

A New Puppy!

September 12, 2024

We have had dogs for 29 of our 38 years in Japan. Jumper was with us for 11 years, and Buddy for 18 years. Buddy was just that- a Buddy. He didn't have any exceptional tricks, but he thoroughly disarmed complicated feelings and totally matched his name of being a friend to everyone. He's been dead for four years now.

Recently I wrote to one of the moms of a former English

student. Her son was from my rowdy boy class- the class where the rowdy students would occasionally pick on him. For example, once they dug a hole in our yard to trap him. This boy and I used to walk Buddy together and have great talks -then other boys joined in and lots of mediating and healing happened at the end of the leash. "A" is now in his first year of high school and his mother promised to bring him to see our new puppy. We are praying that our little puppy, apart from delighting us with her wagging tail and pleasant personality, will truly be our little co-worker in bringing people to Jesus. Her name is Mimi.

(Pronounced mee mee)

Every few days lately someone new has been coming. Four families from just down the road and seemingly unrelated to each other have brought their small kids to class-without an invitation from anyone. Several new adults have started coming to the adult class. Two new ladies have made an appearance at worship service. We still haven't managed to get the new church ad made and out, yet people are coming. While we rejoice with the new, we are trying to take time to follow up with



Overnight Church camp and outdoor worship service



those who have been coming for awhile but haven't yet come to faith. Balancing the needs of the various people when they are at very different stages of the journey to meet Jesus requires energy, sensitivity and wisdom but above all, God working by his spirit to seek and to save those who are lost!

Please rejoice with us over the "new's" and pray with us that both the newcomers and old timers will be knit together into one body, one faith. Pray also that the puppy will give many moments of joy to each one on their journey.

Thank you for praying for us!!

Much love, Martin and Ruth Mae Ghent

GIVING THANKS TO GOD:

1)for special family time with Micah's family, Aaron's family and Naomi in August in August and that we will soon see Bethany and Roy.

2)that meaningful English cafe meetings are still happening despite limited staff so we are still having chances to share Jesus with high school and college students.

3) that we had a good church camp also despite various limitations and that someone we don't usually get to share with was able to join in in a very natural way for the evening Bible time.

4) for all the new people and that one of them started Bible study today.

5) for a puppy and the joy she brings!! She really is an answer to prayer. It isn't easy to find puppies.

ASKING GOD:

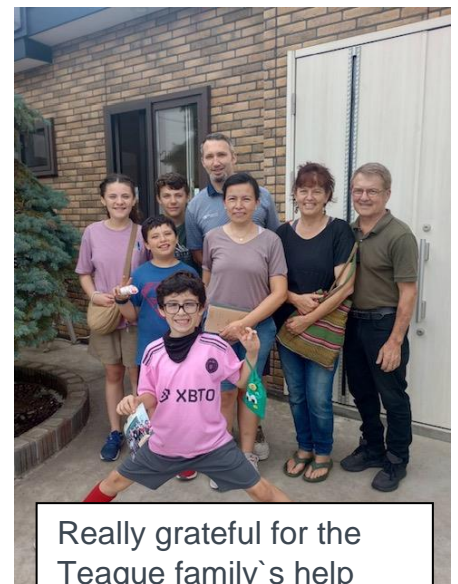
1) to continually bring joy to our hearts through his words and the simple gifts he daily gives.

2)to protect Mimi and use her for his kingdom's sake.

3) to be able to make a good reconnection with high school boy A and that God will draw him to himself.



Finishing painting and tidying up a project from 2023



Really grateful for the Teague family's help over the year.



English Café-outreach to HS and Uni students, and young adults

4) to enable us daily to balance things and do what God desires. Yet another person called me after over 15 years not hearing from her. She wants to move close to the church so she can come. I am feeling like I so want to do all that I can to share Jesus but kind of concerned about how to do it well within the constraints in which we live.

5) to build his church here in Hirosaki. I have sat and looked at the last sentence for five minutes because my

heart is so full knowing the types of things it would take to do that but it would take pages to write it in words.

May God's spirit guide you as you pray to be able to know what to pray.



Family Gathering in Hakodate
Spent time with Aaron and family
Had a good couple of days with Aaron and family and Naomi at the church Aaron is helping plant.

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