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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It has been quite a while since the last letter, and quite a bit has happened since then.

First and foremost, Kanon Rosalina Elkins was born on April 26, in our own Tsukui County (Ikuko had gone back to Fukuoka, her hometown, for giving birth to the two boys). Kanon (pronounced KA (as in "cot") - non (as you would say "known")) is not really a Japanese name, a point many people have asked us about. It is the German spelling for "canon" (not cannon, please) and is a Middle Ages name meaning basically the same. The Japanese characters which we have assigned to this pronunciation are which means "aromatic sound", a reference to 2 Corinthians 2: 15-16, "For we

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are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?"

Well, Kanon is healthy, and learning to crawl and find various Choking Hazards and the like. The boys are happy to have a sister, as well as the grandparents to have a granddaughter. We just ask that you pray for the parents, that their body and soul will hold up under the task of child rearing, church, mission, and work.

We are studying the Old Testament law in our adult Sunday School classes now, and of all amazement, the Sisters our eating it up. Most Japanese Christians, however sincere, do not see the necessity in understanding the Word of God as a whole, and tend only to read portions that give nice warm feelings or instructions on life. This inevitably leads to rejection of hardships, discipline, and consequently spiritual growth.

We had a "bible study boarding camp", as you might call it, last summer, and are planning another this year. The Sisters do seem to wholeheartedly embrace the study of the Word, and the need to live it out. We ask that you would especially pray for Sister Chizuko and Sister Junko, that they might be protected from Satan's traps which he lays for us all.

Prayers for Ikuko and myself, as well as the church are greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for your continuing support.

In His Love,
Nathan, Ikuko, Joe, Ray, & Kanon