

October 12, 2008

Hello Family,

I just thought I'd write a few details to you about some of my experiences here – that may not be of interest to the “greater whole”. I'm sending this as an attachment so that I don't have to use my computer in the pastor's house for too long a period at one time!!! I feel like a cripple when I can't get on line whenever the spirit moves! You'll all get my regular account of happenings at the same time, probably.

I've spent quite a bit of time at the Mead Christian Center. What a wonderful facility! I've spent two days with the elderly in the day services center. The staff is amazing. They are so kind and genuine with the old folks. They use a lot of humor, singing, actions, laughter, exercise etc. etc. Some of the folks just sit and probably don't know what's going on all the time, but the staff treats them so well.

I followed one of the care receivers home to see where he lives. He is taken home in a wheelchair because he lives only a few houses away from the Miahara Center. He lives alone on the first floor. He has a small bedroom, a tatami room and a small kitchen. On his wall is a calendar, color coded for all the services he receives every day. He goes to the center 4 times a week, has physical therapy 3 times, has home care 3 times, has help bathing several times a week at the center, gets food sent home every day that he is not at the center, etc. etc. His meds are all hanging on the wall in a pocket for each day. His main caretaker is responsible for all his needs – and he treats him very nicely.

I also saw the rooms they have available when a person cannot live on his own any longer. Of course there is a waiting list. I'm sure everyone in Osaka would like to be able to send their loved one to Mead!

On Saturday was the 100th anniversary of Mead. Many speakers!!! I think I understood possibly 9%. I'm actually getting better!!! They listed all the special greetings they had received – and of course there was one from the Baptist Union of Sweden! They have published a very nice 100th anniversary brochure. Sweden is mentioned in it many times!!!

I had dinner at the Takeuchi's house last week. They are both so in love with the Swedish missionaries they have known! Also I was at the Kadoma Church where Rev. Tajima is. They also run the preschool. I was at the Yamashita church, Rev. Fujii. That's where I spoke to the mothers of young children. Rev. Masu took me to see the Inagawa Camp in Yamashita. I think I was there as a kid!!

One day I had an interesting experience. I was talking to a woman from the Sone church who was here at ShinAi for an organ lesson. As we were talking another woman came up to us and we were introduced. “Oh, my, are you Margareta san?” She was the youngest daughter of the Nakatani family from Himeji. Her oldest sister took us around Himeji in 1992 when we were here. Their father, Nakatani san, died at age 99 a few years ago. I guess

it was one of the biggest funerals that Himeji had seen! He was a Himeji business man. He always loved our dad!

Rev. Masu has been very supportive. He has used my services very much. He went to Sweden many years ago, invited by SBU. We're about the same age – and he knows many of the ABFMS missionaries that I knew growing up. His last church was in Yokohama and he also taught at the Seminary there. He studied at Union Theological Seminary in NY 20+ years ago.

Well, maybe this is more detail than you wanted! Probably won't write again till I get home since I'm dependent on Masu's internet connection.

Hope all is well!!

Margie/Mom