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THANK YOU FOR PRAYING!

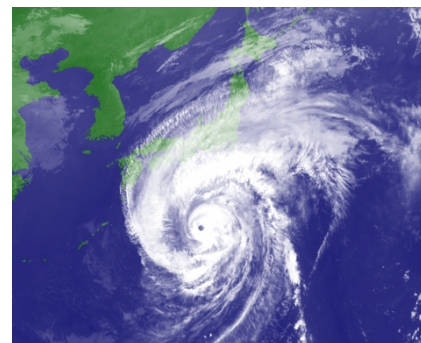
What a privilege it is for me to engage with those in front-line ministries throughout Japan! Recently I have co-led an overnight retreat for pastors of the Reformed Church in Japan (RCJ) East Kanto Presbytery (focusing on making change a priority, with lots of concrete proposals - starting with PRAY!), spoke at the RCJ-General Assembly in Osaka, journeyed north to enjoy the Aomori Church's worship and fellowship, participated in the Nozomi Center staff meeting, had dinner with a burned out pastor on leave from the ministry, participated in the RCJ-NE Presbytery that is struggling for its survival, prepared for and led the young adults special praise-worship service at the Kamifukuoka Reformed Church (KFC), developed a funding agreement for ongoing relief work in Fukushima (radio-contaminated area), took minutes for Christian Academy in Japan's board of directors policy and governance review committee, of which I am secretary, consulted about mission cooperation with RCJ colleagues and visitors from the GKN-V church (Netherlands), and began to do fall trimming of the trees and shrubs on our mission property. It has been a very productive fall, and your prayers were answered abundantly in these things!

WORSHIP RENEWAL/ENRICHMENT

Enrichment of worship is a focus of my work. I've registered 6 Japanese workers to attend the symposium on worship in Grand Rapids, MI, and I'll be there to translate for them. What do I envision? Worship that is pleasing to the Lord, engages worshippers' intellect, emotions and senses, is intentionally Gospel-flavored in every part, is aesthetically pleasing, and is sensible to newcomers. It treasures the old and values the new in liturgy and music (and other arts too). Once again last Sunday I led worship at KFC featuring worship leadership by young adults (YAs) as praise team, with traditional and contemporary songs as well as an enhanced liturgy. We spent months preparing, with good input from my YAs, with teaching times about the spirituality and mechanics of worship leadership, challenging them to devote their lives to ministry, etc. Two elders and a deacon carried the ball to prepare YAs as well as the congregation for a time of extraordinarily rich worship! Worship theme: "A No-Loss Investment;" Unifying thread: Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God (music only, used as prelude, interlude and postlude); Message focus: lose your life to gain it, expect amazing rewards - a 100 times return on your "loss;" closing song, "Send Me!" chosen by my wonderful and talented YAs! It was a very special time!

TYPHOONS

"Typhoon season" is finally over, but it was a mean one this year, especially typhoons number 15 and 19, which dumped unbelievable amounts of rain and caused flooding in at least 35 rivers. Some of the towns look so much like they did after the great 2011 tsunami. Folks keep searching for those presumed dead and digging out mud that inundated farms and homes. So many disasters here!



AND TRAVEL

Ruth and I will be heading to the USA in a few weeks to see children and grandchildren and to have some ministry time on that side of the ocean. We hope to meet the newest grandchild in early January, visit some of you, take care of some family business involving medical care, and shovel some snow, exercise I enjoy for some goofy reason! Good cardio workout? I expect to head back to Japan on Feb. 3 (if the weather cooperates). Then we are planning to participate in a regional missionary retreat mid-February, which will be in Thailand. All this for me, who really doesn't enjoy travel and is a secret introvert!

GOD'S GIFTS, AND YOURS, AND GOD'S

We're not having Thanksgiving dinner this year, but that doesn't mean we don't give thanks! God has given us so many gifts, including you all, our partners in bringing the message of Jesus to the people of Japan. We appreciate hearing from you, and we are so thankful for those able to support our work with Resonate financially. We could not do this without you! And speaking of gifts, we are once again turning our minds and hearts towards heaven to give thanks for the greatest gift history has ever known: our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! He says, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand!" May that impact us anew as once more we welcome the season of Christmas! Good cheer to all of you! The Savior King is born. The King Messiah reigns. Our Eternal King is coming again!



From your missionaries,
Larry & Ruth