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The Robisons:

When faith shall be sight

Miracles.

In four and a half months Tomo and I will head to SEND's headquarters in Michigan, so that Tomo can attend Candidate Orientation Program and be officially appointed as a SEND missionary. Afterwards, Lord willing, we'll be spending most of our time support raising, praying that God will supply all our support by the end of next year. In this economic climate, however, that may prove to be a daunting task. However as I look at all that lays between now and Japan, I sometimes wonder if that might be the easiest of our challenges.

Allow me to describe the difficulties briefly, but for a purpose, one which I will share momentarily. Before Tomo and I can go to Japan, we must raise an additional \$7,000 in monthly support. Tomo and I both have school loans which SEND has asked us to pay off a significant portion of before departure. My job recently cut my hours in half because of budget cuts, and Tomo is not allowed to work because she is still waiting for a work permit from the US Immigration services. And while I have every reason to believe Tomo will

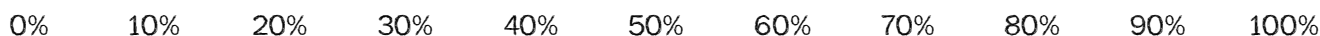
receive a green card as well as be accepted as a missionary with SEND, the fact remains both those statuses are still pending. In a very real sense, it is going to take not one miracle, but a series of them to get us over to Japan by the end of next year. Now, please don't stop reading and give up on us here, because I'm about to make my point.

Every time a person repents of their sins and place their faith in Christ, it is the greatest of miracles. When a Japanese person does it, you might say it's an even greater miracle. Missions is absolutely 100% dependent upon miracles. And if Tomo and I go to Japan believing we made it there for any reason other than the miraculous work of Almighty God Himself, then we would be feeble missionaries. Every time I start to think about how difficult support raising is, I feel like God is telling "This is the easy part!" This is boot camp. This is a time to learn to depend fully and completely upon God to supply all of our needs, and God is taking us through an advanced and accelerated course in faith building right now.



Please pray for us, and pray hard; we need it. And when by a miracle of God we find ourselves in Japan teaching, preaching, evangelizing and discipling, pray even harder, because we will need it more. This is exciting, important, crucial work that God is doing, and it will demand and test our faith, and if you decide to partner with us, it will demand and test your faith as well.

14% Promised Monthly Support





Tomo's Column

Who are you talking to?

I've lived in California for about a year total so far after living in Tokyo all my life, and I've noticed a lot of things that are done differently. One of them is how people talk and relate to each other. Of course, people speak English (or Spanish) in California, and Japanese in Japan. But there is more than that.

When speaking in English, people speak the same way to everybody. You can say "How are you doing?" to a dog, a baby, a stranger, an elderly person, or even the President. In other words, the language is equal to everyone. Japanese, however, is not so equal.

There are basically four kinds of speech: casual, polite, respectful, and humble. For example, the verb "go" can be "*iku* (casual)", "*ikimasu* (polite)", "*irasshaimasu* (respectful)", or "*mairimasu* (humble)" depending on who is going and the relationship between the speaker and the one who's going. The one that you would learn first as a foreigner would be

the polite speech because it's acceptable in any situations.

The basic rules to use these different modes of speech are: 1) Speak casually to your friends, family, and someone who's younger than you, 2) Speak politely to strangers, someone who's older than you, and someone important, 3) Speak respectfully to someone who's a lot older than you or someone very important, and 4) Speak humbly when you refer to yourself or your family member to someone who is older than you or someone important.

But when the age and the "importantness" don't go well together, (e.g. older but less important, younger but more important) you take the importantness before age. For example, you would have to talk politely to your boss who's younger than you.

I personally like both the English mindset where everyone is equal and the Japanese one where you can learn respect by just speaking the language.

Prayer Requests



- That Tomo will be able to get a green card, work permit, driver's license and job as soon as possible.
- The Jesus Film Project (where I work as a computer tech) cut my hours. Pray that God will provide a second job.
- That we will be able to get up to 50% support by January, when we will go to Michigan for Tomo to go to SEND's Candidate Orientation program, after which, Lord willing we will be able to participate in a program which will allow us to spend 20 hours a week support raising for 10 months in order to raise the remaining support needed.

If you are interested in supporting me, please fill out a yellow promise card and mail it to:

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As contributions are tax-deductible, they are sought with the understanding that SEND International has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds. Each contribution for an approved program will be used as restricted with the understanding that funds received in excess of the amount required will be used where needed most.