

ADAIR UPDATE



Enjoying a quiet morning camping

WHERE ARE THE DADS?

"A father to the fatherless and a defender of widows..."

Before moving overseas for the first time in 2005, I (Roberta, single at the time) read Psalm 68:5 and held onto it for those 3 years: *A Father to the fatherless and a defender of widows is God in his holy dwelling. He sets the lonely in families* (NIV). At that time, I especially loved the part about family and trusted God to provide this for me - which he did so abundantly.

Now, after living in Japan for almost 5 years, I think about this verse just as often although differently. One of the bigger surprises for me when we moved to Japan is what seems to be rampant fatherlessness. I still have a lot to learn about this as I'm not sure if it's more pronounced in the area where we live or if it is widespread.

What I do know are the people in my life here. There are many kids at the community center across the street who live with their moms and sometimes grandparents. Several kids in J's class have dads who live in a different city, come back every other weekend, and mostly sleep

when home. Many of the dads who do live with their families work ridiculous hours, and the moms are functionally single parents. Also, 6 adult women from 3 families in our immediate neighborhood have said some version of, "I don't know what my dad looks like. He might live nearby, but I don't know him."

Something else I know is that we need our dads. There is a reason God revealed himself to us as our Heavenly Father (Japanese prayers often begin with "Loving Father"). For as long as I've been here, I've wondered how this title for God communicates to the countless people who functionally or actually grow up with absent fathers. My father passed away over 20 years ago, and I still miss him - desperately at times. This issue that I see around me is deeply personal to me, and I often find myself feeling overwhelmed.

Please pray that our community and the church in Japan would know how to introduce people to the Father to the fatherless.



Post-typhoon beach play. What is the difference between a hurricane, a typhoon, and a cyclone?

- A) The location of the storm
- B) The strength of wind
- C) Direction the storm spins
- D) The amount of damage

(Answer on page 2)



CROSSWAY 2018

Year 8 of a great team from Orange County

In the summer of 2011, Roberta and I (Robert) helped lead teams responding to the March 11 Triple Disaster. Many individuals and church groups came through to help clean up, love people, and do whatever was necessary to tangibly share the love of Christ with the victims of the earthquake and tsunami. One of these churches is Crossway Community Church in Brea, California. This summer marked the 8th consecutive year the church has sent a team. I want to give you a snapshot of ways this short-term team encourages the work in Japan.

Church Plant

Last summer, the team helped us clean up the building we are now using for English classes and worship services. This year, they were able to lead worship, help with English classes, and have a potluck party with neighbors in that same facility. They also led two events at the children's community center near our house helping us bless the community.

It was a lot of fun to show them all that has changed in just a year. We have gone from no consistent activities to weekly adult English classes with close to 30 students and worship services twice a month with 10 to 15 people. The middle picture on the left is of the team and a couple of our church members before worship. Also, due to the team being here, 5 neighbors came to worship for the first time.

English Ministry

A second focus for the team was on English outreach in the broader community. We did a "Christmas in July" event for all of the 2nd and 3rd-grade students at a local elementary school (bottom left). Over 200 students, parents,

and teachers participated in a fun afternoon of games, English, crafts, snacks, and a chance to hear about the real meaning of Christmas from our partner pastor.

The team also helped host a 3-day English day camp at our partner church (top left). This camp was a combination of English activities and VBS. While the school event was about forming new relationships, the camp allowed us to deepen our relationships with many of our friends and their children.

Consistency

The most impactful aspect of this team is their consistency. Every year, there are people who return from the previous team. One person has come the last 6 summers. Each time they are able to reconnect with their friends from the previous summer and to continue to share why they keep coming to Japan (Jesus). This also gives us a reason to see people we may have fallen out of touch with over the last year. Having the same people return every year has allowed us to build trust over time and not just have one-time events.

Partnership

We are thankful for our partnership with Crossway. We are equally thankful for your partnership in sharing the gospel in Japan. Several of you have asked me how a short-term team could serve in Japan. I hope this gives you a few ideas. Please contact us if you are interested in sending a team in the next couple of years. Also, regardless of if you are able to come and serve or not, we appreciate your prayers for our friends in Japan.

Fondly, R, R, J, B & A



Partner

To partner financially:

www.simusa.org/give then click

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Charlotte, NC 28241-7900

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Specific Prayer Points

- Worship services twice a month in our neighborhood
- Engaging the many types of fatherlessness
- Introducing Christ in the midst of many friendships
- Preparation for visits from family this fall
- Language and culture skills for all 5 of us
- Our family - especially for our boys to sleep a little later

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