

Jan-Mar 2013

Being His Hands

Mission Work Report & Prayer Requests for Joel Osborne



The Best Easter Ever: Hiroaki's Baptism

The power of Jesus' resurrection was even more deeply felt as this young Japanese man gave his life to God

He came to Mito church in August 2010 to meet his friend and her mom who were planning to clean the church. Hiro helped them but never realized the change in his life to come. Since then, Hiro has become such a big part of our lives.

After graduating from university and working in the US for a year, his dream was to travel and help find ways to fight poverty and corruption. He shared in his testimony before his baptism that the world peace he was seeking was difficult because his own sin

created a lack of peace within him and others.

I began to see marked changes in his life after his first trip to Cambodia in December 2010, and again when he began to live and work with us in the disaster relief since April 2011. So I wasn't surprised when he told me his decision at the end of January. After sharing with his decision and journey with his parents, and after a month long hospitalization, I baptized Hiro on March 31. What a powerful, joyful Easter celebration! Praise God!

Moving Along

Every month I look back and wonder how God did all that He has done. Calendars are full, but my heart is also filled with thanksgiving. **Page 2**

Hands At Work

A team of 19 of us from Japan and Singapore do an Easter program, dental clinic and water well for a family in Cambodia. **Page 3**

Family Health Issues

The last few months have been filled with trials to walk with God faithfully through the ups and downs with family health issues. **Page 4**



(Above) the party after Hiro's baptism; with Daisuke (next to be baptized) and with Yuko & Yoko from Sendai & Morioka churches; my Mito family and Singapore interns at Kendon & Faith's farewell; **(Below)** the park pavilion being built in Ishinomaki, we work with Beth & the kids in Ishinomaki



Moving Along In Mito: Young Seekers, Relief, Future Prep

It is the beginning of April which is always filled with tasks as we close the past fiscal year in March, and begin a new one in April. I've now been in Mito three years and no year has been the same. Last month was filled with goodbyes to dear friends, like Ben & Erica Berry, and Kendon Murrell and Faith Ng. We're preparing for the new AETs, including my nephew, Daleth. Two interns from the Pasir Panjang church in Singapore arrived to spend 2 months with us. So life and ministry continue.

Mito church is in the process of selecting and affirming some new leaders. We will be selecting some who are young or inexperienced, and they will grow and learn as they lead. We covet your prayers in this process.

One of our young people, Daisuke, has expressed his desire to become a Christian. He and I are now walking through that preparation process and talking with his family. Please pray for him, and I hope to have some more good news soon. Also, keep praying for our other seekers: Takumi, Ryotaro and Mai, Setsuko, Megumi, Natsumi, Mizuki, and Shunsuke. We have been having many young people, especially from

Ibaraki Christian University, some of whom did exchange programs at OC, and I will begin going to campus once a week when I'm in Ibaraki. I am speaking in chapel on April 17.

Two years have been completed in the work surrounding the disaster. Gaku resigned as a staff to teach fulltime. Hiro and Emiko continue to work fulltime with me, but are considering what God has planned next for them as they seek to continue to grow for God's glory and for His kingdom here in Mito and in the world. We completed the park project, and our focus is primarily visitation and support for evangelism, including children's and youth programs/events. I am doing counseling with a couple who want to do a ceremony. They are already legally married, but haven't had a celebration of some kind, and they come from very challenging, broken family backgrounds.

Finally, please continue to pray for my furlough coming in September. I will only have about a month but I am looking for individuals and churches to begin, continue or increase support for the ongoing kingdom work in Asia.



(Left to Right, Top to Bottom) 1. Smey & Kristin, 2. Donner checks teeth, 3. Group Pic at a Banyan tree near the temples, 4. Me, explaining meds to a school girl, 5. Funds donated by Mito, Bedok and St. Catharines Ontario churches purchase the new BCS van, 6. Takumi & the girls, 7. Klee's tooth extraction

Being His Hands At Work: Teaching & Easter, Dental Care, Clean Water Well

Our March trip to Cambodia was blessed again in so many ways. Unfortunately, Hiro's hospitalization left us short one team member, but eleven of us made the journey from Japan and partnered with seven from Bedok church in Singapore.

