

Merry Christmas from the Borders

Now when **Jesus** was born in **Bethlehem**...there came **wise men** from the east...and when they were come into the house...they **presented** unto Him **gifts**. Matthew 2: 1,11



The gift of...**Family**

Cassie, Brad, & Emmalina

Becky, Zachary, Dan,
Alicia, and Nathaniel



The gift of...**Parents**

Renee's Dad, Don Sisk, celebrated his 90th birthday in 2023.



The gift of...**Eternal Life**



Tomoko (middle) was baptized in April.

The gift of...**God's Word**



Dayton Ladies Bible Study

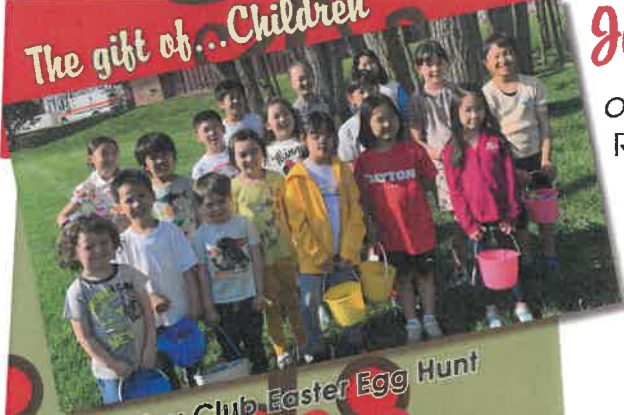
Every good **gift** and every perfect **gift** is from above, and cometh down

from the **Father**. James 1:17



...the **gift** of God
is eternal life through
Jesus Christ
our **Lord**,
Romans 6:23

The gift of... **Children**



Troy Joy Club Easter Egg Hunt

The gift of...
Renewed Acquaintances



Tom and Mr Enomoto, a former neighbor in Japan.

Renee is with ladies who formerly lived in Troy, Ohio....now living in Utsunomiya, Japan

The gift of... **Travel**



Paige (former piano student of Renee's) and Jeff Brown traveled to Japan with us in June. They plan to go to Japan as missionaries in January '25 with Baby Boy Parker.

We went to Japan in June for 3 weeks and traveled to 9 locations having reunions with 85 individuals and visiting 3 churches.

For by **grace** are ye **saved**
through **faith** it is the **gift** of God.
Ephesians 2:8



The gift of...
Salvation



Eriko and Rika were saved in Ohio... now, in Japan, attending a weekly zoom Bible study Renee teaches.

The gift of...
Love and Laughter



Troy Ladies Craft Class

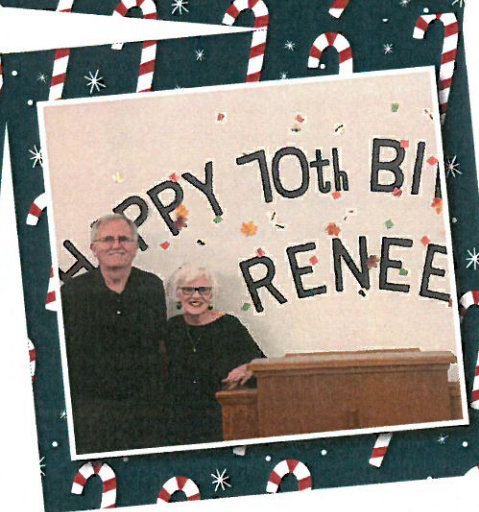
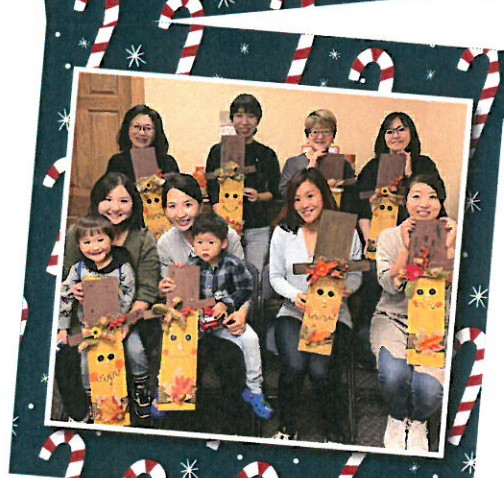
“But He was *wounded* for our transgressions,
He was *bruised* for our iniquities; the *chastisement* of our peace
was upon Him; and with His *stripes* we are *healed*.” *Isaiah 53:5*

- 7 **January** The ministry for children called Joy Club began the “**JESUS IS...**” series. Each month’s memory verse and Bible story focused on one of Jesus’s wonderful characteristics.
- 7 **February** **Chika** made a profession of faith in Christ unto salvation, and we said “farewell” to both **Chika** and **Chie** when their families returned to Japan.
- 7 **March** Our older daughter, **Becky**, gave birth to our fourth grandchild, **Zachariah (“Zachary”) Andrew Sietman**.
- 7 **April** **Three Japanese families** joined us at one of our supporting churches on **Easter Sunday**, followed by dinner at our home.
- 7 **May** The Joy Club children’s mothers joined them for a **Mothers Day Tea** featuring Tom’s composition “Concerto For Spoons and Pots,” based on the tune to “I Have the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy” with the mothers and children performing. **Cassie** celebrated her 40th birthday.
- 7 **June** The Joy Club children’s fathers joined them for a **Fathers Day–themed Club**, ending with a wiffle ball “homerun derby.” Later in the month, **Taro and Izumi Miyoshi** visited us one weekend on their way from Florida to San Francisco and a move back to Japan. **Izumi** prayed to receive Christ as Saviour in our living room. They met us for our church’s corporate worship meeting the next day.
- 7 **July** We traveled to Chattanooga, Tennessee, for **BIMI’s Enrichment Week** for missionaries and stayed with **Dad Sisk**. After that we were able to visit with some of **Tom’s cousins** and some **long-time friends** in the Atlanta area.
- 7 **August** A record high for the ladies summer picnic evangelism outreach was reached in 2022 with a total of **9 new ladies**. A **Sayonara Summer** kickoff event for fall classes brought several more first timers.
- 7 **September** The 2 weekly Ladies Bible Studies began “**A Journey Through The New Testament**” with **2 new ladies per class**. The **English Bible class** also welcomed **2 new ladies**, and the monthly craft and potluck resumed.
- 7 **October** **Renee’s former piano student and her husband** surrendered to God’s call to go to Japan as missionaries.
- 7 **November** **Becky and Cassie** threw a surprise party for their **Mom’s 70th birthday** a few weeks prior to Renee’s actual birthday which was on Thanksgiving Day.
- 7 **December** **We thank our God “upon every remembrance of you.”** Looking forward to a new year of ministry.



BIMI

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Tom & Renee Border

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August 21, 2022

Dear friend, who in some way has helped to shape who we are and what we do:

Greetings in the name, which is above every name, Christ Jesus! At the end of June, we received a visit from Taro and Izumi Miyoshi whom we met “by accident” on Hollywood Beach, Florida, last October while we celebrated a belated wedding anniversary. As a child, Izumi had attended church in Okinawa, Japan. She was devastated when the lady who took her to church weekly, became suddenly ill and died. Izumi shared with us how that she could not understand why God would allow such a thing to happen. After several hours of sharing God’s Word with her, Izumi bowed her head and prayed to receive Jesus Christ as her Savior. She immediately encouraged Taro to believe. Taro has not come to faith in Christ yet, so please join us in praying for his salvation.

The over-the-summer picnics were successful in that they afforded opportunities to meet new ladies, as well as providing friends and acquaintances chances to gather again. Misa, a member of the weekly Tuesday Bible study, invited five new friends to come and ALL five of them are signed up to attend classes this fall.

Yoshino, a lady who traveled weekly from Richmond, Indiana, to attend our Tuesday Bible study and Wednesday English class, recently moved to Alabama with her family. Though Yoshino is not yet in Christ, she called Renee asking her advice about attending a Bible study that is being taught by a Japanese lady at a church near her Alabama home. Yoshino plans to continue attending our Tuesday Bible study via Zoom.

