



January Prayer Update

1 message

mark wolter <markinkyoto@gmail.com>
To: markinkyoto <markinkyoto@gmail.com>
Bcc: dlunstrum@faith-life.org

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Hard, but Good News

Please pray for two friends who recently both nearly had major strokes.

One is our elementary principal and ICM treasurer, Stever Rohrer.

The other is a young, single mom with two elementary kids who is in my Bible study on Sundays.

Thankfully both were wonderfully spared by God's grace.

Rie-san (the mother) almost passed away, and firmly decided right then and there to become a Christian. (Praise the Lord!)

Please pray for her recovery and for her two kids who are struggling with all that has happened.

Steve is slowly recovering, but he says he has grown stronger in his faith as he has seen God do some amazing things to help him.

I can't share everything here, but let me share one brief story of God's amazing grace. Steve wrote in an email:

"I talked to my daughters and they reminded me of the story (Matthew 14:22-33) of Jesus walking on the water in the midst of the storm and calling out to Peter to come to Him. Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water to Jesus, but when Peter took his eyes off of Jesus and focused on the wind and the waves, Peter started to sink. I remembered that I need to keep my focus on Jesus rather than on the wind and the waves (my condition).

Then some friends came to visit, and after I shared with them what I was thinking about the story of Jesus and Peter walking on the water in the storm, they asked, "Did you see the picture in the lobby?" (photo attached) There in a Japanese non-Christian university hospital was a picture called "God Save Me" which showed Jesus helping Peter in the midst of the storm. (It turns out it was by a famous Japanese Christian artist named Sadao Watanabe.) Every time I walked down the hall to the lobby I was reminded to keep my eyes on Jesus instead of focusing on the wind and the waves.

It is amazing how in such a non-Christian country (less than 1% Christian), God would place such a wonderful statement of his grace and sovereignty for Steve!



But God often does use hard things to help us grow closer to Him in faith.


On our own we often are too focused on this world and feel self-sufficient until things like this happen. I told my students today, please don't wait until bad things happen to turn to Jesus. He wants to help us know His goodness today.

Thank you for your prayers for these two friends and their families, and for many others who we are walking through life with here in Japan. Please pray that we could each take steps of faith, by God's grace, and be spared from major tragedies, especially the eternal ones.

Thank you for standing with us.
In Christ's Love,
Mark & Maki Wolter

p.s. I have attached a video of our Sunday school class on Christmas. We were so happy to have several non-Christian friends attend church for the first time ever!
Three of the kids pictured are these neighbors. Please pray for them also!

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"In God's presence is fullness of joy" - Psalm 16:11

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