the novelty has worn off, those numbers have dropped, and we long for physical proximity and fellowship. I must say also that "going virtual" has meant a huge amount of extra work: Not only did I record video-sermons, but I had to produce complete manuscripts of my messages as well (in Japanese) so that they could be emailed and snail-mailed as necessary. Has it been worth the effort? YES! On July 12, Mr. M., who had been attending virtual worship with his family, received baptism at the Kamifukuoka Church. Here is a "screen shot"



of the baptism service. I was "attending" virtually that day from the USA! He and I exchanged emails afterward!

THANKSGIVING FOR MORE SPECIAL GRACE

In mid-June, Ruth and I went to the USA because of a special medical need of a family member. We went, not knowing whether we would be able to return to Japan, since the government had closed the border as a strategy to limit the spread of COVID. At Narita Airport the agent from the Immigration Agency heard our story and agreed to grant us a special humanitarian exception that would allow us back in. Then God surprised us with an even more special treat for us: He gave remarkable healing, making the postponement of surgery the course of choice! I was not expecting this at all. I say this with some shame,

as it is exactly what we and some special friends had been praying for! Our trip was not wasted by any means, as we enjoyed some family time, and we even had the chance to meet some of our grandchildren, including now 7-month-old Frankie in Texas! Who said it? Hooray for little girls! Meanwhile, I was able to do almost all the work I would normally do thanks to the technology we can use, including all the end of fiscal year reports and preparing new forms for the year that began on July 1.

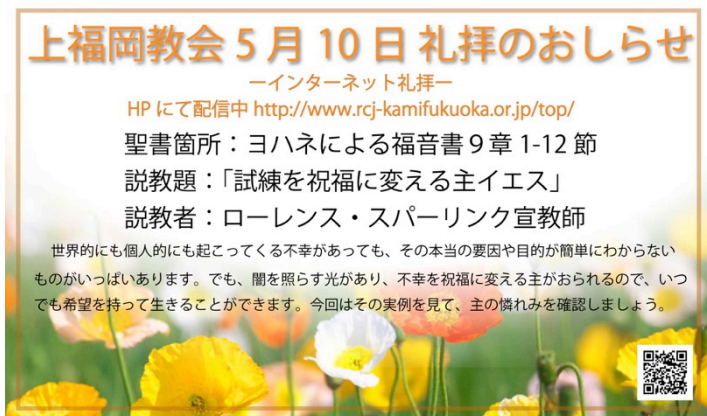


ONGOING CHALLENGES

It took about 3 hours after we landed at Narita Airport, but here we are, now back "home" and enduring a horrendous heat wave in Tokyo! Ruth had been doing remote teaching at the end of the school year and is now gearing up for the classes to resume next week. We're apprehensive about if that is the right thing to do, as we have the same issues with live teaching that teachers have all over the world. We have had two PCR tests so far, both negative, and we'd like to keep it that way! Another challenge we face is related to travel moratoriums. Resonate has nixed deputation and other similar activities at least until the end of the year, so our plans to visit many of YOU have been put on hold. I hope to work up a video to send to help keep us connected with you, our partners in mission to Japan. We are ever conscious, and were reminded of it powerfully with the healing, of prayer being a critically important ingredient in the success of our work, so we want to keep a lively connection with you all!

WHAT IS COMING UP FOR US?

First of all, I will be continuing my service of preaching and teaching, mostly preparing sermon manuscripts for distribution and audio/video recordings of these for churches where I serve. Services I lead are frequently



上福岡教会 5月10日 礼拝のおしらせ
—インターネット礼拝—
HPにて配信中 <http://www.rcj-kamifukuoka.or.jp/top/>
聖書箇所：ヨハネによる福音書 9章 1-12 節
説教題：「試練を祝福に変える主イエス」
説教者：ローレンス・スパーリンク 宣教師

世界的にも個人的にも起こってくる不幸があっても、その本当の要因や目的が簡単にわからないものがいっぱいあります。でも、闇を照らす光があり、不幸を祝福に変える主がおられるので、いつでも希望を持って生きることができます。今回はその実例を見て、主の憐れみを確認しましょう。

advertised (as in the above postcard and on church web sites) and called “evangelistic worship” or “welcome worship,” with the focus being on inviting newcomers. As I have opportunity, I will also prepare children’s Sunday school messages. I seek for opportunities to give special presentations about worship and evangelism, especially challenging churches to try new ways of “church planting,” using a house church model. With our recent use of technology, we are discovering how easy it is to have multi-site worship, especially when we live stream into folks’ homes. We’re still all a little overwhelmed by it all, but as the proverbial dust settles, I want to promote this more and more, as in my mind I see several new locations that are extremely under-churched which we might target.

Secondly, I will maintain my office and administrative work for the field. We are still eager to recruit new staff for this field, and I urge you to continually seek from the Lord his answer to our prayers for more “harvesters!” I know that though I am not eager or ready to retire, I need to prepare to pass the baton to others who can continue to extend God’s kingdom in this mostly unreached land.

LAST YEAR’S RESULTS AND THIS ONE’S GOALS

Ministry is rather far-flung as I itinerate and work with churches and committees of churches in the greater Tokyo area. I have to put on hold some of my plans to visit remote groups all over eastern Japan, especially Nozomi Center and the church that is being planted there in that tsunami devastated community. A pretty big piece of my heart remains there, as well as in Fukushima, where the radioactive contamination is still causing much hardship. As convenient as Zoom can be (I had another meeting just last night with colleagues from North America, Central America, East Asia, and Europe), there is a great loneliness for physical gathering and fellowship, the need for touch. How to do that? All of us are thinking about it!

We ended fiscal year 2019-2020 a bit short of our fund raising goal (\$1,712 to be exact), but very grateful for some unexpected gifts that came in to bring us as far as we did come. Thank you to all who gave, and to those who prayed for our needs to be met. They were! Now we have begun a new fiscal year with the same goal. Thank you in advance to those who partner with us in the area of finance! This is also spiritually significant!

Our prayer requests haven’t changed much:

- Pray for God’s Spirit to open the hearts of many of the Japanese people to his message of peace to all who put their faith in the Lord Jesus!
- Pray for protection from the virus, especially for Ruth as she resumes her classroom teaching.
- Pray for new recruits to serve God’s kingdom in Japan.
- Pray for health and stamina to continue my many and various activities, preaching, teaching, consulting, “aiding and abetting” my colleagues.



God bless all who love his kingdom!

From your missionaries,

Larry & Ruth Spalink



I (we) would like to support the work of Larry & Ruth Spalink (fund code 802133)
Here is my gift of \$_____ or call 877-272-6205 (USA) or 800-730-3490 (Canada)

Resonate will make every effort to use your gift for the program or project you designate. Gifts to programs or projects that are oversubscribed, or cannot be completed, will be directed to those that have similar intent or ministry location.

Name: _____

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Please make checks payable to Resonate Global Mission and include #802133 on the memo line. This will ensure that your gift is properly credited to the Spalinks’ support account or to projects they are involved in.

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