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**As you intercede for the Okubo family,**

★ Please pray that **Akari** (a granddaughter in junior high who is a believer), would follow through with her desire to be baptized. This week (March 26~29) Akari is attending a Christian youth camp. It was at the same camp last year that Akari felt that God was leading her to be baptized.

★ The Baptist church Mrs. Okubo had been attending two towns away has folded. Since that time Mrs. Okubo has not been attending anywhere. Pray that she would recognize her need for fellowshiping with other believers.

★ A few weeks ago, Mr. Okubo was in an auto accident which resulted in broken ribs. Pray that he would continue to come to church events and would be granted saving faith.

★ Pray that **Shinichi** would return to Bible study and commit his life to Christ.

**Dear Praying Friends,**

It was back in the mid 1980's, and we were newcomers to the sights and sounds of Japan. Like Jonah, we were feeling down in the mouth after being cast into the seemingly bottomless sea of Japanese language studies. Struggling to keep our heads above water, and striving to reach C level, we looked for unsuspecting victims in the community with whom we could practice what little Japanese we thought we knew.

A small Japanese church was located a few blocks over from where we were living at that time. Each Wednesday evening Pastor Tanaka along with his wife, and an elderly widow, gathered for prayer. Although Baptists to the core, they charitably permitted this stranger who babbled in an unknown tongue to join them, and a friendship was forged.

During the holiday season we decided as a family to attend the Baptist church's Christmas worship service. It was there that we met Mrs. Okubo (a believer), and her unsaved husband and young children. The Okubos were visiting from a town called Hikari which we knew little about. At that point we had no idea that one day we too would live in Hikari, in the very same housing development as the Okubo family.

Shortly after we moved to Hikari in the Spring of 1990, Mrs. Okubo showed up at our door. One of the first questions out of her mouth was: "Are you going to start a Baptist church?" When she learned that although the church would be similar to her own in doctrine but that the term "Baptist" would not be in the name, she was visibly disappointed. As a result, she never attended any of our outreaches in the community, although she did permit her little boy Shinichi to attend Sunday School in our home.

After Shinichi graduated from college, he returned to live with his parents here in Hikari. We reconnected with him at that time, and even began to study the Bible with him. However, when Shinichi expressed an interest in following Christ, his father got angry, and that was the end of that.

Much to our surprise, over the past few years, Mr. Okubo has attended several special events at the church such as the Christmas Eve and Easter services, where he has been exposed to the gospel. He also has transported children during the Kids' Camp in August (which his grandchildren have attended), as well as joined the believers in setting-up for the Ladies' Christmas Luncheon. Sadly, his wife has yet to join him for any of the above.



Three of the Okubo's granddaughters have been regular attendees at a weekday children's Bible class here at the church. Two have believed, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> appears to be on the verge of doing so. For years God has been working in the Okubo family. Thank you for joining us in asking Him to do even more for the Okubos, as together we remember the requests listed on the left.

*That Entire Families Might Believe,*

*Jonathan & Dorothy*