

The Japanese Lantern

October-November, 2011

Sponsoring Church:

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Prayer Requests

- For continuing Eastern Japan earthquake relief efforts, care, and support
- For fund-raising efforts and mission preparations of the Taylor family
- Thanks to God for growing faith of Matsudo church members
- For Debbie's continued recovery from lymphoma
- For our new grandson, Corban and for his parents' wisdom to raise him
- For our son-in-law, Mark's Middle East deployment

Photo Albums (Click on this link for photos for this issue)
[Japanese Lantern Photos](#)

[Click here for Japan Earthquake Information at Park Ave. Church](#)

Moving Steve's Dad to a Group Home

A call at 3 a.m. October 20th that my Dad, Bill Carrell, had fallen 7 or 8 times was so urgent that I immediately prepared a trip to the States for the emergency. Dad had funds in his account for the trip, so those were used to handle it.

Soon after arrival, I rented a car, talked with doctors and nurses, and others to assess Dad's condition, concluding he had to be moved to a small group home - Rosecare, where he can now receive 24/7 care from those with

over 20 years experience and with a Christian emphasis. My uncle and cousin also agreed that it seemed like the best choice for Dad's needs.

Besides taking care of Dad's business and medical needs, the challenge was to get Dad moved out of Windlands South to Rosecare in 2 weeks. Mr. Stan helped move many things initially, but much had to be left behind since he would no longer need it. Then arrangements had to be made for storing his books at a nearby church. A very fortunate thing was that I could remain at Dad's apartment since his rent had been paid. So that worked out well too.

When Dad could finally be moved to Rosecare, a nurse and

physical therapist checked him to see how he would fare. They believe that Dad will get the daily care and attention he now needs.



Bill Carrell with Nurse and Physical Therapist

I thank God for all the doors He opened in this crisis and for all those who now provide good care at a very reasonable cost. We will still be able to keep in contact by phone and Internet from Japan, but can also be assured of help if there is another emergency.



"Rosecare" Directors

Progress on Debbie's Recovery

Since Debbie's chemotherapy treatments are now over, even though she is weak, there are some very hopeful signs that her recovery is going well. Debbie's hair (which was all lost) is now growing back. Her weakened condition should take longer, but her medicines are now changed and her vital signs show a marked improvement from before.

Thank you all for your many prayers, financial, emotional, and social encouragement during these stressful times.. Your kindnesses are greatly appreciated!

The added good news of our new grandson has also boosted Debbie's recovery, even though she is not able to take a trip back to the States to see him now.



Debbie in the garden at Matsudo church

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Grandson - Corban William Carrell

At 3:33 p.m. (10/21 U.S. time) or 5:33 a.m. (10/22 Japan time) on the day of my arrival in the States to help Dad with his needs, we received the good news that our son and his wife had just given birth to a new baby boy, Corban William Carrell in Abilene. What a joy that Debbie and I can be grandparents with a darling baby delivered safely -



**Corban William Carrell
born October 21, 2011**

grandmothers had made baby things for Corban, so there was a lot of excitement on both sides of the Pacific with the addition of a little one to the family.

We are thankful that the delivery was so smooth for Shi and that she was in good health throughout.



on the same day Matt and Shi celebrated their 5th wedding anniversary!

Corban weighed 4.99 lbs (2.27 kg) and was 17.5 in. (44.5.cm.) in length. Both



Matsudo Church Hosts Preacher's Meeting

Tokyo preachers take turns hosting the monthly preacher's meetings at their congregations. Normally, when it is in the Shizuoka area, the following meeting is held in one of the Tokyo congregations. In October, Matsudo for the first time since our arrival here took a



turn being the host. We had not done this before for several reasons - being new to Matsudo, furlough times, or

illness in our family. But we were happy to have an opportunity to try it this year.

Not only are the meals planned, but the morning devotional, meeting agenda, and parking arrangements had to be made - of course all in Japanese.

Fortunately, Debbie had finished her chemotherapy and was feeling well enough to make an appearance for a short time. I also had the precedent of many previous meetings to give me an idea of what should

be done. Using Eph. 6:10-20, 2 Cor. 4:1-7, and 1 Pet. 4:7-11, I spoke on "Prayerful Service and Evangelism" for the devotional.

The Lord also opened up an opportunity to find free parking, e-mails to all the preachers explained the program with a map, and for 9 who came (besides me) it seemed to go very smoothly.

Matsudo Church During Steve's Absence

The brothers and sisters at the Matsudo church decided to go ahead with their plans to have an "outdoor worship" time at a nearby park, even though I (Steve) was in the States helping my



Dad with his needs. At the 21 Century Park, not far from the church building, they put blue tarps on the ground and had some singing and a short lesson by Bro. Gamou for the worship time.



Afterward, they cooked a meal there and had a good time of food and fellowship in a setting which they did not normally experience.