The fall season for ladies classes is about to kick off very soon. On Friday, September 2 a **Sayonara Summer** event is planned with several first time ladies already signed up to attend. The theme for the 2022 – 2023 Ladies Bible Study is *A Journey Thru the New Testament*. The Troy Bible study begins on September 9 and the Dayton Bible study begins on September 13. Please pray for Natsumi who helps with translating the written lessons into Japanese; she has a 2-year-old son and is expecting their second child in January.

Both Joy Clubs are going well. Mothers often tell us how much their children love to attend. We were reminded of that at our last Joy Club in Troy when, after being at the church building for 3 ½ hours, the kids still did not want to go home.

In late July the secretary of the church where we hold our Troy Joy Club and Friday ladies Bible study, called to inform us that their insurance agent advised them to have us get liability insurance since we are not members of their church. Please pray that we can get coverage and that we can be covered by the time the Bible study begins in September.

The tendency of the average Japanese to work hard is well-documented. In a February 16, 2015, article entitled “Miserly Use of Vacation Days,” the author points out that the year 2013 saw Japanese workers take only 9 out of 18.5 paid vacation days they are entitled to. Another static was 16% of the workers took no holidays at all. We have met a number of men who work seven days a week. While one can admire industriousness and dedication, those who know God’s Word can recognize overwork in Japan as yet another deviation from God’s original plan, i.e., one day of rest for every six working days. Dedication to their company and work makes it difficult for Japanese men in particular to develop relationships outside their workplace. Pray that all of our relationships would develop for the furtherance of the Gospel.

Until next time, remaining grateful to and for you, we are

Tom and Renee

“Finally, brethren, *pray* for us, that the *word* of the *Lord* may have free course, and be *glorified*...” 2 Thessalonians 3:1

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February 14, 2022

Dear Friend indeed:

Greetings in the love and grace of the LORD Christ Jesus! Please let us tell you how the year 2022 has begun for us.

Both Joy Clubs are proceeding well, with us seeing first-time attenders most every month! This is in spite of what one spiritual leader told us years ago, i.e. that "Japanese" prospects would be fewer here in the U.S. than in Japan. We actually have had many more Japanese acquaintances here than we did in our years of life and service in Japan. The Joy Club children are enjoying the new 2022 series on the life of Jesus. This month they learned that JESUS IS... Our Friend.

Haruno San, a member of the Troy Bible study, returned to Japan with her family last December. She had come to repentance and faith in Christ some months ago, so we were very glad to hear her tell us of her interest in connecting with a Baptist church in her hometown in Japan.

All three ladies classes started back up the first week of February and are resuming their study of the HEROES OF FAITH. We praise God for the four new ladies who began attending this month, one of which is the newest Joy Club mom. Pray with us for the salvation of Chika, who will return to Okinawa in April, and of Yoshino, who will most likely be moving back to Japan this summer.

As far from God as the Japanese culture has been and is, the influence of God's Word and His people on the Far East is evident. As you are aware, the Bible admonishes the saints of God to humble *"yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time"* (1 Peter 5:6). Consider the Japanese practice of bowing, especially upon meeting another person for the first time. Though it is usually done more or less automatically, it nevertheless shows that respect and humility have been built into Japanese culture. May the humbling of ourselves be genuine and heartfelt, not just a cultural, polite, and thoughtless expression.

Until next time, we remain...

Your fellow-servants for the Truth,
Tom and Renee

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified..." 1 Thessalonians 3:1

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March 6, 2021

Our dear friends:

We appreciate you and the confidence you are putting first in the Son of God, our Savior Christ Jesus, and after that, in us, some of His and your servants, debtors to the world's people who are even now walking in spiritual darkness, abject spiritual poverty, and spiritual death. Here are some of the things that God has been doing through us to dispel the darkness, relieve the poverty, and bring life to the Japanese part of mankind.

In January, Tom had conversations with Toru Kamiya and Carlos Elias, with Toru for another of many times and with Carlos for the first time. Toru was one of our Troy Joy Clubbers who is still without Christ, apparently not realizing his need for the forgiveness of sin. Carlos is a professor of music at a local Christ-honoring university who spent four years in Japan as a member of the Sendai (northern Japan) Philharmonic Orchestra's violin section; he would like to establish a student-exchange program with a like-minded-and-believing music professor in Japan. We know a Japanese professional violinist who fits this description and may be interested and able. Please pray for Tom's ability to communicate with the Japanese brother about this, as well as for Toru to come to repentance and faith.

Our 2021 Joy Club theme is SUPER STARS OF THE BIBLE. We began with "Who is God?" in January, "Esther" in February, and "Abraham" in March. We are praising God that, even in the midst of the pandemic, He has given us 4 new children in our Troy Joy Club. Shota Kaito has been a part of that Joy Club for several years and is soon to be graduating from the group. Pray for him and all the other children to be captured, saved, and sanctified by the Gospel, their family members as well. It looks like we will be able to meet with the Cincinnati Joy Clubbers on Easter Sunday for the first time in-person since last March. Pray that new children will attend our annual Easter Egg Hunt at both Joy Clubs.

The two ladies Bible studies' topic for the fall months was "The Beginning," the first 3 chapters of Genesis. During the spring months the topic is "The End," a panorama of the prophecy of the end times. Several ladies meet in person each week and others join via Zoom. It has been very exciting to see the spiritual growth of the believers in the classes and the growing interest and understanding of those yet unsaved. Pray for the salvation of Haruno, Yoshino, and Chika.

We can be very glad in the LORD that the Japanese people and nation ceased their hostility toward America starting in August of 1945, as their military surrender opened the door of extraordinary openness to the Gospel for the next twenty to twenty-five years, it seems. The Senri Newtown Baptist Church of Osaka is a vibrant testimony to that openness, as last month she celebrated the 55th Anniversary of her founding, with God having used Renee's father and original family to birth that church. Join us in praying that God would bring a spiritual awakening to Japan, convicting many more of her dear people of sin, righteousness, and judgement to come!

Yours in the partnership of Gospel proclamation,
Tom and Renee

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified..." 1 Thessalonians 3:1

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Updated Letter

October 26, 2021

Dear Interested and Greatly-encouraged-to-be-prayerful Reader:

Would you join us in blessing the LORD concerning at least some of His recent provisions for us as described in this letter? For starters, how about the partnership that you and/or your church may have with us in working to relay the Gospel to the Japanese people, or at least the mutual friendship which we have maintained by these occasional letters?

August 21 saw the resumption of the Troy (north of Dayton) Joy Club after the July break. What was possibly lacking in numerical strength (seven enthusiastic attenders) was more than made up for by the exuberance all of them displayed, including our granddaughter Emmalina, who has been able to participate a number of times in recent months.

The formal ladies meetings resumed in September after two or three months of outdoor picnics, with one additional meeting. Our Ohio sending church has often let us use their buildings for ministry, but it had been a good while since we used the facility this way on a regular basis. Renee began a weekly Wednesday English class using a child's picture-book version of the Bible to teach basic English and the Word of God at the same time. Several of those attending come 80 miles round-trip to participate, so, as no doubt you can imagine, we are very glad for their obvious interest!

We ask you to pray for the salvation and resultant sanctification of the following souls: Tsutomu, Toru, and Tatsuya (and Tatsuya's wife Narumi and two children) Kamiya; Shohei and Yuri Shibata and their two boys Yusei and Towa; Yoshino San (Mrs.), her husband, and their two children. There are a good number more, so please mention them also to the LORD who knows all about them.

While watching the postponed 2020 Olympics some this summer, we were reminded of the austerity with which Japan's and so many others of this world's governments have responded to the reality of COVID-19. Mankind is definitely prone to fear, are we not? Yet over and over again in the revelation of God that is His Word, the people of God are commanded to live by a higher standard, that of not fearing anything or anyone but Him alone, and the fear rendered to God is different: the highest respect, reverence, desire to seek shelter in, and obedience toward Him, not the cowering, hiding, and desire-to-escape something or someone which characterizes the usual kind of fear.

