

HERRINGTONS IN HARUNA

June 2011

I can't believe how fast June came and went. It was a month of getting back into the swing of things in Haruna. We returned to Haruna from Kojima on May 28th, and are so happy to be back home. Everyone has welcomed us back and even had a few baby showers for us. It has been a joy showing our son to our friends here. We've resumed children's classes and visiting the Kindergarten too.



The three of us on Father's Day after Paul preached on Sunday morning.

THE WORK IN HARUNA

Paul was once again asked to step up and take over for Obata-san on two Sundays this month. Back in April, Obata-san was diagnosed with stage 2 prostate cancer. On June 14th they removed the cancer. A week and a half after the surgery a CT scan showed that they had removed all the cancer! Praise the Lord! Obata-san doesn't have to go through chemo. He was in the hospital for almost 2 two weeks, so Paul preached and lead the service all in Japanese in Obata-san's place. We feel so honored to be able to take care of these things for Obata-san and his family, so that he can get the rest that he needs. Obata-san is recovering very well and it's still really hard to get him to rest. He is such a hard worker for the Lord. He doesn't let anything stop him.

Paul decided to take the opportunity of preaching two Sundays in a row to preach about the joy and blessing of giving. This was a topic that he had wanted to preach about since he arrived. He felt that brother Obata would have a hard time preaching about these topics as most of the people tend to view this as Mr. Obata's church. Often here in Japan the church building is thought to be like a temple. People will even bow before entering the auditorium. Even though Paul has preached against this belief, people still feel as if giving is an obligation and not a blessing to be practiced.

The first Sunday Paul preached a wide introduction about God's plan for our money and financial happiness. Then followed up the next week with the "Contribution for the Saints: God loves a cheerful giver." Overall the response was very well received and it allowed Brother Obata to reference Paul's sermon points when we take the collection each week. The grace of giving is such a blessing to the giver and we hope that the members here will grow in this grace.

Please keep Brother Obata in your prayers as he continues to recover from surgery. The doctors say he will have to have a blood test every three months to check for the spread of cancer. But as for right now, the prognosis looks great! God is so faithful!



Paul showing Titus the ropes. I think Titus looks good behind a podium.



Brother and Sister Obata

HERRINGTONS IN HARUNA

June 2011

TOKYO AND THE CARRELLS

This month we had to make a few special trips to Tokyo for Titus. One was very important. It was his application to become an American citizen! In Japan you must be born of Japanese descent to be a Japanese citizen (one parent must be Japanese). So Titus will not have any form of Japanese citizenship, only American. So we had to make the 2.5 hour road trip to the US Embassy in Tokyo to submit, in person, his application for a Social Security number, his American birth certificate, and passport. Paul took great honor in bestowing his American citizenship on his son. We had to stand and swear an oath passing this great honor on to Titus. Afterwards, since we were in Tokyo, we decided to visit some of our best missionary friends, Steve and Debbie Carrell. We had not seen them since before our furlough last year, and earlier this year Debbie was diagnosed with Lymphoma cancer. She has undergone surgery to remove most of the cancer and is currently in Chemo treatments. Her progress has been wonderful, Praise the Lord! The Carrells have been one of the greatest helps to us here as we struggle through many differences in culture. They have served in Japan for over 30 years and are a wonderful example to any new missionaries coming to Japan. So we stopped by and enjoyed

another wonderful evening talking and introducing our son to them. They also recently found out that they will be grandparents this coming December! We will miss them dearly, but will enjoy keeping in touch through Skype and Facebook.



Steve meeting Titus



Us with Debbie Carrell.

KIDS VISIT

Again this year we had the privilege of hosting a 2nd grade class for an hour at the church. The children take a school trip to visit different places in their neighborhood. Since churches are very rare in this area, the school asks Obata-san every year if the children can come and learn about the church. It's a great opportunity to introduce what the church is and that they are always welcome here. Obata-san answered questions from children and Paul taught them Bible songs in English. They are very good listeners, and Obata-san was able to plant the first seed in the minds of many of these children about who God is and the church. This was another great opportunity to share who Jesus is!



Getting ready for singing with Paul.



The children asking Obata-san a few questions about the church.

Our contact info:

Paul, Stacey & Titus Herrington
Comfort Town G

1519-1 Hongo machi
Takasaki shi, 370-3334

Japan

Skype: paulstaceyh

Email: paulstacey@herringtonjapan.com

Website: www.herringtonjapan.com

HERRINGTONS IN HARUNA

June 2011

BABY SHOWERS

We have been blessed over and over again by so many wonderful people because of the birth of our son Titus. Since we've been back in Haruna we've had 2 baby showers. It is not a tradition in Japan to give a baby shower, but because we are American they didn't want us to miss out on this part of our culture. We had not

expected any showers so we had borrowed or bought many of the things we needed for Titus before he was

