

## Seeing fruit - May News

2 messages

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Thu, May 17, 2018 at 8:49 AM

Dear Friends,

It has been an eventful month! The new school year started at the beginning of April, we enjoyed some great family time (during a spring break), we have had 90 or so people over to our home, I have led a couple Bible studies and I preached a message last Sunday. (See here.) The cherry on top was seeing four young people get baptized! (See pic below.)

### Seeing Fruit

One thing that I have been thinking about lately is that seeing fruit is only a small part of what we are called to do here. Recently I went with our 1-3 graders to a strawberry picking farm. (See pics below.) We paid a fee to pick and eat strawberries in a greenhouse. And let me tell you, these were the best strawberries I have ever eaten! They were perfect! Big, red, and very sweet. The kids had fun and we went home happy. But then I started to think, "Not every day is like that for the farmers." And then I realized that I could really relate.

The past few updates we have been reporting fruit! It has been great. But harvesting isn't the only thing we do, and it isn't the only thing farmers do. There is a great need for seed planting, caring personally for the new sprouts, feeding them with good fertilizers, protecting them from bugs (false teachings), and watering them with the encouragement of God's Word! All of this takes a lot of time. For you who are farmers, you know what I mean! Farming is not a part-time operation, though farmers do have to be very patient and not try to harvest a crop too early.

The strawberry farm we went to was also built on the work of several farmers working together. That is what we are up to here also. We cannot do it alone. We need you, we need our other co-workers, but most of all we depend completely on Christ to GROW the fruit! So we pray and depend on Him. And when we do, it is so refreshing to finally enjoy some of the fruit! We pray that you would enjoy it with us too. You are part of the reason we can enjoy it.

**Requests:** Please continue to pray for new believers Rie-san and Shimizu-san. Neither have been able to come to church recently!

Also, please pray for each facet of our ministry here and the precious people we meet daily at: church, home, and school. Thank you so much!

Love in Christ,  
Mark & Maki

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