We cannot say enough to express our gratitude for the faithful praying, sending, and employing you churches and individuals are providing for us. But we must say it nonetheless: Thank you!!!

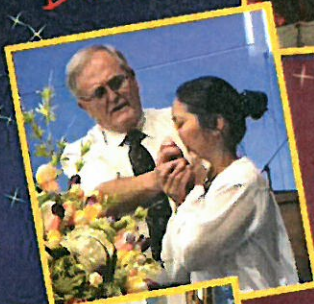
Until next time, we remain some of your friends and fellow-servants,

Tom and Renee

"Finally, brethren, *pray* for us, that the *word* of the *Lord* may have free course, and be *glorified*..." 1 Thessalonians 3:1

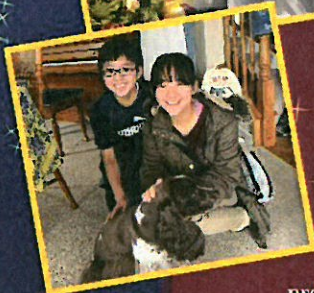
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Tom &
Renee
Border

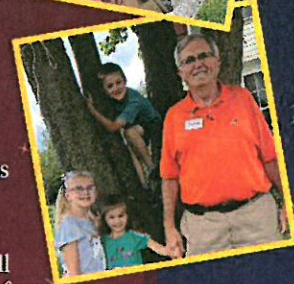


"LET HIM IN"

is our 2020 theme for our Japanese ministry Christmas outreaches. In Bethlehem, on that first Christmas day, there were large numbers of people who were unaware of the birth taking place in an animal stall that would forever change the world. Many descendants of David had travelled there for the census ordered by the Roman government, most with no clue about Jesus' coming. They could not *"let Him in."*



Even residents of Bethlehem did not know the all-important nature of the birth of Jesus Christ. The innkeeper who turned away Mary and Joseph was among them. He did not *"let Him in."*



This year may we not do as most and allow the preoccupation of the parties, decorations, and programs, all using the word "Christmas" but not concerned with the one after whom it is named, Christ, keep us from *"letting Him in."*



May this be our prayer: Dearest God. Please never let me crowd my life full to the brim, so like the keeper of Bethlehem's Inn, I find I have no room for Jesus. Instead, let my heart's door be ever open, ready to welcome the newborn King. We pray this for our Japanese friends as well.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support.



LET HIM IN



JESUS





Tom & Renee Border

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October 21, 2020

Dear praying friend:

Greetings in Jesus' name! Like yours, our ministry has had a different "face" these past several months, but we thank God that we have been able to continue.

Since June, we have been having our Troy Joy Club outdoors. The church building in which we meet in Troy has a huge field next to it with lots of tall trees. We set up tables and chairs under the trees for our singing, memory verse, and Bible story time. Each month we have had a special event day where we did things like an obstacle course, back to school games and crafts, and most recently, a Fall Festival. One big plus for our outdoor Joy Clubs has been that most every child has had at least one parent stay with them. This has given us the privilege of directly evangelizing the parents as well. Everyone participated enthusiastically and has no doubt been blessed by God in one way or another.

The church where we meet for our Cincinnati Joy Club has not held in-person services since March. For that reason, we have been working with the Cincinnati Joy Club remotely by video presentations, letters, and special packages through the mail. We really miss seeing the children face-to-face but were recently encouraged by a video made by a mom in which her daughter thanked us for teaching her about God.

From March until September, the ladies Bible study ministry continued by us sending out weekly devotionals or sermons from churches in Japan through e-mail, and uplifting and worshipful music via YouTube, along with doing some "front yard" visitation. On September 11, we were thrilled to have our first in-person meeting for ladies. We had "Tea Time" in our front yard as a kick-off for the fall ladies Bible studies, which started up the week of September 14. Starting on that day, the Dayton ladies Bible study, in addition to the ladies who are meeting at the church building for in-person Bible study, had seven ladies joining via Zoom. Yumiko returned to Japan last September but is able to join us every week for Bible study via Zoom all the way from Japan – at 10:30 p.m.! With a number of new believers and some non-Christians in the groups, we chose to do the study Who Is God? on the first three chapters of Genesis.

Reika, Ayako, and Eriko were baptized on March 15, the day of the shutdown. Both Reika and Ayako are involved and helping with various aspects of the ladies Bible study ministry. Eriko returned to Japan about ten days after her baptism and unfortunately has not yet been able to get involved with a church in Japan. Join us in praying about that.

Finally, please continue praying that Japanese people everywhere would realize their need for the only Savior, the LORD Christ Jesus.

With love and appreciation,

Tom and Renee

"Finally, brethren, *pray* for us, that the *word* of the *Lord* may have free course, and be *glorified*..." 1 Thessalonians 3:1



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Dear Praying Friends,

June 6, 2020

On March 15, we held a special combined baptismal service where Tom baptized three Japanese ladies: Ayako from our Troy, Ohio, ministry and Reika and Eriko from our Dayton, Ohio, ministry. All three ladies gave glorious testimonies of their salvation and Tom preached a sermon entitled "What is a Disciple?" The service was well attended with a number of unsaved family members and friends, including both Ayako's and Reika's husbands. Please join us in praying for their salvation. Eriko's daughter, Nanami, a piano student of Renee's, played the opening song and accompanied the first congregational song. Special music was provided by two American ladies; Julia played a medley of beautiful hymn tunes on the violin and, with some tutoring from Renee prior to the baptism, Sarah sang in Japanese. Everyone present ate dinner together at the end. What a memorable day it was!

Because of the shutdown order given by Ohio's governor that very day, we have not been able to meet in groups since then. But, praise the Lord, Risen Son Ministries is still reaching and teaching the Japanese community in southwest Ohio. We have been weekly emailing and texting inspirational Bible lessons and beautiful music to admonish and uplift the adults.

Our 2020 Joy Club theme is Joy Olympics. Even though the Tokyo Olympics have been postponed, we have continued Joy Olympics for our Japanese children via videos, emails, and sending out worksheets through the postal service. The videos include singing, along with Bible verse memory games and story. The theme Bible verse is Mark 16:15, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Every month a different country and missionary are spotlighted. It has been a positive way for us to bring the focus and need for Jesus to *♪♪ All the children of the world ♪♪*.

Beginning in May as the weather got warmer, we have been able to do "distance visitation." We schedule a time with our Japanese folks when we ask them to come outside once we arrive at their homes. Then we stand in their yards to talk and pray with them. There's nothing like face-to-face communication and we have ALL been encouraged and blessed!

On June 13, we have our first "drive-through" Joy Club scheduled. We will have various "stations" set up in the church parking lot and field behind the church where the kids can hear a Bible story, make a Father's Day Craft, go through an obstacle course, etc. The kids are very excited about "getting together" and so are we!

This summer we will add two more Japanese "grandkids" to our family. Haruno, from our Troy ladies Bible study, is expecting a baby girl on June 16, and Natsumi, from our Dayton ladies Bible study, is looking forward to giving birth to a baby boy sometime around July 18. Unfortunately the ladies' moms may not be able to travel from Japan to help them. Please pray for them to have safe deliveries and healthy babies.

Eriko and her two children flew back to Japan on March 24, just nine days after her baptism. Because of the "shut down" in Japan, she has not been able to connect with a church in Japan yet. She is still a baby Christian so join us in praying that she will be able to identify with a church in the very near future. Eriko's husband flew back to Japan to join his family and resume his work in Japan on June 4.

To the People from the Land of the Rising Sun in the Name of the Risen Son,

Tom and Renee Border

"Finally, brethren, *pray* for us, that the *word* of the *Lord* may have free course, and be *glorified*..." 1 Thessalonians 3:1



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March 9, 2020

Dear Fellow-Creature of God:

Good day to you and yours in the Name that is above every name, of course none other than Christ Jesus the LORD!