born. Also we had to remind them that we can not take back to America a lot of big things, so they had to be creative. Our first shower was with our church family. We received cute Japanese clothes, blankets, bibs, bottles, and the cutest elephant toy ever. We have made lots of friends in the community and through our Children's classes, so they wanted to throw us a

shower as well. Again we were limited on what we could receive, because of how difficult it would be to take back home in 2 months. So the children were told to bring something

handmade and the adults gave very small gifts such as bibs and money. The children's gifts

were amazing. Titus received a handmade (by an 8 year old) blue scarf, handmade picture frames, hand designed bibs, & beautiful handmade cards. One of my favorite gifts was made by Hanako-san. She is a teacher at the Kindergarten we visit once a week. Before we left for Okayama-ken (because of the nuclear reactors) we had to say good-bye to our class. They were going to be graduating and moving on to the next school. We were so sad to find out this was the last time we would see all these children together. This class we have had the entire time we've been here and we've grown very

fond of them. Hanako-san made us a small scrapbook with all the pictures of the children from the last year we taught them. It was such a surprise to open the book and see all their smiling faces. It brought tears to my eyes immediately. She is such an amazing teacher and friend to have made that for us. After all the gifts were opened we had a few games

to play with the children. We first made a few "dirty" diapers for the kids and they had to guess what food was in the diaper. They all did a great job at guessing and not getting too grossed out. I think we even grossed out a few veteran moms. Afterwards we asked each

child and the adults to write a birthday card for Titus. On a

specific year he will open those birthday cards from the children and adults we have met here in Japan. One person

even picked his 20th birthday for him to open hers on. It will be a special memory to watch Titus open his cards from

the wonderful people we've grown so close to during our time in Japan.



Our church family at our baby shower.



A handmade card from Nakasone-san and her daughter Yuka.



Making their birthday cards for Titus to open someday.



Our friends and children's class baby shower.

KIDS CLASS

We were so overjoyed to come back to Haruna and start up our children's class again. We had been gone over 2 1/2 months and were not sure if the children would come back for class. But much to our surprise the Wednesday we had class ALL the children came. It was so encouraging to see them all and know that they really do enjoy coming to class.

With only 10 or so Wednesdays left I really had to sit down and decided what we wanted to go over in those classes. Since we returned from furlough we had been going through the New Testament stories and had just introduced Jesus to the kids.

So we decided to skip right to the important stuff, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. So far the kids really listen to the stories and can answer question about the stories too. This sounds like such a simple thing, but for these children and to us as their teachers it is a wonderful thing to hear. So over the next 2 months we will be wrapping up our study of Jesus. We hope to have given the children something that will linger on in their minds until the day that they can look at the Bible and study for themselves and hopefully make the decision to become Christians.



The children watching a video, in Japanese, of the story of Jesus.

HERRINGTONS IN HARUNA

June 2011

TITUS JAMES KOUSUKE HERRINGTON

This month was a special month for Paul. He and Titus shared their first Father's day together. I am so blessed to have such a wonderful son and even more so to be sharing this experience with my best friend. Paul has been such a great help to me during these first few months with Titus. He has not complained or even batted an eye if I ask for his help especially in those sleepless nights. We have really enjoyed this time for Paul to experience what most fathers would love to have, to be able to work from home and share every minute with Titus. We knew this would be a rare opportunity for Paul that he may never have again. So this month we celebrated his first Father's day and National Man Day. Both days the boys hung out and enjoyed every minute of it. Paul even made special shirts to commemorate their first NMD (national man day) together. Titus is growing every day. Some days we can see him growing right in front of our very eyes. He is now 5.3kg (11.7lbs) and about 56cm (22in). He is starting to smile at our voices and cooing all the time. We can't wait for our families to meet him.



Top: Paul and Titus on Father's Day.



Left: Paul and Titus on National Man Day wearing their matching shirts.

Bottom: Paul and Titus enjoying their Father's Day watching soccer and napping together



Titus and I wearing his Kimono given to him as a gift. It's to be worn on his 5th birthday. This is a traditional photo of baby and mom wearing the kimono backwards.



Our Prayer Requests

- **Pray for the survivors of the Earthquake, Tsunami and Radiation disaster.**
- **For the relief efforts being made and that those in charge can make wise decisions.**
- **Those in charge of the nuclear reactors and that they can be completely cooled soon.**
- **The health of Obata-san and his wife, Rumiko-san.**
- **Obata-san's recovery after prostate cancer surgery and to be completely healed.**
- **Praise the Lord for Ryosuke's decision to become a disciple in Christ and to keep encouraging him in his walk together with his wife Rieko.**
- **To keep building relationships as best we can.**
- **To be able to help the Christians here to understand what it means to be a disciple of Christ.**
- **For all those we meet and teach, that they will one day obey the Gospel.**
- **For the safety of our baby Titus as he grows.**
- **To find ways of transitioning the works for when we leave in August.**
- **Steve and Debbie Carroll as Debbie finishes her Chemo and for a healthy birth for their first grandchild in December.**

