

HOPE FOR JAPAN

OCTOBER 2011

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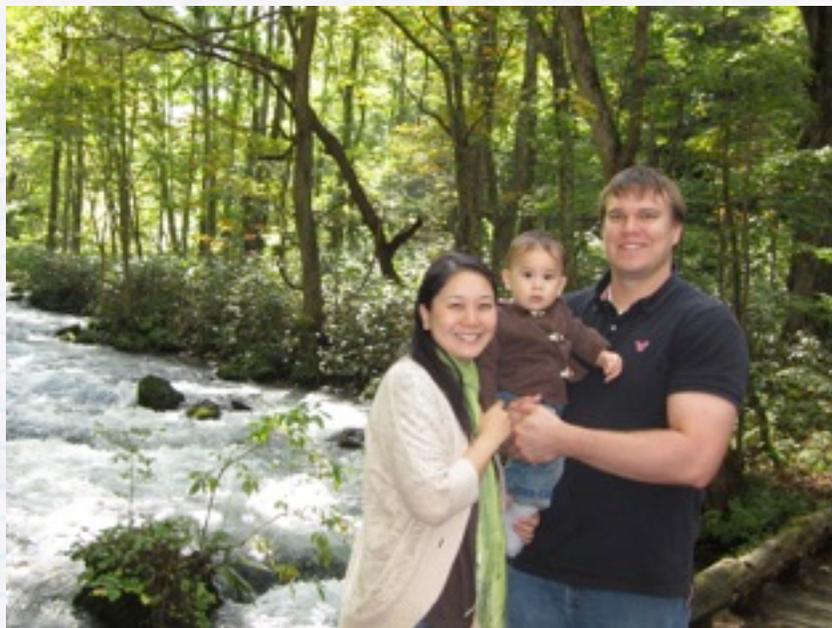
Visiting Misawa

Every year all of the Japan Baptist Convention churches in Tohoku area (northern Japan) gather for a meeting and fellowship. Each church gives an account of the previous year's activities. We were privileged to attend the meeting this year. It was great to get to know Japanese believers and talk about how we can partner together as we reach out to those who don't know Him.

This year, Misawa Calvary Baptist Church hosted the meeting. Misawa is home to an American Air Force Base so there are a lot of Americans who attend this church. The gracious ladies served American food for lunch and supper. It was great!

It was also great to attend an English worship service. The pastor encouraged us to work together for His kingdom. We also had the privilege to meet some of the young people who attended.

Please remember to pray for the churches who are ministering to the Japanese communities.



Family Time in Aomori

On our way home from the meeting, we were treated to a tour of the Oirase River in Aomori prefecture. There is a lot of history here with Yu's family. After seeing the trees and waterfalls, it was easy to see why this is a well visited place. It is refreshing to see the crystal clear water that flows down the river from the waterfalls. The picture

above is in front of one of the many white rapids we saw. It seemed like a great place to take a family portrait. It is easy to forget about the beauty Japan has to offer when dealing with rebuilding the east coast. But, as you can see, Japan is a beautiful country and has many places for you to visit! You are always welcome to come visit us!



WE HAVE BEEN HAVING A GREAT FALL SEASON! WE CARVED THESE PUMPKINS WITH THE CHILDREN AT ENGLISH CLASSES.



MICHAEL HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO PREACH.



AT THE MEETING WE ATTENDED IN MISAWA. WE HAD A BLESSED TIME OF FELLOWSHIP.

Pumpkins, Candies, Games, and God's Love

When we lived in Texas, we always enjoyed helping with our church's fall festival. We asked our Japanese church leaders if we could host our first ever fall festival and all the leaders loved the idea!

The festival began with each class from the kids English camp demonstrating what they had learned that week. You could see that they worked really hard to memorize the songs and English phrases. We were really proud of their efforts.

We were so pleased to have the teams from Hawaii and Bangkok join us. Everyone was great with the kids. More than thirty-five kids participated as well as their parents. This year we had pumpkin bowling, pumpkin ring toss, fishing game, bean bag toss, and face painting. For snacks we had chili, hotdogs, spam musubi from Hawaii, Kool-Aid, and American candies. YUM!