This new year of 2020 is full of activity in ministry, what with Joy Clubs and Ladies Meetings thriving each in two different locations. We greatly appreciate any and all praying that you have been doing on behalf of the people involved in these things. Please continue!

We do not know if you will receive this epistle before the wonderful event takes place, but on March 15 at 3:00 p.m. EDT, three ladies who have been saved in the last year or two will be following the LORD in believers baptism at our home church's building. They are Ayako, Eriko, and Reika. God began His salvation and sanctification work in Eriko's daughter, Nanami, last December, but each of the three ladies' husbands and other family members are outside of Christ; we are praying that any of them who can come will do so and, more importantly, believe on the LORD Jesus and be saved. Several of the saints from our home church in Dayton will be in attendance and helping. May our God touch each one who is connected to this really significant event, and show His great power to save and sanctify anyone who will call on Him in humility, repentance, and faith!

Eriko's family of four is returning to Japan this month as are the Sakenobes, a family who has been here only two years or so. We hope to host the Sakenobes in our home on March 22 in order to bid them farewell and to encourage them to seek the LORD. We ask you to pray for both families.

We understand that schools in Japan have been shut down as a precaution against the possible threat of Coronavirus infestation. Let us be praying that the fear and panic being experienced by so many in Japan and around the world would drive people to faith in their Creator as the only One who can ultimately deliver us from this and every other threat, both imaginary and real.

With much love and appreciation,

Tom and Renee

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Tom and Renee
BORDER



Our *Troy Joy Club* children donated Christmas gifts to children in the hospital.



Mayu and *Haruno* were excited to receive their new Bi-lingual Bibles.



Ayako and *Satomi* came for a "Tea Party" at the Border home.



At our *Summer Garden Tour* in July we read scriptures in Genesis about how "life began in a garden".

Merry Christmas 2019

And they came with haste, and found *Mary*, and *Joseph*, and the *babe* lying in a manger.
And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.
Luke 2:16-17



Tom & Renee Border

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October 28, 2019

Dear One for whom we thank God:

Grace and peace to you and yours from God, the Heavenly Father of all who believe on His Son Jesus Christ!

God blessed in various ways the Bible studies and picnics Renee planned over the summer. We usually take a break from Bible studies during the summer months due to most of the ladies and their children returning to Japan. This is so that the children can attend Japanese schools during the months of June and July. However, this year several of the ladies requested that we continue our Bible studies during the summer months, so we did. We also held monthly picnics and were thrilled to meet a number of new ladies.

On August 30 we hosted a "Sayonara Summer" luncheon in our home for ladies. Twenty-four ladies attended that day and fifteen of them signed up to join our weekly Bible studies which resumed in September. Three ladies who had attended one of our summer picnics for the first time were among those who are now attending a weekly Bible study. One group of ladies meets in the Dayton area on Tuesday mornings and the other group meets in Troy (45 minutes north of our home) on Friday mornings. The monthly craft and potluck outreaches are still bringing new ladies to us. This is another opportunity to share God's Word with them.

Probably the best item of news we have is that Yumiko Masuda professed believing in Christ unto salvation at our home on August 21. She and her family returned to Japan in September. Please pray for her growth in Christ and finding a good church to meet with in Japan. Also if you would, please pray for the salvation of her husband, two children, and extended family members.

In October, both the Troy and Cincinnati Joy Clubs had a great turn out for our annual JOY FAIR. The children will be doing a Christmas program in December. These events are always opportune times to proclaim the Gospel to the children, their parents, and other family members.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in us and the ministry God has through us to the Japanese people!

With love and appreciation, your missionaries to the Japanese people,

Tom and Renee

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Several dads were able to join their children for a special *Father's Day Joy Club*.



The annual *Easter Egg hunt* with the *Cincinnati Joy Club* children brought smiles to their faces.



Kai and his Dad were the *winners* of the *Joy Club contest*...tickets to a Dayton Dragons baseball game.



The *Troy ladies* were thrilled to make Farmhouse centerpieces at our monthly craft outreach.



Nathaniel, our 8 year old 2nd grader, loves to read and memorize God's Word. Our 4 year old preschooler, *Alicia*, loves all of God's creations, especially babies and animals.



Our *GRANDS*...*Alicia* as Mary, *Emmalina* as an angel, and *Nathaniel* as a wise man.



Emmalina is our 7 year old 1st grader who loves singing praises to God.

Tom and Renee
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March 18, 2019

Dear One:

The prospect of being with the LORD and His people forever keeps us on the alert for making disciples among the Japanese. As you probably know, the ladies and children with whom we work are definitely a ripe harvest field. Our best opportunities for reaching the husbands and fathers in their lives come through those ladies and children. Thank you for your ongoing prayers for us as we seek to befriend them and demonstrate the love of Christ in word and deed.

The children's ministry called Joy Club continues well in the two locations. The 2019 theme is JoyLand Adventures...finding "treasures" in God's Word. The children are making good efforts to memorize various Scripture passages, listen attentively to the Bible lessons, and come up with some really good questions and observations. Every year in the spring, Japanese families move back to Japan. Join us in praying that we will be able to help them find churches to attend in Japan.

Since September of 2018, the ladies classes in Dayton and Troy have been studying "What the Bible Says..." We are praising God that after hearing what His Word says about our purpose in life, love and respect in marriage, and forgiveness, several of the unsaved ladies who attended the monthly meetings (Bible study, craft, and pot luck) have joined our weekly Bible study groups.

The LORD has provided some part-time work for Tom, which is giving us much-needed income to supplement that which He provides using your churches and some individuals. It is a witnessing opportunity as well.

God is working in the lives of the former Chisa Kii (now Yotsumoto) and her family. Chisa came as a 4-year-old to the Joy Club we held in Japan and then lived with us here in Ohio for one school year while she attended an American university. Chisa's husband's company is moving this family of four from Japan to China! As far as we know, neither Chisa nor her husband Yuki have come to faith in Christ. Please pray that God will use this change in their lives to draw them to Himself.

Yours for ongoing partnership in ministry,

Tom and Renee



September 12, 2018

Dear One who may have more than a passing interest in what follows:

May the peace that surpasses all understanding be keeping your heart and mind through Christ Jesus! During the summer, Renee organized monthly picnics for the Japanese ladies and their children both in Troy and Dayton, as a way to “keep in touch” and hopefully meet new ladies. To our delight, a total of nine new ladies came to one of our picnics and five of them have joined our weekly Bible studies that have started up this month.

On Tuesday, August 21, Renee went to visit two ladies in Troy. Both of them had attended our weekly Bible study from September 2017 to July 2018 but had never yet come to faith and repentance in Christ Jesus. But, praise the Lord, August 21 was the day of salvation for both Makiko and Miwako.

We hosted a “back to school” brunch in our home on Tuesday, September 4, for ladies interested in joining our Bible studies. Our home was filled with the smiles and laughter of 23 precious Japanese ladies. The new weekly Bible study began in Troy on September 7 and in Dayton on September 11. This year’s study is “What the Bible Says.”

Our Joy Club kids are enjoying our 2018 theme of “Jesus Is . . .” (the Life of Christ) and are inviting their friends to come with them. Amen!

Please pray with us about wisdom to know steps we can take to supplement our income that has been deficient for years. There have been a number of possibilities that have opened up in recent weeks, so we are confident that God has something in store.

The past two years have been some of the most fruitful in our 31 years of ministry to the Japanese. If you are one of our financial supporters, we would ask that you prayerfully consider raising our monthly support. As a wonderful Christian businessman in our home church reminded us recently, “All good workers deserve a raise now and then.”

There have been a number of strong earthquakes and typhoons that have shaken Japan recently; Japan reportedly has the most active faults along tectonic plates of any spot on the globe. May we be praying that more and more Japanese people will come to know the Creator, theirs and ours, the One who controls everything including the earth, sea, and weather and that through these natural upheavals they may know that He alone is God!

