



Moshi Moshi!

A Prayer Letter from the Ellricks

May 2012

Dear Friends,

May the joy of the Lord fill your heart and home daily! We are doing fine in Osaka, and we rejoice that the work of the Lord is continuing here. We give thanks for the privilege of serving God in this place. May the Lord bless you for partnering in this ministry through prayer, support, and encouragement!

The past year has been very busy for us, both with ministry and in our personal lives. We have faced a number of challenges and changes in our lives and the lives of our loved ones. Just to mention a couple of things, Karen's father passed away on December 18th, while Karen was with him having extended a shorter visit to include most of December. During the same week, Karen had some health challenges that led to getting a hysterectomy in January. Not to be left out completely, Dan had some blood in his urine which led to lots of tests, but all they found was a kidney stone. We are fine, but we are supposed to get various things checked every few months.

Another related change in our lives is that Karen received a significant inheritance from her father. With the inheritance, plus Dan's military retirement and income from his OIC salary, it is no longer necessary for us to seek missionary support. Since coming to the mission field, we have always met our personal living expenses through our own resources and have used support funds from friends and churches only for direct ministry expenses. Now, we will be able to cover the foreseeable ministry expenses as well. Therefore, although we still greatly need your prayers, friendship, and fellowship, we want to encourage you to prayerfully consider sending your financial support to ministries that have an immediate need.

On the ministry front, as you know from our previous prayer letter, we spent some time serving as volunteer relief workers after the March 11, 2011 triple disaster (earthquake, tsunami, nuclear meltdown) in northeast Japan. Karen has continued to be involved in this work as the database developer and as a technical support person for the CRASH relief organization. Dan's ongoing involvement has been through the church, as Osaka International Church (OIC) has sent a number of volunteer teams and individual volunteers to the disaster area.

We also have some other important news: After 17 years of service with MUP, we have made the decision to transfer to IMF, effective May 31st.

Please check out the various short articles in this letter for more details about these things and additional ministry news. We pray that all is well with you and your loved ones; God bless you always!

In Jesus' love,
Dan and Karen

Farewell, MUP - hello, IMF!

Mission to Unreached Peoples (MUP) was a wonderful find for us in 1995 when we were preparing to answer the Lord's call to serve in Japan. The vision, values and style of the organization were a great fit for us, and for many years we were enthusiastic members and promoters of MUP. However, a few years ago the top leadership of MUP changed, and since that time the organization has headed in a new direction - an exclusive focus on building strategy teams that work to start church planting movements. This is very important work, but the narrow focus of the new direction is very different from the past openness to a variety of different kinds of ministries. In support of the new direction, MUP's vision, values, mission, and statement of faith have all been changed, and there are plans to rename the organization soon also.

As this change has progressed, in prayer and in discussion with others, we have gradually come to the conclusion that MUP is no longer a good fit for our ministry. For this reason, as of May 31st, we are leaving MUP and will be joining the missions department of International Ministerial Fellowship (IMF, i-m-f.org). We already have a close relationship with IMF since Dan was ordained through IMF in 2005. Please join us in praying for a smooth transition and for the Lord's blessing on both MUP and IMF.

The Need-to-Know Scoop

1. This is our last MUP prayer letter. Future prayer letters will use the IMF address and logo.
2. After May 31st, MUP will no longer accept donations for our ministry.
3. IMF will be able to accept donations for our ministry. However, we are not seeking donations at this time, and we want to encourage you to prayerfully consider shifting your donations to ministries with more immediate financial needs.
4. If you would like suggestions for missionaries or ministries to support, or if you have any questions about these changes, please email us at:

ellrick@proverbs2525.org

*Henry Drummond,
Scottish Theologian*

*"Will power does
not change men.
Time does not
change men.
Christ does."*



*The deaf hear His voice:
Masayuki rejoices at his baptism*

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The Mission Exchange, ECFA

Men are coming to Faith!

In Japan there are many more Christian women than men, and men are often too busy with work to even come in contact with Christian outreach activities. But in the last year there have been encouraging signs that the Lord is moving the hearts of men. Last July at OIC's summer retreat, we had a beach baptism for four men! Two were Japanese men (one hearing, one deaf) whose Christian wives had waited a long time for their husbands to become interested in Jesus. Both went forward during the Franklin Graham Festival in October 2010, grew in faith at OIC, and were joyfully baptized.

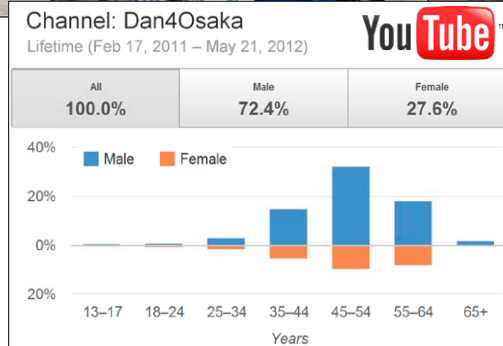
Men as well as women have also been trusting in the Lord through the Alpha Course at OIC. New believers will be baptized in July at this year's retreat, but one chose to be baptized with his wife (who had come to Christ a bit earlier but hadn't been baptized yet) in our home. It was a great joy to baptize a Japanese couple together! A few of their non-Christian relatives attended the event as well, and they both shared wonderful testimonies.

Another encouragement relates to Dan's YouTube outreach, which was launched with a number of videos from when we volunteered in disaster relief, but has continued with planned and edited pre-evangelistic videos using famous places, and some other teaching videos and music. (On YouTube, search for "Dan4Osaka" to find his channel.) YouTube provides demographic information about who is viewing the videos, and we were surprised that the biggest group of viewers is men in their 50's, a notoriously difficult demographic segment to reach. Praise the Lord!



Left: Men's faith huddle - the two pastors and four baptismees join in prayer.

Below: Shin and Ayako emerge from our "baptismal bathroom" glowing with the joy of the Lord.



Above: Dan's channel has over 16,000 views so far, mostly men. Right: Karen at the CRASH office, training in the use of her database.



Right: OIC's Sunday School kids are of many nationalities, highlighting that fact during this year's Easter presentation.

Below: Assistant pastor Joseph shares a message at sunset during the summer retreat, interpreted into Japanese and Japanese Sign Language.



Only at OIC!
Left: At a "Filipino & Friends Party", an Indian family shares a passionate testimony of faith, interpreted by an American into Japanese sign language!

Prayer Points



1. Pray for the Japanese people and churches in Japan, including OIC!
2. Praise the Lord for new believers, and pray for them to grow in their faith and share with their families and friends.
3. Pray for Karen's technical support ministry with CRASH, Japan Deaf Ministries International, and other organizations.
4. Pray for MUP, IMF, and us in this time of transition.
5. Pray for further development of the *Dan4Osaka* YouTube channel and for its viewers.
6. Praise the Lord for His love and grace!

A Final Word from the Word

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work." ~ 1 Corinthians 12:4-6