



# Update: Ministry Partner Development

the Muhlings in Japan Jacksonville



**Happy New Year!** Yes, I know -- it's really too late be giving New Year's greetings, but this is our first newsletter for 2010, and we are excited by the prospect of a very promising year, including our return to Japan this Spring.

## We've been working hard!



▲ Working hard, praying hard!

Stacks of letters. Numerous phone calls. Emails galore. Guests in our home, and visits to other homes. Many breakfasts at Bob Evans. Even more coffee at Panera and Coffee Roasters. Speaking in other churches. Thank you cards. More phone calls for follow-up.

At each meeting, sharing the exciting things God has been doing in Japan and inviting others to partner with us in His work. This is our support raising ministry right now.

And it is ministry. Our aim is to: 1) encourage others by telling the wonderful things our great God has done; and 2) offer them an opportunity to invest in God's Kingdom, where the rewards are far greater and longer lasting than any earthly investment could offer.

## Encouraging progress...

By God's grace we have already raised over \$1200 per month in new pledged support. Despite the current economic hardships so many people face, we have been blessed with new partners. A number of our current partners have also increased their commitment to our ministry. We are *very* encouraged by this. **Thank you!**

## ...but tough realities

But during this time we have also seen our current support base struggling. Many of our partners have seen significant income reductions or even lost their jobs, and a number have been unable to keep their financial commitments to us. We have a growing prayer list of these people.

Others are sacrificing to maintain their current level of support. It is a humbling thing to be on the receiving end of such faithfulness. **Thank you!**

## Goal: Ready to go in May

The dollar has plummeted. Today it takes more than a third more dollars to buy the same Japanese yen compared to four years ago. This,

plus increased expenses, translates into a monthly support profile over 40% higher than before.

We have a new target departure date: May. But we have a big task facing us: Raise nearly \$3000 dollars in new monthly support in 3 months. It could look something like this:

- ☀ 4 new partners per week for 10 weeks
- ☀ Each partner = \$75/month average
- ☀ \$75/month x 4 new partners per week x 10 weeks = \$3000/month raised

Would you please begin to pray specifically for the Lord to enable us to reach this goal?

We believe God will continue to bring new ministry partners and that He can provide the remaining support in time to leave by May. We're going to work and pray as hard as we can to make that happen. Please labor in prayer with us!

With love and gratitude,

*Kent & Yuko*

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal." - Matthew 6:19-20*

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