



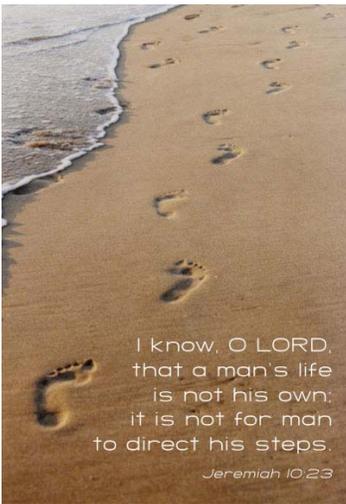
Into His Hands

Volume 3, Issue 1

Monthly Mission Prayer List for Joel Osborne

January / February 2010

Making A Move ~ God's Response In Prayer



Over the last several months, I have asked all of you to pray for me, for the direction of my work, for wisdom from God in making decisions, for my health and for my finances. As you know, 2009 was a year devoted to seeking God's heart and releasing myself to His will and His purpose. So many times we fool ourselves and think that we control our own steps or, even worse, after we have submitted to Christ's lordship, we still try to control our own path. May God forgive me for the times my thoughts and actions tend that way.

Through discernment, I am convinced that God is opening a new place for me to be. In April, I will move to the city of Mito, which is about 250 km south of Sendai. It is in the southeast part of Ibaraki prefecture, just 2 hours from Tokyo and an hour or so from Narita. It is a city of 260,000 people. For those of you who know my family, my brother and sister-in-law lived in Mito for 2 years in the early '90s.

Mito church is a family of 80-90 people, several of whom come from other nations. I have been asked to focus on discipleship and spiritual formation (specifically for the younger generations) as well as keep in mind the church's dream to plant other churches, beginning in Mito city itself. The leadership has been gracious to me, and I am excited for the opportunity to work in partnership with Atsushi and Mari Tsuneki, and their family, who are

working fulltime in ministry there.

Admittedly, it is hard to leave Sendai—a city and people I have been amongst since 2002. I have a heart for the Tohoku region of Japan and a burden for the people there who have not given themselves to Christ. It is also a time where the church in Sendai will have to think soberly about its future, and I ask that you would pray for us in these few months as we consider these things.

But as our hearts have wrestled, God has given us peace and shown us that it is time for Sasha, Gaku and I to move to Mito. This will be an adventure for the three of us, and we wait with expectation for what God has planned. Thank you for being my prayer partners and walking with me into the next journey in Mito.

...pray for these people continuously...



DEBI
in her final stages of decision making about her next job



YUKO
in her job search, decisions about her future, and for her faith



OSAMU
for wisdom in leading the church, and in raising his children



YUKO
for raising her kids in faith, and encouragement for her faith



TOSHIKO
for her retirement next year, and for her family's faith

Work Related Prayer Requests



“The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to go on the heights.”

- Habakkuk 3:19

(left) Toshi & Akiko - newly engaged

1) **Shelley Wheeler** - Crimsen’s mom has had a reoccurrence of cancer and hopes to have surgery on February 19 at the Mayo Clinic, followed by more rounds of chemo. Please pray for Shelley, asking for healing and also pray for her family.

2) **Judith & Marlin** - two other fellow coworkers in Japan, Judith Alexander in Taga and Marlin Ray in Tomobe, have had health issues. We praise God for Marlin’s successful surgery and ask for continued healing. Please keep Judith in your prayers as she goes in for surgery later this month.

3) **Akiko** - is getting married to Toshi next month. Now that he is finished

his PhD, they will register their marriage (and have a ceremony later in the year—fairly common in Japan) and then move to Yokohama in April for his job. Please pray for this couple, and specifically for Akiko to be a spiritual influence to Toshi since he has not given himself to Christ yet.

4) **Sasha & Gaku** - both of them will move to Mito with me. Please pray for Gaku’s job search in Mito and the surrounding area, and lift up Sasha in prayer as she still lacks a significant amount of support for this year (*anyone who can help her, please contact me*).

5) **AOF4**- next month is the annual gathering of Asian youth who will serve

the Cambodian children and schools in Siem Reap, and will be mentored by a wonderful group of coworkers in Asia. This year, 86 people will gather and my mother will go with me to help serve with the meals. I am excited for my mom to have that experience and to meet many people in Asia. Besides me, there will be 15 others from Japan (including 5 from Okinawa).

6) **Tohoku Area Churches** - Sasha and I will go to be with Hachinohe church on February 27-28. When we move to Mito, we won’t be able to go every month, but hope to go several times each year. Yoko asks for prayers for Morioka church, a little family of 3 people living faithfully for God. Oda-jima-san, who planted the church has been having significant health issues. Finally, pray for Sendai church as it enters a new stage and seeks to be wise and God-honouring in what they will do. Overall, please join in me in praying for the mission of this region.



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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

FEB/MAR 2010 “DATES TO REMEMBER”

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

Feb 27-28 - with Hachinohe Church (& preach)

Mar 4-30 - my mom will be with me in Asia

Mar 13-20 - Angkor of Faith 4 in Cambodia

Mar 21 - Oon Hui & Patrick’s wedding in Singapore

Mar 28 - our “Farewell Party” at Sendai Church

Apr 3 - Gaku’s last day at his current job

Apr 4 - (probably) our last Sunday in Sendai