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Hideyuki and Ayano are the sole believers in their extended families. Although Hideyuki's mother (a widow) and Ayano's father (a widower) initially were not keen on their children marrying a Christian, both expressed appreciation for what they heard and observed at the wedding ceremony. Thank you for praying that the newlyweds would emit the fragrance of Christ among their lost parents and other family members.



Please join us in praying that Wataru would apply the Word as he is disciplined, and that both he and Izumi would remain morally pure as they prepare for a life together.



We continue seeking to expose young families to the gospel. One means for doing so is a weekly English class for pre-school children. We have met Wataru's older brother and his family through this outreach. Pray that this family would attend the evangelistic worship service & BBQ in July.

Dear Praying Friends,

Growing up in our neighborhood, as a little girl Ayano attended Sunday School and other church functions in our home and eventually believed. However, we lost contact with her when she became a busy high school student and later left home to attend university. As you can imagine, we were quite surprised and delighted to receive a letter from Ayano back in 2020 informing us that she was living about 2 hours away, studying the Bible, and wanted to reconnect with us.

Shortly thereafter, we began to visit Ayano monthly to encourage her in her faith and arranged for one of the believers from the church here in Hikari to disciple Ayano on-line. This led to Ayano being baptized about a year later.



During one of our visits, Ayano communicated to us her desire to be married. We personally knew of no Japanese male believers that we might introduce to her, but after consultation with a Japanese pastor friend in Hiroshima, he agreed to arrange for Ayano to meet Hideyuki, a believing pediatrician from his church. After their initial meeting, Ayano and Hideyuki agreed to pursue a relationship and were married 2 weeks ago. We were honored to have a role in their wedding ceremony and reception.

While Ayano and Hideyuki were preparing for marriage, we learned that Izumi (a believer from the church here in Hikari) was dating Wataru (an unsaved man from her workplace). By the time we were informed of this relationship, the parents of both parties had already formally met which in Japan only occurs when their children have agreed to marry.

Knowing that Izumi was a 3rd generation believer (a rarity in Japan) we were disappointed to learn that she was pursuing marriage with Wataru. Upon sharing with Izumi that Scripture instructs believers not to marry someone outside of God's family, it was obvious that she was torn in her heart between her affection for Wataru and honoring God's Word. Fortunately, she listened to the counsel she was given and agreed not to marry Wataru while he was an unbeliever.

We invited Izumi and Wataru over for dinner and at that time shared with him why followers of Christ are not to marry those of another faith. He listened politely, but was not in agreement. We offered to study the Bible with Wataru, and although he initially was not interested, this past January he had a change of heart and began to study on a weekly basis as well as to attend worship services. One week ago, the prayers of many were answered when Wataru called upon the name of the Lord for salvation.



*Preparing Christ's Bride,
Jonathan & Dorothy*