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SEND INTERNATIONAL

may 2008

David Robison:

SO, UH, YEAH. GOT SOME BIG NEWS THIS TIME.

This changes everything

He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.

-Proverbs 18:22

Engaged!

I guess there's no real subtle way to say this... but I'm engaged! On Saturday, May 10, I proposed to my girl friend, Tomo Takahashi, and she said she'd marry me! I'm excited and overjoyed that God has brought such a beautiful, godly young woman into my life to serve alongside me in the ministry He has called us to. I've never been happier.

Tomo is Japanese, she lives in Tokyo normally, however she's been attending UCI since last September. Unfortunately she has to return to Japan in July, and finish her final year of school. She'll graduate next March, and we're planning on getting married sometime soon after that.

I met Tomo almost five years ago, on my first mission trip to Japan. Her father is the pastor of the church

our team worked with. My brother Jon and I both stayed with their family for six weeks in the Summer of 2003. It was then that we also met Tomo's sister, Maki, whom my brother is marrying next month. (I swear we had no idea this was going to happen at the time) After that trip I hadn't planned on returning to Japan, but God had bigger, better ideas. He opened the door for me to go back to Japan four more times through my work with the Jesus Film. I was slow to realize that He was introducing me to the country He wanted me to serve in, and even slower to realize He was also introducing me my future wife.

I developed a bit of a crush on this cute, bubbly little Japanese girl as I got to know her better each time I visited, but since for most of that time I didn't know I was going to wind up



moving to Japan I didn't think it would be fair to her to try to start a long distance relationship. So I just figured I'd wait and see what happened. Shortly after I joined SEND, I learned that Tomo was going to attend UCI as an exchange student, and that for ten months she would be living twenty minutes away from me. I got to spend a lot of time with her, and enjoyed every minute of it.

13%

Promised Monthly Support

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%



Japanese college students at graduation

Hinomaru Kimigayo

(The Flag and the Anthem)

by Tomo Takahashi

春 For students in Japan, springtime is a time to say goodbye to their friends and teachers and move on to a new environment. For the seniors, it is a time of graduation. Graduation ceremony is an important milestone of students' growth and it is one of the most memorable moments in school years. For Christian students and teachers, however, it is also a time when they find themselves in a difficult situation. The reason is that singing of national anthem in graduation ceremonies in public schools is strongly encouraged, or, in some areas such as Tokyo, is made mandatory by the local government.

Why is this a problem for Christian students and teachers? The problem dates way back in history, when the Emperor was still a god. (Now he is the symbol of Japan and of the unity of Japanese people.) The national anthem of Japan is an ancient song that is said to have been a love song wishing for a lover's longevity, but it has been a song for the Emperor in modern days and was used to promote Emperor-worship during wartimes. It wishes the Emperor's reign to last for "eight thousand generations, till moss grows on rocks". Since the Bible clearly commands us not to worship any other god, most Christians in Japan choose to refrain from singing the song. However, the song has been the primary means of promoting patriotism along with the national flag, and the pressure on schools from the government, local governments, and school boards has been growing stronger and stronger in the past decade.

When I graduated from a public high school in Tokyo in 2005, plain-clothes inspectors were dispatched to random schools to report any students or teachers who were not singing the song. Some teachers were fired, suspended, or reprimanded with salary cuts for not singing the song and teachers were also held responsible for making all the students sing the song. Some years ago, a music teacher in suburban Tokyo resigned because she didn't want to accompany the song on the piano. She was a Christian.

This is just one example of many obstacles that Christians and seekers in Japan have to face. Japan still needs much prayer and help so please pray for Japan!!

Engaged! (contd. From Page 1)

We started dating about six months ago, and I learned that she'd been keeping her eye on me as well every time I went to Japan. Everything has been amazing ever since.

This is going to change some things. It's not going to be just me going to Japan anymore. Now it will be me and Tomo going together, both as missionaries to Japan. To those of you who are already supporting me, you'll now be supporting the both of us, and I cannot thank you enough for that. If any of you are interested in supporting the two of us, you'll find a yellow card enclosed which you can use to do so.

Like me, Tomo has a desire to reach out to the Japanese people with the hope and love of Christ; and God has provided her with a unique opportunity to do so. I'm thrilled to have her share this ministry with me. This will mean that together we will have to raise more support (about 75% more), and so my target date will likely be moved from Summer of 2009 to Spring or Summer of 2010. Since we are planning on getting married next year, Tomo will come to live in the US during that time, and we will both focus on raising the remainder of the support needed so that we can return to Japan together.

In closing I would like to answer some of the most common questions Tomo and I have been asked. We got engaged on a beach in Dana Point. Yes, I did give her a ring and yes, I got on one knee to propose.

Prayer Requests



- Wisdom: As Tomo and I begin to plan our wedding. International marriages have a lot of red tape, and can be tricky sometimes.
- Continued financial support, especially now that Tomo will also be joining SEND, and our support requirements will go up.
- PRAISE! April was the best month for getting new supporters yet! God brought 8 new people on board. Thanks guys!
- Strength for Japanese believers to stand firm in their faith.
- My brother Jon is getting married next month (to my Fiancé's older sister), pray that they make it over here ok, and everything goes smoothly.

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

SEND
PO Box 513
Farmington, MI 48332

24606 Polaris. • Dr Dana Point, CA 92629
david@crossroadchurch.us • (949) 350-6412 • www.gloryspeaking.com

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.