

Until they became members of our *Bethesda* family, most of our residents never experienced care, help, support or love. In fact, many were considered to be a burden to their families, useless and unwanted. How grateful I am that God's love poured out on them at *Bethesda* has made a difference in their lives, and they are becoming the people God wants them to be.



Sister Monika Gottschild

When residents of *Bethesda* receive some form of recognition from outside our compound, it has a powerful effect on them. They sense appreciation and approval, in spite of their physical and mental limitations that tend to separate them from society. Such was recently the case with several in our family.



In Taiwan each year there is a nationwide Bocce Contest for challenged people and our residents are always very excited to participate. Some of the winners beamed with joy and proudly showed us the trophy they had earned. One of our champs said, "Before I threw the first ball

I was very nervous, so I prayed in my heart. God really helped me to calm down." The trophy he was holding in his hand was not only a confirmation that even as a challenged person he could succeed, but was also proof of this special experience he had had with God.

We are likewise proud of Chuen-Long and Li-Shuei, who enjoy singing and making music together. Last week they attempted to get a license that would permit them to sing in public places. Chuen-Long and Li-Shuei were very nervous because over a hundred people were taking the proficiency test to be certified, and they knew that not everyone would pass it. But they did! Now they anticipate going to public places where they will sing Christian songs and share their faith with others.



Dear friends, thank you for giving Bethesda a place in your hearts, for your continued prayers, and for supporting us. Please pray specifically with us for God to enlarge our staff with one nurse and one teacher; both are badly needed. Pray also for missionaries who could take positions of leadership here. Thank you and God bless you!

Sister Monika Gottschild, veteran missionary of 28 years, serves the residents and staff of "Bethesda" - Home for Challenged Children and Adults, in Hualien. For more information regarding our sponsorship program for these residents of Bethesda, please request our "HeartBeat" pamphlet.

Bridges

Quarterly newsletter of

Liberty Corner Mission

P.O. Box 204

Liberty Corner, NJ 07938-0204 USA

Return Service Requested

Fall / Winter 2016



Bridges

Liberty Corner Mission

Building Bridges between God and Man



Dear Faithful Friends,

Recently, I was fascinated by what I heard about the *impala*, a 3-foot tall animal in the antelope family. These beautiful creatures can jump 10 feet high and cover a distance of 33 feet in a single bound.

The strength in their legs to escape predators is extraordinary! Yet, encircle them within a 4-foot high wooden fence and they are secured. They do not leap over the low fence to obtain freedom. Why? *The impala will never jump if he cannot see in advance where he will land.*

So, too, are many Christians. When it comes to getting involved in ministries abroad, we often hesitate because we want to *see in advance* what will happen, and what our donations will accomplish. Because foreign fields are so far removed and so culturally different, we cannot *see* where our dollars are going, nor imagine what they will achieve. We thank all of you for putting your faith into action by choosing to entrust your gifts to LCM and to pray faithfully for our missionaries who serve the Lord in Taiwan and Japan. You are building His Kingdom just as surely as if you were out there in person preaching the Gospel! Though you cannot see "over the fence" with physical eyes, we pray that through eyes of faith you can see how God is at work!

In this edition of BRIDGES, you will be able to clearly observe what God has been doing in recent months. In Japan, the heart of Tomoyo is turning to Jesus. Likewise, Mr. & Mrs. Takesada are close to making that decision. You will see in Taiwan how a life has been regenerated through Christ, and how disabled young people find their worth and dignity in Him. Yes, let us continue to take great leaps of faith, believing, even if we cannot see the victorious outcome today!

In Christ and for Christ,

Sister Maria

Sister Maria Baha

Director, Liberty Corner Mission

<http://LCMissionUSA.com>



Liberty Corner Mission, established in 1935, is the foreign mission arm of Fellowship Deaconry Ministries, Liberty Corner, New Jersey. Serving in Taiwan and Japan since 1951, we preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, hold high the Cross, make disciples and plant churches, that God might be worshipped and glorified.

All gifts are income tax deductible. We regret that we cannot accept online donations.

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Japan



Andy and Shoko Pfeiffer

Mrs. Takesada was blessed by the love she received from our congregation. She came almost every Sunday, joining other seekers who also desired to know more about Christ. She brought her husband and both expressed how much they wanted to have a child. No prayer directed to any idol in many temples had granted their request. Mrs. Takesada asked Shoko to join her in asking God to intervene and allow her to bear a child. Shoko began praying with Mrs. Takesada every Sunday afternoon, and explained the nature of Christian prayer. Slowly, Mrs. Takesada came to understand that Christians have access to the Throne of Grace before a living God. ***“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us”*** (1 John 5:14).

In the spring of 2015, the Lord removed Mrs. Takesada’s barrenness. The joyful news that a baby was expected so moved her husband that he also began attending church. The Lord gave them a son, Yasuhiro, on Christmas Eve. What a gift that was! Although other family members urged them to return to their Buddhist faith, Mr. and Mrs. Takesada refused. In thankfulness to Jesus, they chose to continue attending our church. On a couch placed in the rear of our sanctuary, this mother and her child listen to the Gospel while Mr. Takesada sits beside them on a chair. What a lovely sight!