By March, the school had over 130 students attending and studying English. It is always encouraging to go periodically and see how the school develops as more of the children's artwork are displayed, and as their English ability improves. This time, we were able to find 25 new students who were to enroll in April, and we also providing professional training both for the teachers and for the school manager.

Additionally, two dentists from the church in Singapore came and did Love & Serve's first ever dental clinic. Over four days, they examined 209 children and did 82 extractions! I was so impressed with how gentle and loving they were with the children. I got to be "nurse" as I registered the kids beforehand, and then

administered medications after they had seen the dentist. The dental clinic was a lot of work and so rewarding.

Both at BCS and at one of the local schools, we did an Easter-themed program. You should have heard the peals of laughter and seen the look on the kids' faces as they did their first-ever egg hunt. Our team did a great job with teaching English, playing games and doing crafts, and singing "Lord, I Lift Your Name On High" and other praise songs with the kids.

The most touching story was helping a family of two children attending our school. Neither parent has higher than a first grade elementary education. They are very poor, and had no water source. They would buy from neighbors when they had money, and use stale water collected in hole by rain when they didn't. Two of our university students who had raised money amongst their school friends decided to pay for the well. The family was overjoyed. May God continue to use us to bless, and to share Living Water as well.

One Thing After Another

Walking hand in hand with Jesus in the midst of trials takes faith and commitment

In my last report, I shared about navigating storms as a church leader. In these past few months, I have constantly navigated storms in my personal life with family health issues. As I write this report, I'm battling jetlag, having arrived in Canada from Japan when my mother asked me two weeks ago to make a trip to see my parents. Dad has started dialysis, broke his leg, suffered a heart attack, is being tested for possible return and spread of cancer, as well as dealing with all of the other medical complications...and that has all happened in about 2 months. Most days, Mom and I have been in the hospital with Dad. While his condition has improved from two weeks ago, his overall health concerns are serious and ongoing. It has been a blessing, however, to be with family at this time and to be reminded of how much love and support I have received from those who've known me since I was born.

Additionally, both sisters have had surgeries, one of whom had a major surgery to remove a large tumor from the base of her brain which affected other things like eyesight, hormones and balance. Thankfully, both sisters are recovering well. Lastly, Hiro was admitted into the hospital for pleurisy of the lungs caused by tuberculosis. His situation, also very serious, is improving greatly and while he is still resting at home throughout the month of April, they've put him on a round of medication for 9 months. He is currently spending weekends with us in Mito, and resting at his parents' house during the week until his first appointment with the doctor on April 18. Then he hopes to be back in Mito fulltime and begin work again at the beginning of May.

For the most part, I am doing relatively well, all things considered. I have my own appointment and tests on April 16, just to be sure all is okay physically. The love, support and prayers of people all over the world has made such a big difference too. I apologize that I've not had the wherewithal to respond to each person individually, but your prayers and messages have been so meaningful to me and to my family. Admittedly, I feel deeper levels of stress and try to be more conscientious about sleep as I feel emotionally tired as well as physically tired. I confess I felt badly as each Facebook post seemed like another piece of bad news needing prayer. But I am so grateful for how people have responded. Please continue to pray for me, for my family, for Hiro and for the church as we walk through these trials. Thank you for your understanding and support.

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Being His Hands is a mission report and prayer list for Joel Osborne in his work in Japan.

Partnering with the Mito Church of Christ leadership, my work is overseen by the Bramalea Church of Christ in Brampton, Ontario, Canada. The Mito, Japan and Bedok, Singapore churches work together in Cambodia at BCS.

Thank you for your partnership. If you know someone who wants to receive this, or if you want to be removed from this report list, I can be contacted at the following address:

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