Yours for ongoing disciple-making,

Tom and Renee



February 6, 2018

Dear Reader, of whom we are asking prayer, for whom we are praying:

Our annual Christmas Brunch for the ladies on December 8 was indeed memorable, seemingly favored of the LORD! Renee shared from God's Word that Jesus is the "LIGHT OF THE WORLD," a message that God used right away to bless those in attendance, judging by several favorable comments afterward. The blessed Spirit of God is, without a doubt, continuing His wonderful-though-largely-unseen work among our Japanese friends! The Tuesday Ladies Bible Study resumed on January 30 and continues this very day, combined with a craft that the ladies will find enjoyable.

The Christmas program that our Troy Joy Club children presented for their parents on December 16 was well-attended! If you prayed along those lines, thank you ever so much! All but one of the children had their entire family with them, and that one had all but the father present! God's Word does not return to Him void, but accomplishes what pleases Him; let us keep praying for His Word to increase and be glorified in the lives of these people, as it does with us who pray, worshiping in spirit and in truth!

January 3 saw Renee having long-needed surgery, with the immediate and crucial recovery period to last a minimum six weeks. That recovery period continues, with Tom providing needed care and various encouragements.

Renee's aunt Betty (her mother's sister) died on January 22. We traveled to the funeral place a few days later and afterward visited with Betty's sister and her husband who live nearby. The husband appears near death and has for some time seemed bitter against God, maybe not knowing true repentance from sin and faith toward our LORD, Christ Jesus. Thank you for praying for these individuals and families.

Renee and one of her protégée whom we have mentioned before, Taylor Phillips, would like to visit Japan this May as a part of Taylor's progress toward becoming a missionary to those people. Please talk to God about this. Also, at least Tom, if not Tom and Renee both, may be able to travel to Spain this summer as part of a short term mission sent out by their home church in Dayton. Please petition God about this as well, would you?

Japan needs the Gospel so much! Think of it: a 2000-year-old nation and people group that have only had the Bible around 150 years of that time! America would be quite different if she had only had the Bible proportionate to Japan's history, i.e., for the last 15-20 years!

Trusting you to keep praying and otherwise giving,

Tom and Renee

Light of the World

Then spake *Jesus* again unto them, saying, I am the *light* of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the *light of life*. John 8:12

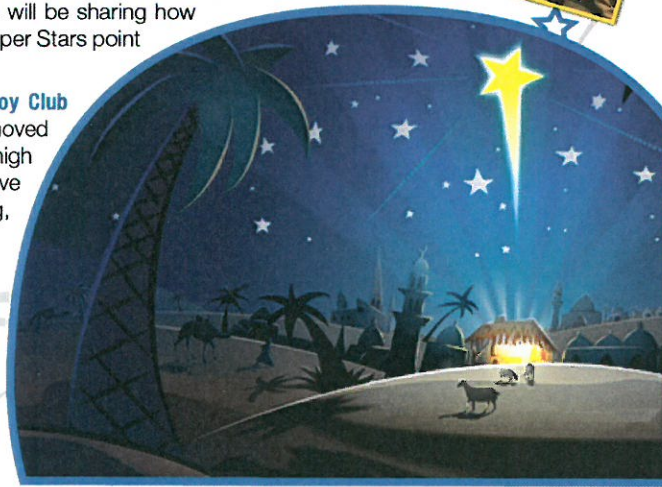
Dear Fellow-Worshiper of *King Jesus*,

Greetings at this time of the year when we thank God for the **gift of His Son**, who made Himself of no reputation and, though He knew no sin, became sin for us, so that we might be made the righteousness of God! May the LORD show you and your family members even more of His lovingkindness and goodness this **Christmas** season.

The **Suzuki family** is going back to Japan on November 28th. Both children, Shoma and Mio, attended our Troy Joy Club for about 18 months. For the past 4 months, the wife, Hiromi, has been attending a Bible study led by two American ladies. She attended our Dayton ladies' Bible study for the first time in November. Renee was able to share her testimony at that time. Join us in praying that all four of the Suzuki family can find some true believers in Japan whom the LORD can use to point them to repentance, faith, salvation, and discipleship in Christ.

Our **Joy Club** theme for 2017 has been **SUPER STARS of the Bible**. At our annual November Turkey Bowl Quiz event, we were thrilled to see how well the children remembered the Bible stories about Noah, Abraham, Ruth, and others. **"LET US GO TO BETHLEHEM"** is the title of the program that our Troy Joy Club children will be doing for their parents on December 16th. in which we will be sharing how each of the Old Testament Super Stars point to Jesus, the Savior.

Over half of our **Cincinnati Joy Club** children have recently either moved back to Japan or entered high school. We have been praying,





July 10, 2017

Dear praying friends and supporters:

Rejoice with us in the presence of Christ the King!

Renee's parents moved in with us the first of April, because Mom Sisk required around-the-clock assistance. As of sometime last Saturday morning between 1:00 and 1:30, God promoted her to Heaven. Funeral arrangements are being made for Chattanooga, Tennessee, on Thursday and Friday and burial on Saturday in her hometown, Nortonville, Kentucky.

The ladies ministry continues to see the hand of God upon it. God saved two of our Japanese friends recently, Emiko and Asako! Emiko needs a church connection in Japan soon, as she returned there recently.

Children's ministry (a.k.a. Joy Club) continues well. The Fathers Days Joy Club in Troy had two fathers come and join in with the program; pray for future opportunities to interact with both Mr. Okamoto and Mr. Kawamura and for their salvation and for the salvation of their family members.

The Hoshino family is to return to Japan this summer. Join us in praying that we would be able to have meaningful interaction with them before they leave and that the Word of God would find fertile soil in their hearts. We hope to have them over to our house before they leave.

Hiromi (Mrs.) Suzuki asked for a Bible. We will be inviting the entire family over to our house for dinner and friendship for the Gospel.

Please keep praying that God would get through to many more of the Japanese people, whose cultural orientation has remained as it is for the better part of 2,000 years. So many are without the knowledge of God! Tragically, the "god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not" in the "Land of the Rising Sun."

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and friendship as we strive to communicate the Gospel to those in our sphere of influence through our lives and words.

Sincerely,

Tom and Renee



February 28, 2017

Dear Friends, of whom we are asking prayer:

Thanksgiving and Christmas time celebrations were especially unusual for us in 2016, in that both days were spent with Renee's parents because we love them and they needed us to look after them in their hour of physical incapacity. Tom experienced personal revival during those days in Chattanooga, by the grace and power of our LORD Christ Jesus. We were still able to engage in ministry to Japanese people over the holidays, but had to modify it because of being away from the Dayton area.

In place of our annual Christmas Brunch for Japanese ladies, on January 13 we hosted a Winter Wonderland Brunch. The theme was "Whiter Than Snow." Special music was provided by Taylor Phillips, a 2015 college graduate who believes God is calling her to missions in Japan. Renee has been teaching Taylor the Japanese language since last summer. Pray for Taylor's health, which seems to be her biggest hurdle in working toward going to Japan. We praise the Lord for the first-timers who attended this evangelistic outreach, as well as Ayumi Rawlings, who had not come for several years.

On January 22, Tom met with Mr. and Mrs. Suzuki who are seemingly some of the most interested-in-the-Gospel Japanese people he has ever come to know. Their two children attend the Troy Joy Club. Also at the January Troy Joy Club, we met Mr. Ikeda and his daughter Noa (the Chinese characters in her name mean respectively "hope" and "love"), who seem especially "tuned in" to us and what Joy Club is really about. It is amazing that they were encouraged to participate by another family's husband and father! Mr. Ikeda consented to meet with Tom individually to foster friendship on February 25; it was a good first meeting. Keep praying please!

About a year ago, Renee met Eriko Miki. A week later, Renee began teaching piano lessons to Eriko's daughter, Nanami. Last September, Eriko began attending the Tuesday ladies' Bible study and has shown a growing interest in the Bible. On February 12, Eriko brought both her son and her daughter to the 2017 Cincinnati Joy Club "Super Stars of the Bible" kick-off. Even her husband came and we were able to meet him for the first time. Join us in praying for the salvation of the Miki family.

