

Toma Newsletter

Roy, Nancy & Joseph in Iwakuni, Japan

We met Yoko while visiting a local orphanage where she has been volunteering for a number of years. She has since become a dear friend and a big encouragement to us and many others.

Recently Yoko shared her story with us. She was born in a small village on a hill in Yamaguchi prefecture, where her family practiced Shintoism. She says, one of her daily chores included offering the first scoop of freshly cooked rice to the family altars. She was told that there are over eight million gods, and she should show respect to them in her home, at the shrines, and on the streets, if she wanted to receive good fortune. Her devotion was driven by fear. Yoko describes her life growing up as filled with struggles. Her father was away a lot on business, and her mother was busy working in the rice field, raising vegetables, and



working at several part-time jobs. At home she ended up spending a lot of time alone and at school she was bullied. She shared, "That (bullying) made me feel like I shouldn't exist, but a part of me was seeking someone or something to tell me that that was a lie. I loved watching 'Little House on the Prairie' TV series, because the family seemed to have everything I longed for. I saw they were in need yet they were loving each other and praying together."

When Yoko was a high school student her mother

took her own life. Yoko blamed herself and while preparing to end her own life, she received a Bible sent from a friend. She started reading it and was amazed by what she read. To find out more about the Bible she visited a local church where she was welcomed with open arms and found the love and home she longed for.

After experiencing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ, Yoko realized that she needed to forgive her father and ask his forgiveness for the way she had (cont. on next page)

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been treating him. Yoko saw God change not only her life, but that of people around her. Later, her father turned his life over to Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord.

Now Yoko has committed her life to following Jesus Christ and seeing others find the peace that can only come from a relationship with Him. Thank you for being a part in reaching Japan with the hope of Jesus Christ.



“Every valley shall be filled
And every mountain and hill brought low;
The crooked places shall be made straight
And the rough ways smooth;
And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”
Luke 3:5-6

MT. FUJI

Roy and Joseph were able to climb Mt. Fuji last month. It had been a dream of Roy’s for a long time. Along with some friends, they hiked all day until evening. “I was amazed by the beauty of God’s creation and I’m glad I was able to experience this with Joseph. I believed it helped us both grow as men. However, sometimes I wish growing wasn’t so painful.”

SHORT-TERM WORKERS

We had been praying about having a short-term worker come and help us with the ministry here. The Lord surprised us when the house next door became available to rent at a good price. It is a small studio-type house. We are thankful for the Lord’s provision that we were able to rent it.

We have our first worker, **Maai**, with us now. At the end of September a young lady, **Tamiko**, will

replace her and serve with us for two months. We knew both Maai and Tamiko when we lived in Okinawa. We are thankful to God for providing workers for His harvest.

BIBLE ENGLISH CLASS

The Lord opened the door to start a Bible English class at the church. The class is held one hour before the worship service. We had our first two students last week: **Yoko** and **Yasue**. They enjoyed the class and stayed for the service.

Yoko has been studying the Bible and is very interested in improving her English.

Yasue is Joseph’s piano teacher. Please pray for these ladies, that the Lord will bring them to saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Pray for protection against the enemy’s attacks on this work.

In Christ,

Roy, Nancy and Joseph

Praises and Prayer Requests

PRAISES

- God’s blessing upon the Bible English class that was started on Sunday mornings
- God provided a house and two short-term workers, Maai & Tamiko

PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Our Family** - Closer walk with the Lord, good friendships, and opportunities to share the Gospel
- **Yoko and Yasue**—our Bible English students, open hearts to God’s love, good relationships with them
- **Homeschooling**— diligence, wisdom, guidance, perseverance, joy (for all of us)
- **Tamiko** (our short-term worker) staying with us for 2 months (Oct.-Nov.) for God’s guidance, blessing

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

2 Corinthians 5:17