At the request of Mr. and Mrs. Takesada, one Sunday, little Yasuhiro was dedicated to Jesus. Our congregation promised to support them in raising their child and in praying for protection against any dark powers coming against the boy or his parents. Please pray earnestly with us for the salvation of this family! Thank you for your prayer and support. 🙏

Andy and Shoko Pfeiffer have been serving at Yamanomachi Christian Church in northern Kobe since April 2009. Let us pray with them for a great harvest of souls!

The Christmas Gift

Three years ago, after distributing 4,000 flyers for our Christmas Worship Service, only one person accepted our invitation to come! When Mrs. Takesada found our flyer in her mailbox, she recalled her year as an exchange student in New Zealand. There she had attended church and now wanted to see how Christmas was celebrated in a church in Japan.



Taiwan

A Changed Heart

Mr. Li Chiray started coming to our church through his wife’s testimony. More than two years ago, he started having one-on-one Bible studies with me, came to faith in Jesus, and was baptized this past Easter. This is a story of how the Lord radically changed his attitude toward a co-worker.

Li Chiray works as a physical therapist and often came into conflict with a certain co-worker who, in his mind, did not exhibit professional standards. This therapist made many mistakes and exerted very little effort. Their relationship gradually deteriorated. They even avoided working together in the same room. When not on rotation with her, work was tolerable, but when they had to work together, it was most difficult. This situation upset Chiray and he looked forward to Sundays, when he would come to church and go home energized and feeling much better about the situation. By the middle of the week, however, it was back to the way it was before.

We encouraged Chiray to forgive and to accept people as they are, but the message was not getting through. He knew that becoming a Christian meant being regenerated, so he began taking this big problem to the Lord. He and his wife would pray together about it, but his prayer was that the co-worker would get another job. God didn’t answer that prayer. Instead, He had something better in mind.

Shortly after Chiray was baptized, he discovered that his attitude toward the co-worker had changed; the intolerance was suddenly gone. He didn’t know how or exactly when it happened, but now when he saw her, he didn’t have negative feelings toward her. Her work performance didn’t change, but since he wasn’t her direct supervisor, it no longer mattered. Their relationship improved greatly and it was obvious to everyone. This is the power of the Gospel! Chiray sees all this as a special gift from God and is now in training to be a cell group leader in our church. May the Lord continue to change and transform Chiray, making him a blessing to all.

For all your believing prayer, your financial support, and your interest in our ministry, please accept our sincere thanks! 🙏

Karl and Kathy Schulz, in Taiwan since 1993, serve in Taoyuan, near Taipei. Karl is a church planter and Field Leader of LCM Taiwan. Pray for Karl, his wife Kathy, and their three children, Aurora and Ben in Taiwan, and David in the United States.



Karl and Kathy Schulz

Japan

*“I took you from the ends of the earth,
from its farthest corners I called you.
I said, ‘You are my servant’;
I have chosen you and have not rejected you.”*

Isaiah 41:9 NIV

Praise the Lord! I thank Jesus and I thank you for your continued prayer and faithful support for our ministry in Awara.

Tomoyo is a relatively new seeker who has been coming to our meetings since Easter. She was born in a neighboring town, but went to college in Osaka. There she met some Christians, one of whom was her professor. He often spoke about God and the Bible. One of her close friends also knew the Lord and witnessed to her. Today that friend is ministering in another country. Through encounters like these, Tomoyo became interested in learning more about Jesus and began attending our church.

Three years ago, she came back to her hometown and started a new job. She began searching for a church, but couldn’t find one where the Gospel was preached as she had heard it in Osaka. Earlier this year, she saw a flyer for our Easter Sunday service and came to it. Tears of joy rolled down her cheeks as she listened to the message, because she felt that finally she had come back to God. She found the peace for which she had been searching for many years. Since then she comes to Sunday Worship each week.

She and I began meeting regularly for Bible study. As she gradually came to understand God’s Word, her relationship with the Lord deepened. Her concern, however, was her parents. They never stopped her from coming to church, but they didn’t want her to get baptized. We prayed that she would make a clear decision to follow Jesus and through her testimony, her parents would also come to Jesus.

This summer, very suddenly and unexpectedly, Tomoyo’s father passed away. We prayed that her deep sorrow would not take her away from the Lord. God was so compassionate. He didn’t let her go. She is now seeking Him more than ever. God is comforting her and is doing His healing work in her heart. Please pray that Tomoyo might clearly accept Christ as Savior from sin and know the joy of His salvation. Thank you very much! 🙏

*Rural Japan is steeped in heathen traditional religious customs, all making the Christian witness most unwelcome. Do pray for **Rie Miura**, as she and Kazue Tanaka faithfully proclaim God’s Word in Awara, Fukui Prefecture!*



Rie Miura