Finally, the Japanese people's word or expression that is the equivalent of the English "good-bye" or "farewell" has taken on a special significance to Tom these days. There is coming a day when we saints of God will no longer have to say "sayonara" to one another! May God make us holy and blameless at the day of His coming!

With love in Christ,

Tom and Renee

Merry Christmas from the Borders

Now when **Jesus** was born in **Bethlehem**...there came **wise men** from the east...and when they were come into the house...they **presented** unto Him **gifts**. Matthew 2: 1,11

The gift of...Family

Cassie, Emmalina, & Brad

Dan, Nathaniel,
Becky, & Alicia



God blessed our family this year with a new **GRANDdaughter, Alicia Michelle Siefman** born on January 7th.

The gift of...Parents



Praise the Lord for a godly heritage in Renee's parents, Don and Virginia Sisk. Join us in praying for them as they are both facing physical challenges.

The gift of... Eternal Life

Rika accepted Christ as her Savior after attending our Japanese ladies' Bible study for two years. Rika and her husband,



Miki moved back to Japan in March of this year. Pray for Rika to get involved in a local church and Miki to be saved. We stayed at their home in Toyohashi City in September.

The gift of... God's Word



In May, our weekly ladies Bible class completed a study of Women in the Bible and enjoyed time together at D's Victorian Tea Room.

Every good **gift** and every perfect **gift** is from above, and cometh down

from the **Father**. James 1:17



...the **gift** of God
 is **eternal life** through
Jesus Christ
 our **Lord**.
 Romans 6:23

The gift of... **Children**



The 2016 theme for both of our Joy Clubs, Troy and Cincinnati, was JOY OLYMPICS. In November, we held an international dinner for the families of the children, after which the children did a presentation of what they had learned through the year.

The gift of... **Renewed Acquaintances**



Mrs. Makiyama is the mother of Yuko, one of our Joy Club children in Akashi, Japan. Her husband was an English teacher and often helped Tom with translating sermons. Mr. Makiyama died a few years ago without knowing Christ. Pray for Mrs. Makiyama's salvation.

At the age of 4, Chisa came to our Joy Club when we started the Okubo Baptist Church in Akashi. After graduating from university in Japan, she came to Ohio and lived with us for a year to study English. We met her husband and daughter when we were in Japan in September.

For by **grace** are ye **saved** through **faith**

it is the **gift** of **God**.

Ephesians 2:8

The gift of... **Friendship**

Most of our Japanese friends are in Ohio for 3 to 5 years for the husband's work.



Our Troy ladies had a farewell luncheon for two "Ohio friends".

Tom and I had a reunion with a few of the Troy ladies who have returned to Japan.

The gift of... **Love and Laughter**



What a blessed 3 weeks we had in Japan from August 30th - September 23rd. We were treated like royalty with fine foods and beautiful cultural sights.

The gift of... **Salvation**



One of our greatest JOYS during our time in Japan was meeting the Hiragas. Yuko was in our Dayton ladies group and later helped us begin the Troy Joy Club and made professions of faith in Christ.



Tom & Renee Border

2670 Rockcastle Court • Miamisburg, Ohio 45342 • (937) 361-5323

November 15, 2016

Pastor Bruce Stewart and Open Door Baptist Church
17140 U.S. Highway 27
Clermont, Florida 34715

Dear Pastor Stewart and Church:

Greetings in the name that is above every name, Christ Jesus our LORD!

Please forgive this belated report on our trip to Japan and our acknowledgement of your gift of \$500.00 (five hundred dollars) to help us accomplish it. From the time we arrived in Osaka, Japan on August 31 until we left Japan from that same airport on September 23, we were busy meeting up with families and groups of friends ranging in number from two up to twenty-one at a time, through travelling to nine different places centrally located to facilitate meeting with the various ones who could do so. We began our tour by staying with the Nagasawa family near the famous deer park in Nara Prefecture. From there we went to Akashi City where we worked to establish Okubo Baptist Church; we held a reunion at a community center in Akashi for neighbors and church members. That evening we were able to meet with Pastor Ichiroh Asada who took over Okubo Baptist Church from us. The next day we worshipped with him and his church. Tom preached the message at that service.

God gave us a number of wonderful opportunities after that. To name a few in chronological order, there was some house-to-house visiting in Okubo; staying with the Kojimas in Shizuoka; reuniting with American missionaries Chad and Noriko Snow and former exchange student Kayoh in Tokyo; restaurant lunch and sight-seeing in Utsunomiya hosted by Katsutoshi and Hitomi Masuda; worship with City BC in Tokyo and lunch afterward with several we had not seen in several years; staying with Mr. and Mrs. Takaya in Kanegawa and visiting with ladies we met during our initial time in Ohio (1998-2001); staying with Miki and Rika Satoh in Toyohashi; shinkansen ("bullet train") travel; time in Nagoya with Tatsuya Kamiya, the Muragakis, and others in Nagoya; joining in the weekend 50th anniversary celebration of the Senri Newtown Baptist Church started by Renee's father and family including Renee; sightseeing with friends in Kyoto, the old capital of Japan; and ending our stay with Mr. and Mrs. Kawano, believers we knew from our first two years living in Japan. Several of these people are saved, but more are still without Christ.

We cannot thank you all enough for your part in this endeavor. Without your prayers and financial assistance, it would not have been possible.

In Christ, your fellow-servants, *Tom and Renee*

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified..." 1 Thessalonians 3:1



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Tom & Renee Border

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June 30, 2016

Dear Partners Who Pray:

The finest of days to you and yours through the renewed mercies of our eternally faithful God!

Our time in Missouri in mid-April was fruitful and enjoyable. Through it, the LORD impressed Tom of his need to be reminded frequently about the importance of relating to the churches that employ us. There is nothing like an in-person visit. The missions conference hosted by our home church in Ohio was also blessed of the LORD. These visits and experiences were truly spiritual “shots in the arm” for us both.

Our trip to Japan is scheduled for August 30 – September 23. During the month of June, Renee has been contacting friends all over Japan to arrange accommodations and reunions. We will be traveling to nine different locations during this 3-week-plus time period. If you or your church would like to contribute to this need, you may send your offering to BIMI Business Department, P.O. Box 9, Harrison TN 37341 and designate it as “Japan Trip 2016” for account #140. Whether or not you send material assistance, we do ask you to pray that God would use us to be a further witness and encouragement to those with whom we will spend time, both the saved and the unsaved.

On the ongoing Ohio-based ministry front, the latest is that the Ladies Classes are taking a break for the summer since so many families travel during these three months, often returning to Japan for the summer. Renee has been getting together with ladies individually and in small groups in less structured settings. Please pray for us as we select curriculum for the fall Bible studies and plan the event calendar. The two Joy Clubs are continuing with the “Joy Olympics” theme, featuring different countries and people groups each month. We praise the Lord for the great group of mothers and fathers who attended Joy Clubs with their children for special Mothers Day and Fathers Day events. Also, Tom continues to meet with men for evangelism and discipleship.

Recently we said “good-bye” to the Iwasaki family of four, i.e., husband Satoshi, wife Yukiko, and sons Kaito and Kento. Yukiko and the two boys returned to Japan on June 27, with Satoshi to follow in early September. Kaito has been a regular attender at the Troy Joy Club, Yukiko attended the Troy ladies class, while Satoshi has met with Tom for breakfast conversations on at least two occasions. Pray that they all may be saved and come unto the knowledge of the truth, please!

With love in Christ,

The Borders

E-mail: thomasb937@ameritech.net

“Finally, brethren, *pray* for us, that the *word* of the *Lord* may have free course, and be *glorified...*” 1 Thessalonians 3:1



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The Borders' request your prayers

April 13, 2016

Dear Praying Friend:

The Apostle John heard the voice of many angels round about the throne of God saying, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." (Rev. 15:12) This worthiness of the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world has always been true and will forever be true. We trust that you know this by personal experience of Christ's love and grace, and that you will pray for us to get this message to as many Japanese people as possible.

