



# Into His Hands

Volume 2, Issue 7

Monthly Mission Prayer List for Joel Osborne

October 2009

## Personal Prayer Requests

*PSALM 124*  
This poor man called and the LORD heard him.  
He saved him out of all his troubles.



1) **Wisdom & Discernment** - these are daily needs obviously. I find myself in greater need of these 2 things recently. I specifically ask for these things in relation to the future direction of work, and also in how to effectively disciple others in their growing faith and life with Jesus.

2) **Thanksgiving** - for partial physical healing, and experiencing some success in living healthier, I give thanks and praise.

*Honestly, the past 3 months have been filled with intense trials for me spiritually, physically, financially and even emotionally. It seems that for every good thing, there are at least two or three struggles of one kind or another. Sometimes it is hard to discern what is God's refinement and growth in dependence upon Him, and what are attacks from Satan meant to discourage, distract or destroy. I know that, at least in part, some spiritual battles are lost as people give up their faith, and as missionaries are increasingly being pulled off the field as a result of financial cutbacks.*

*As I go deeper into scripture and prayer, I am reminded that I am not alone and that God does not abandon those He has created and loves, and those who are faithful and obedient. Beyond scripture and prayer, this is my own life experience and a lesson that I find myself learning repeatedly or at least being reminded of. Even as uncertainty surrounds day-to-day life, I am more and more convinced of the need for God's reconciliation and the gospel at work both in my own life and in the lives of those here in Japan.*

*I re-emphasize a need for prayer on my behalf and for Japan. Thank you for praying. - Joel*

*"You are my hiding place, you always fill my heart with songs of deliverance."*



*"Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. Let the weak say I am strong in the strength of the Lord. I will trust in You."*

*- You Are My Hiding Place (by Selah)*

## ...pray for these people continuously...



**TOMOMI**  
LST reader, single mom, needs to release herself to God & His love



**AO-chan**  
Student & young Christian in Ibaraki who needs encouragement



**YUKO**  
for her job search, her faith and readjusting to life in Japan

# Work Related Prayer Requests



(picture at left)

*The meeting for October was an overnight time of study and sharing about discipleship. Fifteen fulltime workers were in attendance.*

1) **Persecution** - I rarely ask for prayers knowing that people don't usually associate persecution with the church and mission work in Japan. However subtle, though, it exists in many ways. Recently, the Daily Yomiuri Shinbun newspaper reported that Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of the ruling party in the government criticized Christian faith as an exclusive religion that weighs down western societies and offered instead that Buddhism teaches people how to exist within nature. Many face quiet but focused pressure in their workplace, family or otherwise to compromise their faith in God, and to place other aspects of life into a greater importance than God. Please pray for the strength of Japanese believers who face this daily.

2) **Discipleship** - the theme of our recent study time as full time workers in October, I can see God directing the our hearts as a group, and ask that He would continue to teach us and refine us. This month, I've been faced with many areas that require a call back to God and to His priorities in the lives of several whom I disciple. Please pray that I will do so with love, confidence, humility and patience.

3) **Preaching** - this an area I struggle to enjoy, but God has opened many times for me to share through this medium: about John 3&4 in Sendai, about prayer in Hachinohe, and I am now preparing to preach & share a children's message in Mito next month. I pray it spurs on growth.

4) **"LTG"** - Gaku and I have begun a weekly time of confession, sharing from scripture (30 chapters read weekly), and prayer for the salvation of 6 specific people. We are both growing and seeing God at work in our lives and in the lives of those for whom we are praying. Recently, Sasha and I were invited by Toshi to attend a Tohoku University function that allowed me to reconnect with two seekers, and to meet a new guy. Gaku is having more conversations with his mom and 2 of his brothers. We are full of joy at this reminder of God at work in our lives and in the lives of others.

5) **Upcoming Month** - this next month will provide me with a chance to look back upon this year of ministry, listen for God's guidance in times ahead, and also to reconnect with Yoshinori, and with the Hancock boys. Please ask that God will keep me fully in step with His voice, His heart and His will.



**Monthly Mission Prayer List for Joel Osborne**

*Into His Hands* is sent monthly to share prayer requests for my mission work. I also send a work summary quarterly entitled *Being His Hands*. Thank you for your partnership in this work through prayer and financial support.

For responses to this report, or to request addition of your address to the report group list, please email: [joelosborne4@yahoo.com](mailto:joelosborne4@yahoo.com)

## NOV 2009 "DATES TO REMEMBER"

*As you pray this month, please remember these upcoming events & tasks.*

**2-6 - Church Planting conference; visit Yoshinori**

**2-3 - IC Students gather funds for Cambodian kids**

**8 - preach @ Mito Church**

**9 - Preachers Meeting in Tachikawa (west Tokyo)**

**20-22 - Hitachi/Sendai Cell Group Weekend**

**28-29 - preach @ Hachinohe / LST follow up**

"The fewer the words, the better the prayer." - Martin Luther