

### Every Twenty Years or so...

Blessings and peace to you, dear friends!

A few months ago, we passed our twenty-year mark in Japan. We have now been on the mission field longer than I (Dan) was in the Marines. When we were getting ready to retire from the military and leave for Japan, many people asked, "How long will you stay there?" At the time, I answered, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, "Well, I gave Uncle Sam twenty years, I guess I should give the Lord at least that many." Now it has been over twenty years, but in some ways we feel like we are still just getting started. So, pray for us and for Japan. If it is the Lord's will, perhaps we will be able to complete another twenty years of missionary service.

Currently, Dan's work is divided between helping with the Abide Calvary Chapel Osaka church plant, assisting new missionaries with training and advice, and developing resources for ministry. Karen also helps out at Abide, but most of the time she is busy providing technical and art support for other ministries. In addition to the online database and website support she has long provided to a variety of ministries in Japan, she is also helping with design and layout of Japan Harvest magazine now. She also continues to serve as a volunteer staff member for CRASH Japan (disaster relief) and as a board member for the Japan



Dan at Abide's Friday night Bible study



Karen in Kumamoto with a CRASH volunteer team after earthquakes in April

branch of Deaf Ministries International (DMI).

Since Dan stepped down from pastoring Osaka International Church in 2014, we have been enjoying the chance to travel more often. We have made several trips to the States

to visit Dan's son and grandchildren there, as well as our second trip to Germany to see the family of our German grandson. In celebration of our 30th wedding anniversary, we also enjoyed a wonderful "In the Footsteps of Paul" tour of Turkey and Greece in May. If you are friends with Dan on Facebook, you may have seen the slides from the three messages Dan shared at Abide after our return. You can also find the slides at [danellrick.com](http://danellrick.com).

In August, we will be visiting family and friends in Virginia and North Carolina, and also visiting our sending church in Maryland, Grace Fellowship Chapel. If that is your area, we might see you soon!

In Jesus' love,

*Dan and Karen*



### The Bionic Man

Although only hinted at in our Dec. 2014 Moshi Moshi, on January 6th, 2015 Dan got a total knee replacement on his right knee. Conventional artificial knees are available in Japan, and he did consider that route so that he could recover at home, but in the end he opted for a type not yet in Japan: a joint that is completely custom-built for each patient from detailed CT scans, using 3D printers and other new technologies (check out [www.conformis.com](http://www.conformis.com) for more info). He found a highly rated surgeon in Richmond, VA, so that we could stay in Fredericksburg during initial recovery and see the grandkids. The surgery went very well. The new knee feels natural, never like a mechanical device but merely as if he had a big knee surgery on his own knee.

We found a house on AirBnB that was far more comfortable for the two-month stay than a hotel room, and the quiet neighborhood was great for therapy walks. The photo above is at the end of Dan's first outdoor walk without crutches (he had them along just in case, but he didn't use them). We also used the time in the States to get some needed dental work done, and Karen participated in a clinical study at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore that is researching a possible cause of Restless Leg Syndrome, which she has had most of her life but has gotten noticeably worse in recent years. And we had a lot of fun with Dan's two grandkids who live in the Fredericksburg area. The oldest is taller than Dan now!

Physical therapy is no fun, but it is a race against time to regain range of motion. He followed instructions and worked hard, and although he would have liked to regain more bending ability, he can straighten it well (more important than bending), has no pain, and the muscles are strong.

Only five months after the surgery we traveled with Japanese friends (pictured here) to see an area with many historic mountaintop locations full of stairs. The knee did great!





# IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PAUL

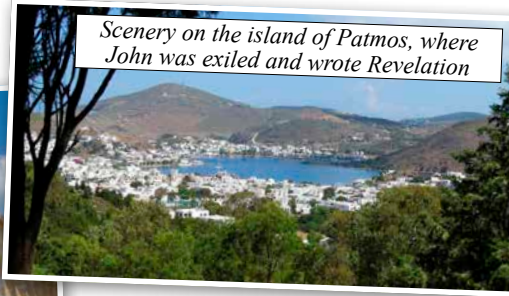
In celebration of thirty years of happy marriage, Dan and Karen traveled in Turkey and Greece from May 8th to 30th. We were on our own for a few days of the trip, but for most of the time we were with a tour group led by Dr. Carl Rasmussen. It was a blessing to see where Paul preached and the locations of the seven churches of Revelation, as well as other sites important in Christian history. We learned a ton about the ancient culture of the region and quite a bit about the modern culture as well. Check out the photos. Many thanks to Carl and the whole tour group!



