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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

You will have heard in detail from "Pastor Carlton" (which is what we call him here) regarding Mother's surgery and torturous recovery process, and so I will not repeat the details here. Having said that, I still will comment that

- It is wonderful to have a God to whom we can commit ourselves, and
- Nonetheless, these things are a great drain on all involved.

Please continue to pray for all of us over here.

A wonderful piece of news here since the last newsletter, Joe was saved! I have no idea what he will grow up to be, but I pray that his life and testimony will glorify God whatever field he chooses to pursue.

We had our bible retreat a couple weeks ago. Our theme this year was the message of the prophets. Each participant had to research and prepare a study on two prophets. The main point of this retreat was to discover that God has a single grand plan for mankind, and that He has been carrying it out according to his own schedule for thousands of years. The reason that we see so many references to Christ in the Old Testament is not because God made a "treasure hunt" for us in ancient history. The reason is because the providing of the Messiah is such a crucial part of the entire grand plan.

As I have mentioned before, so many Japanese view the Old Testament as irrelevant to "my life", and even those who use it see it as little more than a source of "parables" for modern life. The Sisters who attended the retreat have realized the importance of the Bible in its entirety, not just in selected and preferred portions.

We will have a chance to visit the States in September, the first time in close to 10 years. However, our time will be very limited, and we will be able to visit my Sending Church and hopefully other Supporting Churches in Hawaii, and little more. We are looking forward to seeing as many as possible in this short time, and also introducing the kids to their "other homeland".

Thank you again for your continuing prayers and support.

In His Love,

Nathan, Ikuko, Joe, Ray, and Kanon Elkins