

Giesbrechts Prayer Letter



"But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice," (Philippians 1:18)

Greetings from Osaka Japan! As **our trip to Canada** is coming close (we leave Japan at the end of next month), our hearts are full of **thankfulness to the Lord for the last three years**.

One of the highlights for me (Masami) was to meet **Mayu (my hairdresser-friend)**, whom many of you have been praying for. She got **baptized on May 11th**. I first met Mayu three years ago after we came back from Canada. I needed to find a new hairdresser since my former hairdresser just moved back to her hometown. It just so happened that Mayu opened her own salon in our neighborhood at that time.

Last August, as Mayu cut my hair, she was talking about the **YouTubers** she liked. She asked me what YouTube channels I watch, and I answered that she would not know any of the channels because my favorite ones are all Christian content. She reacted very excitedly (waving the scissors in her hand), "That, that..." (she wanted to meet a Christian to ask a question!) She is a part of a community orchestra and at that time they were practicing **"St. Matthew's Passion"** for a Christmas concert. She said that when she practices the piece, in the beginning it is happy, then in the middle it becomes very heavy/painful/sad, and at the end it feels like she was rescued or happy again. So, what is this symphony about? I briefly shared about **the life of Jesus** as Mayu cut my hair.

Mayu said that she always believed there was a "God" (since music must come down from heaven), but she didn't know who God is. I told her that I could try to tell her who God is, but if I did that, it would just be a human's word. Why not ask God to tell her who he is? After I came home, I was happy about our conversation but was wondering what the next step should be. Should I push forward or wait for her lead? Then, within a day, Mayu texted me saying that she wants to know more about God. What should she do?

I replied, suggesting that we read the bible together.

It turns out that Mayu loves reading books and she used to read the bible in the library of her elementary school! Also, her classmate saw Mayu reading the bible in the school library and offered to read together. (The classmate was member of the Jehovah's Witnesses) This **young "evangelist"** visited Mayu every week, and they read the bible together at the entrance of Mayu's house.

I also found out that God has been speaking to her through classical music.

Now (so many years later) God brought Mayu and me together to read the bible and pray for each other. Reading the bible with her has been a delightful experience! Her comments are inspiring and thought-provoking.

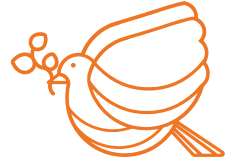
Here are some quotes from Mayu during our discovery-bible time...

- Doesn't the church we have now look very different from the church in the bible? What happened? Is it like playing whispers or the telephone game? (to which I replied. "Yes...so it is important to get the message directly from the source, isn't it?")
- Oh, I got it! So, Ecclesia is supposed to happen at homes, on the street and in the wilderness!" (I am thinking *where do we find wilderness in Osaka...? A shopping mall?)
- I meet so many Christians (or people who are interested in the bible) at my salon. Why are there so many Christians in this neighborhood? (Are we talking about the same neighborhood?)

Please **pray for Mayu** as she begins her new life in Jesus.

Let's also **pray for that JW child evangelist** - that she will come to know Jesus as not only God's son but as her God.

Thank you for your prayers,
Cory & Masami



Praise Items

- For Ishikawa Trip: We praise God for the unique group he formed for this trip (Two teens, Two street evangelists, Two Pastors)
- For MB Pastors Family Retreat: We thank God for the three days we had with these precious brothers and sisters in Christ. Please continue to pray for them as they lead our group.
- For the completion of the first-ever Soul Care seminar with Japan MB Pastors! Praise God for these three pastors and their interest in doing Soul Care in their local churches.

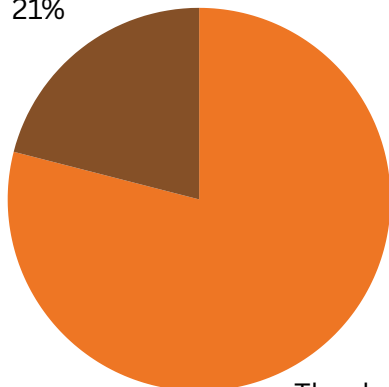
Prayer Request

Our Budget Needs

Please join us in prayer
that this need will be met
by November

- August 21st Our son, Noah, leaves for Canada for his university.
- Roses Park Church (Wednesdays)
- Osaka Castle Park Outreach (Fridays)
- August 31st Christian Foster Parents Prayer Gathering
- Sep.13th Tobita (the largest brothel district in Western Japan) Worship Night
- Sep.21st Kids in Care Awareness Seminar at Ishibashi Church
- Sep.26th Our foster son K moves temporarily to another foster home
- Sep.29th We leave for Canada!

Still need
21%



Thank you!
79%

For more information on how to give financially,
please check out the web site or contact our office.



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Thank you for your partnership with God's work in Japan!