We also had additional kids from the neighborhood who were just passing by and asked to join. We have heard tremendous feedback on the event and we hope to do it again next year. Some families started to come to church on Sunday! Praise God!

A young lady who came to our church was presented with the gospel and was ready right then to accept Christ. That's phenomenal. She came back to church next Sunday and wanted to study the Bible. We are praying for her and will follow up on her progress.

The very next weekend we packed up the car and headed to Sakata Mission Church on the west coast and had a fall festival for their children. We had fourteen children and everyone had a blast. Michael gave a short children's message and helped the children practice English. They loved it!

FALL FESTIVAL



DISASTER RELIEF



Sending books and snacks to the kids in Fukushima.



Helping clean up a condemned house.



Encouraging those whose home was condemned.



Delivering food to the tsunami-hit areas.

Student Ministry



We had a great month with our students! The Bangkok team helped with the student ministry as we hosted a game night. One particular favorite was ping pong hockey. Two teams surround a table and each team had to blow a ping pong ball to their goal to score. It took a bit more skill than one would think. They also helped the middle/high school students with English phrases that can be very helpful when dealing with English speaking visitors. It was a great chance for the students to meet foreigners and also see how much people from around the world care about them. We can't thank the team enough. We hope that they were blessed as much as they blessed those they met!

Thank You!!!

October was a huge month for disaster relief and student ministry. The teams from Hawaii and Bangkok were such a blessing. They had such a willing heart and didn't think twice about answering any need. They helped an elderly couple move important documents and keep sakes from their condemned house. The earthquake destroyed the roof of the house and allowed rain to enter and damage much of the furniture and structure. By this time it was a very dirty job and the teams got to work and helped.

October has also brought cooler weather but the work in the tsunami areas is still ongoing. We were able to follow up with some of the people we have been helping with food. Every time we visit, we try to find out what they might need. They are so humble they often tell us they are fine and do not need help. Yet, you can see in their eyes that they long to talk to someone and just being there is what they needed.

We also had an opportunity to give books and snacks to the children from Fukushima whom we had met at the meeting in Misawa. They are still very stressed due to the environment in which they live. They cannot play outside so it was a blessing to just be able to stand outside and enjoy the open air. Please continue to pray for them.

English Classes

You may recall that in our last newsletter we mentioned restarting English classes. We were unsure how many kids would come. The classes are open to children of all ages and parents are encouraged to attend as well. We were so pleased when we had over twenty-five kids and a handful of parents the first night.

We had new children every week and those who used to attend years ago came back as well. We also had some families from a nearby neighborhood start attending because of the flyer handouts delivered announcing October's events.

The team from Bangkok added a lot of flavor to the class. We held a three day kids English camp. We had nearly thirty kids each night which broke off into three classes. The kids were so excited to meet the team members and the team did a great job of teaching various English songs, phrases, and words to the kids. Even the parents got a class to learn important English phrases to use around the house with their children.

We pray that more kids will be able to attend as word spreads about the class. We only have a few more weeks left for this semester so we are working hard to keep an edge for next semester. Perhaps some of our readers would like to help by coming here to teach an English camp next semester. It is a great opportunity to share your time with a great group of kids. Japanese is not required! Remember this is English. We look forward to working with you and the kids will love you for it.

Thank you for your continued prayers as we minister to these precious children!

PRAYER REQUEST

1. Safe passage to Texas
2. Children who have attended the English classes
3. Open doors for college ministry
4. People willing to serve with us
5. Strength for church leaders
6. Clear vision from area churches
7. People in the temporary housing
8. God's guidance as we share our story with others in America
9. Michael as he prepares for Japanese classes
10. Health for Luke

Word from Luke

Autumn is finally here! Mom and Dad have been so busy with events. I've met a lot of cool people. What a great time I've had. Check out my costume. Can you guess what character I am? The teams from Bangkok and Hawaii were so nice. I hope to meet them again some day. Have you heard I'm going to Texas? I can't wait to meet friends and family. See you soon!

