

JAMES, Bill

Serving in Colorado w/Baptist International Mission

September 2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is now the end of August and time for me to report events taking place after Elsie's home-going. Thanks to those who contributed to my Ministry Support Fund at B.I.M.I. A/C 75.

The June 10th Memorial Service was a blessing. All but my daughter Debby was able to be with us. Debby has been ill for some time, just now at the end of August, she was operated on, and as of today, Saturday, August 30, is in the painful period of recovery.

Most of you received a copy of the Program. If not, please email me requesting one at: prayiruma@juno.com. Pastor Koji Shimizu also came from Japan, and stayed with me for five days before returning to prepare for our July 6 Japanese Memorial Service, which was well attended. My 95 year old friend, Professor Hashiba brought his daughter and grandson. I think it may have been the first time daughter and grandson heard the Gospel. Some came that I had not seen in 20 years or more. The Iruma church facility is not large enough to accommodate the expected crowd; we rented the Green Hill church building, belonging to the Japan Alliance Christian church denomination, for the evening.

PRAYER REPORT:

The problem is not getting people saved in Japan, it's getting them lost. Let me compare Japan with China! You may have heard there is an estimated one hundred fifty million Christians in China today! There are two government recognized Christian groups. One is Catholic and the other is the: Three-self denomination which means Self propagating, Self financing, Self sustaining. No help or foreign influence. Bibles printed in China go to this denomination. During the Olympic Games, some people were caught smuggling 300 Bibles into the country. These Christians were deported and allowed to take their Bibles with them. Had the smuggling succeeded the Scriptures would have gone to believers in the unregistered churches.

As in Japan, there is a need for pastors. Only the approved churches have seminary training schools. Dallas Theological Seminary has an on-line course. Hopefully, this training reaches over the government firewall. There is more that can be said at a later time.

In January 2009, Japan will hold its 150 year anniversary. To learn about this beginning and the missionaries who opened the way, you should read a good history of Japan. They learned the language, wrote a dictionary, and translated the Bible into Japanese. There is no Japanese word for sin, as taught in God's Word. They had to coin and patiently teach. They learned the problem is not getting people saved but to understand they are lost and going to Hell unless they repent of their sins and believe and trust in Christ Jesus, the ONLY SAVIOUR. Pray as never before for Japanese Nationals to fill the pulpits. We have at least two good Japanese Bible Schools. They are ready to take in ministerial students.

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