



# THE PETITES

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February to April, 2020

Like all of you, the current coronavirus pandemic has changed our lives. Now on furlough, April was to be a very busy month with several visitors from Japan and reporting to Churches. All of that has been cancelled of course – though we have `visited` some Churches through the internet. We are grateful to one of our supporting Churches for providing us a place to stay in Raleigh, NC during this time. On most Sundays we `attend` three services each weekend in Japanese and one in English. The three Churches we have been attending in Japan are our son`s church in Akita, our first church plant in Aira, and our present church plant in Izumi – all presently meeting online. You have had a part in each of these churches – thank you.

**The Gospel is not Bound** Becky recently wrote a lady from our area in Japan who has heard the gospel repeatedly and urged her to repent and trust in Christ. She wrote us last week and said, "I read your letter, have come to Church and read the book you gave me. I have never really believed in anything. When I was young, I was hospitalized for TB and introduced to Christianity but did not become a Christian – but I am not opposed to it. I will think carefully about it. I love you and Bill – stay well." Would appreciate your prayers for Ms. S – that the Lord would open her eyes to the truth.

**Prayer Requests and News** \* Last prayer letter I asked for prayer for myself! (Bill) I had experienced some physical problems. Thank you for your prayers. I seem to be doing better now and am thankful. \* Churches in Japan are often small and financially poor. They too are trying to minister in difficult times. Almost all the news one hears in the States is about America but our brothers and sisters in Christ are struggling with the physical and economic effects of this virus all over the world. Remember to pray for them. \*We can`t guarantee `safe at home` but if you are `safe in Him` you join with us in looking forward to the day when the Lord Jesus Christ restores all things!

Thank you once again for your prayers and fellowship in the gospel. *Bill and Becky*



Akita Bible Baptist Church, Pastor Billy



Aira Kibo Baptist Church, Pastor Tago



Izumi Kibo Baptist Church, Missionary Joel Diffenderfer, Takeshi Uchizono interpreting for the deaf



From a different era: This picture was taken at the dedication of the Aira Kibo Baptist Church on May 12, 1996 at the very end of our first term in Japan. The church has been enlarged and a parsonage added – but it still stands and is being used for the Kingdom. Several who were very involved in its construction have gone to be with the Lord they served – including Mrs. Pam Purrington last fall. She was the wife of the head carpenter on the project. This picture was never used in a prayer letter.