

## PRAYER NEEDS

### CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED (Saturdays @ 11.00 am)

- \* Thank God for the conversations we were able to have about the Christian faith.
- \* Pray for the facilitators as they prepare for the sessions.
- \* Pray that attendees will encounter Jesus for themselves through reading Mark.

### PRAYER ITEMS FROM BAY WAN JEE, Missionary to Japan

- \* Praise God for T-san's salvation and baptism.
- \* The two groups of Gospel Choir Ladies continue to sing about Jesus, learn about sin and God's grace. Rejoice that one pre-believing lady from the class on Romans told us she will go to church regularly come 2020! Others are toiling between "wanting to believe but not yet."
- \* Several people feel out of place in church, due to words or no words. Pray for wisdom and compassion to walk with those who are hurting.

### CHURCH CAMP (13-17 JUNE 2020, SATURDAY–WEDNESDAY)

- \* Please pray for the Church Camp Committee as camp registration commences. Pray for **Dn Jonathan Foo, Dn Lee Lin Ping, Joy Poh, Bong Ru Hui, Lim Hann Lee, Frankel Ng and Elder Wendell Chua** as they work together on this important church event.

## Church News & Activities

### MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our Children's Ministry Staff, Iris Goh**, is now working part time. Her working hours are from Monday to Friday, 8.30 am - 12.30 pm.

#### New Catechism Class

Commenced on 11 January, Saturday, 1.00 pm - 2.30 pm @ Ephraim Room (Level 3)

Those interested to attend, please directly approach Pastor Lawrence.

#### Church Camp: 13-17 June (Sat-Wed)

Camp registration is now open at the Fellowship Hall. Early bird fees until 29 February – \$50 off the regular price!

### ROOM RATES/PAX

	Regular	Early Bird
Single	702	-
Twin	467	417
Triple	432	382

### OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

**Wheeling Ministry** requires volunteers to wheel Ling Kwang & Cheshire Home residents interested to attend 9.00 am Service. – Contact Elder Hung Choo

Interested **Sunday School** Teachers or Assistant Teachers, **AWANA** Game & Handbook Leaders. – Contact Iris Goh @ 93382507

**Volunteer Befrienders** needed to attend LKH English Devotions regularly in order to guide elderly residents to take the step of faith to accept Christ and seek baptism. – Contact Roland Chan @ 93388054

### ZION FAMILY NEWS

**We welcome the arrival of Ariel Lim En Hui**, born on 9 January 2020.

Congratulations to parents, Dominic and Charis Lim.

## MINISTRY SHARING

### OUT OF PLACE, NOW BACK

I knew her since 2010 – Donor of potatoes. At the seeker's class, she often jested, "God cannot catch me." T-san was also regular at the Senior Fellowship and Sunday Service for five years; but she made sure she would not be 'caught'. When I was back in Japan in 2015, I hoped to meet her, only to hear she has stayed away, after being hurt. Yet, yearly, she sent *Senkyou Church* 20 kilograms of potatoes.

Last year, T-san contracted cancer. Ongoing treatment was hard but postcards were positive. She reminded me always to take care of myself, just as she had written on her cards to Singapore while I underwent treatment. Last November, her daughter informed us that T-san would like three of us to visit. Remote contact and private prayers now gave way to bedside massages and group prayers. Privately, I prayed for T-san to be baptized; my fellow visitor was surprised we can pray 'that far' since salvation is yet to come. Certainly, our desire to share was not void of fears. But God wants her saved more than any of us; we can boldly seek His mercies.

Illness reigned. T-san was no longer robust. After nine years, spiritually, where is she? Weeks ago, she had said to her daughter, "Perhaps I'm not caught by God." Deep down, I wondered if she wants to be 'caught'. My elderly friend quoted Revelation 3:20; "Is it not so much that God cannot 'catch' you, but you have let go of His grip by refusing to be led?" A pensive T-san admitted, 'Perhaps so'. Using the illustration of a *tatami-room* and its wooden doors, she asked, "Would you not just peak at Jesus secretly through the gaps, but slide the doors wide open to let Jesus in? He wants to come in."

"*Douzo yoro-shiku o-ne-ga-i-shi-masu...*" (In context, it means 'Yes, please come in'). Faith was expressed right before our eyes at our "first" visit/sharing! Stunned yet doubtful, we wondered, "Did T-san know what she was saying?" (how weak of us to believe!). Few more visits with different questions – we heard faith. "Now a believer of Jesus, T-san, would you like to be baptized?" "*Ureshii, otanoshimi*" (Most happy to, looking forward!) came her reply. Nine years of resistance had given way to harvest!

Severely weakened T-san was baptized on 14 Dec 2019; her daughters and granddaughter, though non-believers, were so at ease at the baptism, rejoicing with their mother who has made peace with her God. T-san's word right after: *Arigatou* (Thank you). I saw her the next day and days after – no more words. Her longest sentence was, "There's after all a place for me to return to, so grateful, friends who care..." Yes T-san, God's arms and His gates of heaven welcome every one who believes Jesus is their Saviour. At T-san's funeral, we read the verse underlined in her Bible, "I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1).

Perhaps Jesus was never hospitalized, sick, or had treatment. Yet He did not think it out of place to be born, to live as a man in our world. Like T-san, He tasted birth, pain and death. For her, He rose from His grave, eternal life He brings. For us who believe in Him, may we bear our faith in Jesus boldly, as we usher in this new decade.