*From our balloon ride over Cappadocia*



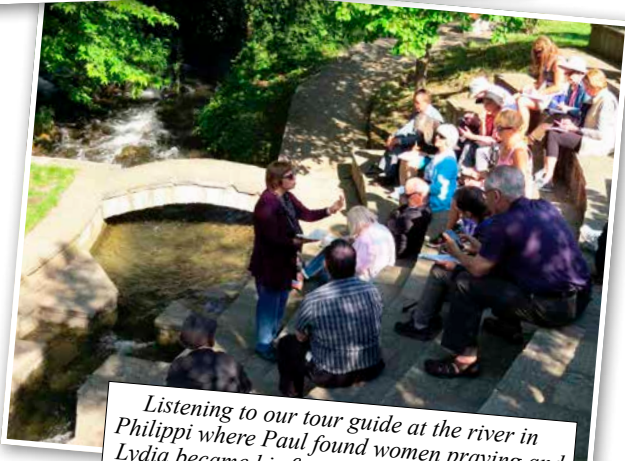
*Inside the Hagia Sophia, which for almost 1000 years was the largest church in Christendom and the main center of worship for the Eastern Orthodox Church (later used as a mosque, now a museum)*



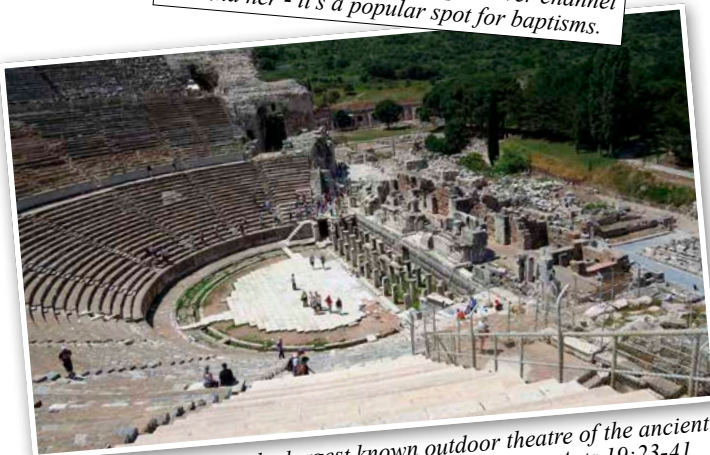
*Scenery on the island of Patmos, where John was exiled and wrote Revelation*



*At the Parthenon in Athens*



*Listening to our tour guide at the river in Philippi where Paul found women praying and Lydia became his first convert in Europe (Acts 16:11-15). Note the cross-shaped river channel behind her - it's a popular spot for baptisms.*



*Theatre in Ephesus - the largest known outdoor theatre of the ancient world (seating 24,000) and the site of the uproar in Acts 19:23-41.*



## Prayer Points

1. Pray for Abide CC Osaka. May the Lord give Pastor Joseph Totsis wisdom for leading the church, and may God bless our evangelistic and support work and Dan's teaching.
2. Pray for Abide's October retreat. It looks like Dan will have the lead role in planning and teaching for this event.
3. Pray for the first-ever IMF Japan retreat in November. As the Japan representative for the International Ministerial Fellowship, Dan is responsible for this gathering of missionaries.
4. Pray for the book that Dan is still working on. It is taking much longer than expected, largely because the direction of the book keeps changing. The goal remains clear—a book for reaching Japanese, especially men. We need your prayers for this project to succeed.
5. Pray for Japan Harvest magazine. Karen has a growing role in doing layout and design for the magazine, and Dan has contributed several articles about how to connect with Japanese people and share the Good News of Jesus.
6. Dan's son Larry has come back to faith in Jesus! Praise the Lord! After being transferred from Texas to FCI Butner Med. II in North Carolina, Larry even has a Christian roommate.
7. Praise the Lord for the success of Dan's knee joint replacement surgery. The knee is fully healed and in great shape now – better than it has been for years!
8. We hope to see all three grandkids this coming trip, since the family in Germany is flying over to meet us in North Carolina. Thank you for your prayers for our family!

## A Final Word from the Word

*"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands."* ~ Acts 17:24 ~