We spent most of the month of January in Wheaton, Illinois assisting our older daughter and her family following the January 7th birth of Alicia Michelle. She truly is "an heritage of the LORD," as Psalm 127 reminds us!

In February we began a new theme for the 2016 Joy Clubs: JOY OLYMPICS. In order to help the children see the need to "go into all the world" we spotlight a different country each month. The children learn interesting facts about that country, sample traditional foods from that country, learn a few words in the language of that country, and pray for a missionary in that country. The Joy Club children are very eager to attend and have been inviting their friends; a total of twelve new children have come in the past three months.

Since both the Japanese school and fiscal years are from April to March, the spring months are a time of saying good-bye to children, ladies, and families to whom God has given us the privilege of ministering and whom we have grown to love. In March, we saw two of our Troy families return to Japan, the Tsumagari family of five and the Motoda family of four. This spring, three ladies who attend our weekly ladies Bible study in Dayton will be moving back to Japan. Three other ladies in the Troy ladies class will be returning to their home country at the end of May. Please pray with us that we would be able to get them connected to churches near where they live in Japan.

From April 8 through April 18, we will have been able to visit two of our supporting churches in Missouri. Over the next several weeks, we are to be with a few more churches who faithfully support us, in order to give an update of the work that God has called us to do. We praise the Lord for all of His provision.

Lord willing, we plan to go to Japan for three to four weeks in September. We will be traveling all over Japan for reunions, in Okubo where we served for over eleven years (1987 - 1998) and also with believers and seekers of Jesus Christ that we met and ministered to in Ohio. If you or your church feel led of the Lord to help us fund this trip, please designate your offering to September Japan Trip, Border BIMl Account #140.

Yours for keeping our hands on the plough and not looking back,

Tom and Renee Border
2670 Rockcastle Court
Miamisburg OH 45342-7254
Tel. (937)361-5323
E-mail: thomasb937@ameritech.net

December 7, 2015

Dear Fellow-Worshipper-in-Truth:

クリスマスおめでとうございます! (Japanese) Feliz Navidad! (Spanish)! Joyeux Noel! (French) **Fröhliche Weihnachten!** (German) Buon Natale! (Italian) Kala Christou! (Modern Greek) No matter what language in which it is uttered, the “Merry Christmas” greeting is potentially sweet music to the ears of every human being, for it comes from the heart of the Eternal Composer of all such good “music” and the Master Orchestrator of the greatest “composition” in the history of mankind, i.e., the full effect and meaning of the eternal God’s taking on human flesh, becoming a man, culminating in His death of the cross, burial, resurrection, and ascension, with the promise of His return to reign forever as KING of Kings and LORD of Lords!

The LORD has granted us really fine experiences of His presence, assurance, and power since we last wrote to you, especially in terms of exceptionally fruitful Joy Clubs, ladies meetings, and one-on-one appointments with men. Note the following please!

Please pray for Mrs. Chieko Ando as she is hospitalized and on strict bed rest because her pregnancy is in jeopardy due to a placental abruption. The baby is not due until February 2 so the doctors are doing everything possible to save both baby and mother. Chieko and her husband were both saved in the early ‘90’s during the time they were attending college in Indiana. The Andos have been living in Dayton for the past five years. Chieko has been faithfully attending our weekly ladies Bible study and assisting with our Troy Joy Club. Chieko’s parents will be coming to Ohio on December 10 to be near her and to help care for Yoshika, the Andos’ 6-year-old daughter. Join us in praying as well for the salvation of Chieko’s parents.



Perhaps the most unusual appointment with/for men that Tom has experienced in recent memory took place on November 21. On that day he met not only with Mr. Takeyuki Kinoshita, but also with Mrs. Ran Kinoshita (Joy Clubber Sara's parents). All three of them seem to have a greater-than-usual interest in the truth of Scripture!

We are looking forward to two big events over the next 8 to 10 months. The first is our older daughter, Becky, expecting to give birth to our third grandchild, Alicia Sietman, around January 2. And the second is our first return to Japan in what will be six years, in late September 2016, when we plan to visit, witness to, and encourage the folks we worked with while living in Japan, as well as those who lived here in Ohio and with whom we worked before they moved back to Japan. All of these things require the LORD's mercy and provision. Join us in praying to this end too, would you?

If you and/or your church would like to contribute monetarily to the Japan trip, please designate your donation as follows: Tom and Renee Border's 2016 Japan trip, account #140, care of BIML, P.O. Box 9215, Chattanooga TN 37412-0215. Of course, we greatly appreciate your intercessory prayer for this good work, just now in the planning stage.

Until next time, we remain

Your servants, more committed than ever before to disciple-making among the Japanese and any other people God gives us,

Tom and Renee Border
2670 Rockcastle Court
Miamisburg OH 45342-7254
(Note that this is new) Tel. (937)361-5323
E-mail: thomasb937@ameritech.net



Tom & Renee Border
2670 Rockcastle Court
Miamisburg, OH 45342

Telephone • 937.439.0958
E-mail • thomasb937@ameritech.net
August 25, 2015

Dear loyal and praying friend:

Greetings in our LORD's magnificent and amazing grace and peace!
We trust that this note finds you and yours looking to Jesus the author
and finisher of our faith.

The LORD saved another of our friends since we last wrote to you! Perhaps you remember Tomoko Takamatsu nee Rodriguez, whom we have known for 13 years. We have asked you on numerous occasions to join us in praying for her salvation, as well as her daughter Myah's and ex-husband Eric's salvation. Just a few short weeks ago, a troubled Tomoko called Renee late one night prompting Renee to go over to her house that same night. In the wee hours of the next morning, Tomoko repented of her sin and put her faith in Christ, as indicated by the prayer in her own words Renee heard her offer to God. This summer, Renee has begun having weekly Bible studies with Tomoko. What a JOY it has been to see Tomoko's desire to learn the Word of God!

The Joy Clubs honoring Mothers Day and Fathers Day were blessed of God. Most of the parents were present in Troy and Cincinnati. Pray with us that God will enable us to establish relationships with each of them so that He will prepare the soil of their hearts for the Gospel. The new fall kick-off for both Joy Clubs is just around the corner.

June also saw Renee travel to Lancaster, California, to join her brother with the saints of the Lancaster Baptist Church in honoring their parents Don and Virginia Sisk's 60 years of ministry in service of our LORD Jesus. Tom met Renee and her parents at the Atlanta Airport so that Renee could be reunited with Tom and participate in a memorial service for his uncle who had passed away some time ago.

Renee is busily working on Bible study curriculum for the new fall quarter. This is always a challenge since the ladies vary in age and are a mix of new believers,

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:" 1 Thessalonians 3:1



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more mature believers, and unbelievers. Also pray that the special evangelistic outreaches for the ladies will encourage them toward faith in Christ. Already we know of one new lady who will join the weekly Bible study, and we are asking God for more.

The start of another school year also means that Tom can reconnect with men such as Messrs. Tsumagari, Masuda, and Iwasaki, as well as cultivate relationships with other men. Pray for God's will for this important part of the ministry.

The LORD has recently granted us days of trial in financial matters. We are in hard circumstances where our income is concerned, as it is insufficient to meet our present obligations. Join us in praying for God to grant us His wisdom and to show us His will where additional support and/or part-time work is concerned. Related to financial things is the fact that our mini-van was recently damaged in an accident. Because of the age of the vehicle (2000), we do not have comprehensive/collision coverage on it. If you or someone you know has a body shop that would be willing to donate the cost of fixing the mini-van's left rear quarter panel, make this known, would you? Another possibility would be if God were to provide a newer van...we like Japanese-made cars, of course.

Here is some food for thought, as well as a subject for prayer. According to a recent news article, an elderly Japanese Buddhist monk, Surai Sasai, has been on a life-long mission to see the nation of India transformed from a Hindu people to, in his view, a more-enlightened Buddhist people, especially where the lowest-of-castes Dalit people and the caste system in general is concerned. As Gautama Buddha was a Hindu who came up with the thinking, which his followers later made the basis for a religion, Mr. Sasai sees education as key to Indians being converted to Buddhism. May the LORD use the dedication of this man to promote a lifeless religion that can give no life since it ignores the Life-giver, to convict us children of God in Christ to be busy about "teaching" all nations the truth of Jesus, the only name under Heaven given among men whereby any of us human beings can be saved.

