

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray for Kyoko Kume who is now serving the Lord in her local church. Kyoko's husband passed away in 2005 and she now lives with her son, Osamu. He is a 34 year old pianist and attends church off and on. Please pray for his true conversion.
2. Pray for the unsaved family members of the late Minoru Sato, who saw a true man of God live in their midst. Pray for the seeds that were sown into their lives.
3. Pray for the numerous people who heard the Gospel message through the 'Voice of Joy' radio broadcast for many years.
4. The Mission is in need of dedicated Christian English teachers. Please pray for the provision of well-qualified teachers of His choice.
5. Many requests for deputation meetings have been received. Pray for David and Sue, as they have a very busy schedule of meetings from mid-April to mid-June in the UK, including N. Ireland.

JAPANORAMA

China has a significant problem with the trafficking of women and girls. Boys are also kidnapped and sold for adoption to families without male heirs. Japanese newspapers report that over 40 million girls and women are 'missing' in China, literally removed from the population, before or after birth. One article emphasized that this could lead to the "frustration of as many as 40 million single men by 2020." China faces a future of instability and uncertainty, as this generation of men are left lacking brides.



"Call unto Me, and I will answer thee" - Jer. 33:3

March / April 2008

A VOICE DEDICATED TO GOD

"Kyoko, would you consider becoming our daughter and take our family name?" Rev. Kume and his wife asked. They were in their early 60's when they first met 26-year-old Kyoko. The Kumes had no children and prayed for someone to carry on their family name and Christian traditions. Kyoko had no living family members and longed to be part of a family, so she agreed to become Kyoko Kume.



Neil with Kyoko Kume

"We desperately need a radio announcer for the 'Voice of Joy' broadcast," I said to Rev. Kume some years later. "Kyoko, my daughter might be the one you are looking for," Rev. Kume said. Only then did I discover that some years ago, Kyoko had been a radio announcer for other Christian organizations.

We started the 'Voice of Joy' broadcast in 1960 and God had blessed it far beyond our expectations. There were about a 100,000 responses throughout the years and we saw many come to the Lord!

Letters requesting spiritual help came from people in various places and walks of life. Patients, prisoners, factory and office workers, beauticians, medical personnel, students, children, dress makers, even priests in Buddhist temples were enquiring about God and His Word! The Lord saved three hairdressers in different parts of Japan. It was a wonderful joy to be able to bring them together for fellowship!

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One day Kyoko told me that from one prison alone, 53 letters were received from individuals who wrote as a result of the broadcasts. She wondered if I would like to go and visit them.

I discovered that some 3,000 prisoners were being allowed to listen to the 'Voice of Joy' broadcast! I asked for permission to bring the men together who had written in for help. Thirty-eight of them gathered together in a hall where I had the wonderful opportunity to explain the way of salvation to them.

I then asked them to respond in prayer. In front of the guards, every one of those men prayed out loud to Jesus, probably for the first time in their lives, confessing their sins to the Lord! They did not mind what others thought of their prayers, so great was their hunger for God!

In many other places, people also felt like prisoners. Taizo said that he felt like the confinement of his hospital room was similar to a prison.

"If no help comes from your office, I have decided to take my life!" Taizo wrote on a postcard from his hospital bed. "I have tried everything, but nothing works!"

We wrote him a long letter and sent it by special delivery. He was

moved to tears because he had never received a letter like that before! For 27 years he had been a tuberculosis patient, and was even forgotten by his closest relatives!

"Who would write someone like me a seven page letter?" he wondered. He was overwhelmed with emotion. The letter spoke of hope and peace in Jesus, and encouraged him to read the Bible. It gave him a sense of freedom and peace that he had never experienced before. When he read in Matthew, "**Seek and ye shall find**" (Matt 7:7), he did not know exactly what he would find, but he vowed to God that he would seek Him. In the following months we received a total of 45 letters from Taizo, telling us what Christ had done for him. He was literally snatched away from committing suicide!

"I am so glad I had a small part in the work of the 'Voice of Joy' broadcasts and the miracles of salvation accomplished in the hearts of people in Japan!" Kyoko Kume modestly tells people, when she has the opportunity to fellowship with those that were saved and blessed through the work of the Japan Mission. □

STAFF UPDATE MINORU SATO

Mr. Minoru Sato went to be with the Lord on December 17, 2007. He was 96 years old and an inspiration to friends, family and contacts until the end.



Minoru Sato

He was an assistant evangelist for a number of years before Japan Mission was officially started, and joined as a full-time worker in 1957. He diligently served as hospital evangelist, treasurer, legal advisor, administrator and a man we often called on to solve some of our most difficult problems.

Minoru's life verse was, "**Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.**" (Rev. 3:20 NKJV) This verse was the theme of the message given by Neil at the funeral with many unsaved relatives present.

At his funeral, the unsaved were invited to open their hearts to Jesus Christ and repeat aloud a prayer, asking Christ to come into their hearts. Neil says, "How many prayed that prayer in earnest I will never know; but I believe that God gave everyone there an opportunity to respond to Him that day!"

Please pray for those who heard the Gospel and prayed in earnest.