Due to an unfortunate delay in my return to Japan, I could not make it November 6th for worship. Three brothers decided to present short lessons interspersed with some singing for worship. I was glad to hear that the church carried on for Sunday worship despite my absence. The Lord is able to supply the strength we need if we have the courage to stand up and speak in His name.

New Missionary Family to Come to Matsudo



Leslie Taylor Family

Leslie and Sara Taylor spent a year in Kurashiki, Japan teaching English in a Hoikuen (Daycare Center). He and his wife worked with Brent and Sandy Rogers there and got a taste of life in Japan. Leslie has a B.A. in Communication and an M.A. in Ministry from Freed-Hardeman University.

They now desire to become missionaries in Japan and have asked Debbie and me to help them as “tutors” in learning about mission work in Japan. They plan to come at about the same age as we were when we began our mission work about 33 years ago. We believe the Lord has sent the Taylors our way with a desire to serve God in Japan, so we welcome the opportunity to share what we have learned as well as be mutually encouraged by their knowledge and skills as we seek to teach Japanese people.

We pray that the addition of this young family with their children might be inspirational to our current members as well as draw others of similar age to our congregation. With only one congregation of the Lord’s body in Chiba prefecture, we hope the sharing of our work

with the Taylors will allow us more time to create teaching materials and more evangelistic opportunities to spread the gospel in this part of the nation. Please pray for the Taylors who are currently involved in fund-raising and hope to arrive in Japan sometime next spring.



Ochanomizu Ladies Class Visits Matsudo



Debbie's Ochanomizu Ladies English Class

For part of the summer and into the fall, Debbie could not teach

her regular class at Ochanomizu, so I filled in for her covering a number of Bible classes in English from Genesis.

The ladies very much wanted to come to Matsudo for a visit, so one day five of them came to spend some time and see us in our regular habitat. They kindly provided lunch for us and we had a chance to give them a tour of our home and have a very relaxed and enjoyable visit. Since our grandson Corban had just been born in October, Debbie was very excited to be able to share some of the photos we’ve



Box Lunch with Tea



Looking at Corban's Pics

been gathering from online with the ladies.

With her chemotherapy treatments over, Debbie is now able to resume her teaching of the class.

Fall Gospel Meeting Focuses on Hope in Suffering

This year at Tozansou - the YMCA meeting location in Gotemba, Bro. Shiro Obata from Haruna was the featured speaker



Bro. Shiro Obata

on “Hope in the Midst of Suffering.” He spoke about attitudes of the Japanese toward the gospel and materialism from World War II and afterward. Then he described how things were quite different during the Hanshin Earthquake in Kobe in 1995 in comparison with the Eastern Kanto Earthquake on March 11th of this year in Tohoku. There seemed to be a greater outpouring of care and assistance to those who had suffered this time than ever before.

Many groups are joining together in reaching out to the victims with real help in supplies, workers,

counselors, medicine, food, medical helpers, and many others.. Much good has been done, but much more is needed. Some are moving to the area for long term work and others carry on weekly missions of mercy to the area.



Some Follow-up Efforts - Sep- Nov., 2011



Shining the Light of the Gospel in Japan

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” (Psalms 119:105)

Highlights - October-November, 2011

(see more in the [Photo Album](#))

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Click on These Links for Japan Homepages

- [Matsudo Church of Christ](#)
- [Carrell Family News](#)
- [Japanese Lantern \(past issues\)](#)
- [Japan School of Evangelism](#)
- [Ibaraki Area Churches](#)
- [Paul & Stacey Herrington](#)
- [Les & Sara Taylor](#)



Physical Therapy for Dad at Rosecare



Grandson—Corban William Carrell



Fall Joint Worship 2011 at Touzansou in Gotenba



Matsudo Members on Cleaning Day at the Church Garden

Other News and Notes

Preparing for Winter: Getting out warm clothes and firing up our kerosene heaters is what we do every year as the cold season approaches. Although not much snow falls normally in Chiba, the heaters make utility costs a little more. We hope you all have a warm place to stay this winter.

Brian Mitchell's Mother: We were saddened to hear former Matsudo church member, Brian Mitchell's mother passed away in November. Please pray God's comfort for him and his family in this hour of his grief.

Materials Being Prepared: Besides the songbook we made recently, we're working on a church directory, possible republishing some tracts, and other outreach materials for Matsudo, and copying sermons to pass out to the members.

New Classes at Matsudo and Yokota: After finishing Acts in our Saturday morning classes, the members decided to study the "Prison Letters" of Paul. Bro. Kyle Story taught the class for 2 or 3 times while I was in the States. At Yokota when our

John study was finished, the members wanted to study from the Old Testament, so we're now studying Nehemiah. Please pray for these classes.

Thank you all so much for your continued prayers, especially during Debbie's illness and my Dad's ordeal in the U.S. What a blessing it is to know you are lifting our needs up in prayer to the Father regularly, as well as giving us regular financial support. Thank you! May God bless and keep you in His care.

In His service,
Steve & Debbie Carrell