Until next time, we remain...

Your servants, dependent on the LORD and His people,

Tom and Renee

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April 27, 2015

Dear Committed Reader:

Hello from this part of God's Creation! We have a number of items on our minds and hearts that we would like to pass on to you for your prayerful consideration.

First, we are happy to report that our sojourn March 25 to April 2 in the south part of Florida was blessed of God in various ways. From the airplane flights all coming off virtually without a "hitch," visiting various sites of significance regarding our history with that area, being with our original missionary "sending" church on the 40th anniversary of our marriage, to encountering a large number of friends and acquaintances, our time in that part of God's Vineyard was truly memorable!

In April, God sent us seven first-timers to our Troy Joy Club. We are looking forward to having all the mothers of both the Cincinnati and Troy Joy Clubs to join us for a Mother's Day Tea in May.

Renee met Rika two years ago at a Michael's store and invited her to attend the Tuesday Bible Study, which she did, first in September of 2013, and ever since then. Join us in praising God: two weeks ago, Rika prayed, confessing her sins and believing on Christ unto salvation!

And last but by no means least, the ministry to men has seen recent blessings. Tom has been able to meet with a father of one of our Troy Joy Club children, a father of two sisters among our Cincinnati Joy Club children, and some men of our neighborhood. God has also greatly impressed Tom that he should be praying daily that any and all of his circumstances would fall out "rather unto the furtherance of the gospel," like they did in Paul's case (please see Philippians 1:9-14).

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you." 1 Thessalonians 3:1



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Here is some food for thought. A report from Japan dated April 6 of this year states, "A 100-year-old Japanese woman has become the world's first centenarian to complete a 1,500-meter freestyle swim, 20 years after she took up the sport." The news article goes on to identify her as Mieko Nagaoka, who is also reported to have said, "I want to swim until I turn 105 if I can live that long." Her achievement is to be recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records. The report also gives the statistic that there are 59,000 centenarians in Japan, or, in other words, 46 out of every 100,000 people are 100 years old or older, including 103-year-old "sprinter," Hidekichi Miyazaki, who ran the 100-meter dash in the world record for his age category, 29.83 seconds. Remarkable, is it not? Our God sees fit to bless this people group with some of the world's longest life spans, just one of His many good and perfect gifts. Generally speaking, do they as a people give Him credit and thanks? Most of them do not, since they do not even acknowledge His existence. Let us keep praying that more and more Japanese people would see the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, for a day is coming when it will be too late for any individual – regardless of their chronological age – to repent and believe on Christ unto salvation!

Until next time, we remain

Yours and Christ's servants,

Tom and Renee

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February 16, 2015

Dear Loved Ones:

Greetings from this part of God's harvest field! We pray God's blessings upon you and yours. Here are the latest news about us and prayer concerns.

We saw the old year out and welcomed the New Year in with our two daughters and their families. Have we told you about our GRANDchildren, Nathaniel and Emmalina? "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." III John 4

The Tuesday Ladies Bible Class began a new study in January entitled, "Who is God?" Each lesson addresses a different aspect of God's person: God is The Creator, Provider, Lord, Communicator, Judge, and Savior. The first five lessons are taken from the first three chapters of Genesis and the last lesson from the book of John. Join us in praying that these Japanese ladies who have been taught from birth that there are many gods, will come to either know the One True God through salvation in Jesus Christ, or will grow in the knowledge and better understanding of the God they have chosen to follow.

The Joy Clubs in Troy and Cincinnati are continuing well. The 2015 Joy Club theme is JOYLAND ADVENTURES. Each month we open God's treasure chest, the Bible, to see what it teaches us about obedience, kindness, forgiveness, salvation, honor, etc. Pray that these lessons would help create a desire in each heart for knowing God, His Word, and His ways, and promote the further progress of the Gospel among the children and all the people in their lives.

Our relationship-building efforts are bringing the fruit of friendships, opportunities to communicate the Gospel, and more. Tom is looking forward to having more appointments with Japanese men, especially the fathers of Joy Club attenders such as Messrs. Tsmagari, Masuda, Iwasaki, and Ikagawa.

We are reminded daily of the brevity of life. Renee's Aunt Anna Maude and Mineko Kojima's father died only a few days apart, both at the age of 97. Aunt Anna Maude trusted Christ as her Savior as a young girl and lived her life loving God and leaving a legacy of following Christ. We never met Mineko's father in Japan, but it is most likely that he went into eternity without ever having his sins forgiven. Daily news reports from various parts of the world confirm the truth that God's creation is indeed groaning and suffering the pains of the curse of sin, in anticipation of the glorious redemption through Christ that is coming for all of His children, as well as for Creation itself.

The tendency of the average Japanese to work hard is well-documented. In a February 16, 2015 article entitled "Miserly Use of Vacation Days," the author points out that the year 2013 saw Japanese workers take only 9 out of 18.5 paid vacation days they are entitled to. 16% of the workers took no holidays at all. We have met a number of men who work 7 days a week. While one can admire industriousness and dedication, those who know God's Word can recognize overwork in Japan as yet another deviation from God's original plan, i.e., 1 day of rest for every 6 working days. Dedication to their company and work makes it difficult for Japanese men in particular to develop relationships outside their workplace. Pray that all of our relationships would develop for the furtherance of the Gospel.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers as you partner with us in majoring on the Gospel for the Japanese souls God brings into our lives. Until next time, we remain

Your friends and fellow-workers,
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2014

Merry Christmas

from
Tom and Renee
BORDER



Nathaniel
GRANDson



Emmalina
GRANDdaughter



Dayton Ladies Bible Study
Christmas Craft



Cincinnati Joy Club
Easter



Ladies Fall Feast
at Border home



Emiko
Baptism Ceremony



Dominic
Baptism Ceremony

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS:
for He shall save His people from their sins. Matthew 1:21



Dear one who, we pray, remembers us before God:

2014 brought

Some Surprises...

- Renee's fall in the snow in March resulting in a broken right ankle and blood clot in the right leg.

Some Disappointments...

- Six Japanese families moved back to Japan who have yet to accept Christ as their Savior.

Some JOYS...

- In January, Dominic, a 6th grader in our Cincinnati Joy Club, was baptized.
- Since September, God has brought 6 new young wives/mothers to our ladies classes and 3 new enthusiastic children to our Troy Joy Club.

And many blessings...

We appealed to you all in our last letter for your church to consider a one-time gift or an increase in our monthly salary/support. We are glad to report that several churches responded as the LORD led them. We are most grateful. If you have yet to do so, please benefit us when God directs it.

In November of 1999, we met Emiko Kamiya, as a result of hearing of the tragic death of her husband and 3 year old son in a fire. In 2002, two of Emiko's sons began coming to Joy Club and a year later she and her sons prayed to receive Christ as their Savior. On September 14 of this year, Emiko received water baptism. Just a few days after that, she "pulled up stakes" and moved to New York City. Pray that she would grow in the grace and knowledge of her Savior through her daily walk with Christ by feeding on His Word, and by finding a really good church with which to worship and serve Him.

At our first ever **FALL FEAST** on November 7th, we saw 22 Japanese ladies and 8 of their children come to our house for a musical program, skit, Bible-centered devotion, and an American-traditional Thanksgiving dinner prepared with the help of several ladies from two of our ever-so-supportive local English-speaking churches. O, how many of these Japanese ladies and their families are without the knowledge of the Holy One – alas, most of them! Let us pray for their rescue!

May this coming **Christmas Day** find you loving and obeying our LORD more closely and mirroring His image more clearly as an ambassador for Christ!

Please keep the Dec. 6th Troy Joy Club and 14th Cincinnati Joy Club Christmas programs in your prayers, especially that unbelievers would be moved to repentance and faith in our coming King Jesus.