August 2011

Into His Hands

Monthly Mission Prayer Report for Joel Osborne

(Pictured Above): a few of the young people from Singapore and Malaysia asked if they could pray for Atsushi, Sasha, Kendon and me. This happened numerous times for me with many from different nations. How encouraging!

A Time To Refocus & Refresh

August was a month to reflect on where God is leading us, and then follow where He leads.

At the time of writing this report, we are nearing the six month mark of the natural disaster that hit East Japan. Just now, I feel like the emotional toll is becoming deeper and more obvious, and exhaustion is beginning to build as people try to face this challenge. I can see evidence of that at Mito Church too.

For that reason alone, this has been a crucial month to step back, evaluate and refresh for the long road ahead of us. It is my prayer that supporters and prayer warriors in other nations will recommit to praying for us at this time of great need, and continue to be supportive of me financially and emotionally.

AMF 2011/Cambodia

This year's theme at AMF was "Faithful for Fifty" since it was the 50th Anniversary. Several from Japan joined and went to Cambodia as well. Page 2

Disaster Relief

Relief work continues in the Tohoku area on a regular basis. Read about some of the challenges and upcoming shifts in our work. Page 3

Mito / Support Needs

Get 'up to date' on how God is working amongst us in Mito. Also, I will provide an update about my financial situation and needs. Page 4

(Above) Those from Japan gather to be prayed for

(Below) with my friend, Tum, from Chiang Mai

(*Above*) A good moment alone

(*Below*) Atsushi, Akiko and one of our kids teaching

"Faithful For Fifty" – 50th Asian Mission Forum in Chiang Mai

Robert Reagan and Mark Foster served as hosts of this year's AMF in Thailand. It was a occasion marking 50 years of the Forum. Blessed in worship, fellowship, learning and times of rest, I felt like God gave those of us from Japan what we needed. The number of participants from Japan neared 20, which was the largest number since I began going in 2001. My first AMF (of now seven, one of which we hosted) was in 2001 with Jonathan Straker in Chiang Mai, before we moved to Japan, so this was a kind of 'homecoming' of sorts.

The encouragement and support we received from fellow Christians throughout Asia, and from New Zealand and Papua New Guinea was a gift from God. A special offering was taken for our relief work, in which US$4000 was given. Many people prayed with and for us.

Next year's forum will be hosted by yours truly (me!) in Kuching, East Malaysia on Borneo Island. Please pray for the responsibility ahead and that it will be a time of encouragement and refreshing for those who attend.

'Love & Serve' – 8th Trip to Cambodia –

Since the disaster, I felt like I haven't had much time or energy to think about or do anything else. Following the AMF, twelve of us from Mito and elsewhere in Japan joined another 10 people from Singapore and Malaysia to serve again in Cambodia. It was so good to get back into some kind of 'regular routine' of ministry from before. This was our eighth 'Love & Serve' trip serving together in Siem Reap. I found myself spending more time in relationships and mentoring with the children. They are growing up, and that means there are new sets of challenges (smile). It is rewarding, though, to watch as they mature and grow, and as their character develops.

Three highlights would be: a) Takumi's continued growth, b) sharing this time with Atsushi, and c) witnessing Mito Church's generosity even in the midst of our relief work.