

April 15, 2014

SPRING IS HERE!

Plum, peach and cherry blossoms in various shades of pink and white! Greenery along the ground and up in the trees! A rainbow of wild flowers here and there! All of these colors and many scents are in abundance now in Japan. Yes, spring is here!

I can't help but think of how, in some ways, this is a like ministry. In nature, during the winter we see barren trees, large fields of brown, dry weeds all a mess; many things have died or are on hold for a time. In ministry, as I wrote in December, some ministries were ending here. Some things were on hold. But, like the foliage, God is bringing more opportunities into our lives to further His kingdom.

One area that is blooming is at a church in Tatebayashi, Gumma. Nao's regular speaking engagements ended after two years. However, now God is using him to help some young people. He is encouraging them to take on some leadership roles in a worship team. Nao is going to this church almost every Saturday and being a part of their Saturday night service. Mentoring, guiding, counseling, discipling are all good descriptions of what God is having Nao do in the lives of these young people. Please pray that God will cause growth in these young people and that it will help the church to grow.

Barbara has started mentoring a Christian woman. She is very open to godly guidance. She has no Christian friends and her husband and teenage son have not professed Christ. Please pray for Barbara as she helps Takako grow in Him.

A new outreach meeting is starting this month at the church we attend. This monthly meeting is called the "Tea House". We are thrilled that we can be used of God to reach out to people who won't come to a regular church service on Sunday. Please pray for wisdom as we prepare talks and that God would bring individuals to these meetings.

The room Nao's mother was using while she was with us is now being used as a classroom! We have started having English classes here in our home as well as at our original location. This is in response to some neighbors asking to have classes here since it is more convenient for them. Now we have one adult class and are working on setting things up for some elementary-aged classes. Please pray with us for more students at both locations. This helps us earn money so we can continue ministering in Japan.

Praising Him,

Nao & Barbara Hanada and Family