

ADAIR UPDATE



It's a baby
...boy!

IT'S A BABY

Introducing Joseph Clifford Adair

When my (Robert) niece first heard her new cousin's name, she replied by saying, "Joseph is Jesus' dad, and Clifford is a big red dog." Well, she got it partly right. In addition to simply liking it, we want to share why we chose this name.

I have been fascinated with Jesus' father, Joseph, for a long time. We don't know very much about him, but what we do know is impressive. Just the other night as I tried to put up curtains, I was struck with how carpentry is not a simple task. But more than that I am impressed with how Joseph was trusted with protecting the most vulnerable and important child in history. He sought to protect Mary's honor when he found out she was pregnant. He heard from God in a dream and responded immediately by rushing his family to Egypt to protect them. He also brought Jesus up doing everything required of the law of the Lord.

It is our desire that Joseph Clifford grows up to be a man who responds to the voice of God, is

faithful to protect what is entrusted to him, honors those around him, and is faithful to God's law.

Joseph is also the name of my mother's father, and I have very fond memories of him from when I was a child. The name Clifford is in honor of Roberta's father who passed away when she was young. Although I never had the privilege to meet him, I look forward to hearing more and more stories about him from family and friends with Joseph as he grows up.

As for his birth, from the time Roberta began to notice contractions until delivery took a little over 13 hours. Joseph was 8 pounds 9 ounces and 21.6 inches long at birth. Roberta and Joseph are both home and healthy. Despite many surprises with the Japanese system, we had a very positive experience at our local hospital.

We are both excited and scared, a sentiment we hear is not unusual for first-time parents. Please join us in welcoming Joseph Clifford, and we look forward to introducing you to him next time we are in your area.



What is this for?

- A) Inflating your car's tires
- B) Sucking mucus out of your child's nose.
- C) Eating Japanese soup.
- D) Helping your child fall to sleep.
- E) An afternoon snack.

(Answer on page 2)

"PREGNANT WITH LEADERS"

A few snapshots of opportunities to develop others

After Roberta came home from her week-long stay in the hospital, I went to part of our Asian Access annual retreat. During a prayer time, a mentor of mine and this year's speaker said to me, "Robert, I know this is may seem odd considering Roberta just gave birth, but I feel like you may be pregnant with leaders."

This caught me off guard because a few days before my supervisor said something similar to me. I am not sure where this will lead, but I wanted to share a few areas where I have the privilege of investing in leaders in Japan.

Starbucks

Every Thursday morning, I run out the door a bit groggy but excited to take the 6:35 train to Sendai. I meet with a Japanese friend at the Starbucks in the first floor of the station. He is a relatively young Christian and works for a company in the city. He desires to grow in his faith and as a leader but works a very demanding job with little free time. We meet together for a little over an hour to talk about life, study scripture, and pray. Whether he becomes a pastor someday or remains a core member of our church, I am excited for what God is doing in his life and how He is directing our time together.

McDonalds

On Wednesday mornings, I meet with our partner pastor at McDonalds for what we affectionately refer to as McChurch. Similarly to time with my Starbucks friend, we talk about our lives, scripture, and pray together. He is a couple years older than me, but we are in similar life stages and have become good friends. I

believe this time is valuable as we get to share what we are learning with a peer and encourage one another.

Asian Access

Within Asian Access, I am responsible for supervising three missionary units. We meet together a couple times a month for training and encouragement. In June, we will be begin using coaching methods to help one another achieve our ministry goals.

These young men and women are serving with local churches here in Miyagi and are doing great work. Please pray that we would be able to spur one another on to achieve the calling God has on our respective lives here in Japan and that I would continue to grow in this role within Asian Access.

Under 40 (U-40)

Additionally, I am recently involved with a group of young Japanese pastors who are trying to discover how to care for other young pastors in Japan. Some are attempting to plant churches in areas where none currently exist. Still others are recent seminary graduates being asked to take over established churches with aging and often shrinking congregations. Both situations come with a range of difficulties. I am excited to have the chance to explore these issues with four Japanese pastors who are about my age. I have a lot to learn from these leaders and am privileged to be included in this group. Please pray that we would be able to



Home from the hospital

identify what the young pastors need and that we would learn how to provide it.

Still focused on the church plant

With all these opportunities to interact with young leaders, there is a natural tendency for this to dominate my schedule. I believe that developing young leaders is one of the keys to the advancement of the gospel in Japan.

I am also excited to report that our small group that we often talk about is going well. The mother church is hopeful that over the next couple of years a church planting team will be birthed out of this community.

Please be praying that my Starbucks and McChurch friends, Asian Access colleagues, and U-40 pastors would be equipped to effectively share the gospel in Japan. Also pray that Roberta and I would know how to remain focused on our primary call in Japan, which is to be directly involved in planting churches.

We appreciate your prayers for us and Japan. Thanks for your partnership,

R&R

Partner

To partner financially:

www.sim.org/giveusa then click

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Or by mail: SIM USA

P.O. Box 7900

Charlotte, NC 28241-7900

Memo: R&R Adair Support #038207

Specific Prayer Points

- Adjusting to our new roles as Mom and Dad
- Japanese language acquisition
- Summer volunteer teams who will be involved in temporary housing events, oyster village relief, and English ministry
- Robanokai (young adult small group)
- Beach friend, M, and her family
- Robanokai friend T to know Jesus
- Roberta's mother who is with us until the end of June

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(Not, we don't plan on using it.)
[2]
B) This tool provides a quick and easy way to
remove mucus from your child's nose. Just place
the tube in one nostril and suck on the other end.