

# Waiting in Hope

## A newsletter from the Bartons in Anderson, Indiana (June 2011)

---

### Hope

“We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you” (Psalm 33:20-22, NIV).

How thankful we are for hope! The cancer journey has reminded us of so many different truths. Every time we visit the oncologist or hospital for yet another blood test (weekly) or medical test of some kind, we are reminded of hope—no matter what we hear, whether good or bad, whether disappointing or exciting. We are reminded that our hope is in the Lord and that his word never changes. Praise the Lord.

The latest news is so encouraging! When a CT/Pet scan on May 11 indicated the strong possibility that the cancer had metastasized to my bones, two follow-up MRIs were ordered. We are rejoicing that the seemingly positive readings for bone cancer on the MRIs were triggered by arthritis. The news is **Cheryl DOES NOT** have cancer in the spine, she **DOES NOT** need further radiation, and the only change being called for at present is to add a once-a-month shot to my treatment regime. This is a medicine that strengthens bones and, at the same time, is showing promise as a drug that actually seeks out cancer cells in bones to destroy them. But the doctor has cautioned us to remember that **Cheryl DOES** have plenty of cancer. It is now in the right hip and right kidney and will need to be monitored closely. But, he added, “This is manageable.” We know who the real Manager is and our hope is in him. Thank you for your faithful prayers.

### Meetings; disaster relief

Thank you also for praying for **Bernie** during his trip to Japan, May 13-21. Prayers were answered above and beyond expectation, especially when we remember that **Bernie** got bumped to first class on his way to Japan. Believe me, this just never happens—but it did. Surely God knew that **Bernie** needed to arrive in as rested a condition as possible in order to handle the grueling schedule that would meet him.

That schedule included preaching at **Tamagawa Church** the morning after he arrived! Additionally, he was involved in several important (and very long) meetings of **Tamagawa Seigakuin's** school board, the national general assembly, and others. Several potentially explosive issues were handled peacefully, for which we thank God. It was a joy for **Bernie** to be able to deliver another \$25,000 for tsunami/earthquake relief from the Church of God in North America to our brothers and sisters in Christ in Japan who are working so diligently to help victims and provide hope in the midst of Japan's worst natural disaster ever. Please do pray for recovery efforts and for opportunities for Christians to be the hands and feet of Christ in the stricken Sendai region of northeastern Japan.

## **Tamagawa Seigakuin**

Back on the school front, International Day was Wednesday, May 17. This special program at **Tamagawa Seigakuin** is staffed by members of the international community who attend Tokyo Baptist Church (TBC). This year, because many were evacuated due to the disaster and because TBC has been focusing its attention on providing disaster relief, it appeared we might not have enough volunteers for a successful International Day. But God always provides. Seventeen countries were represented and third year junior high school girls were able to travel the globe in half a day by visiting the various national booths where the students asked questions in English and learned about other cultures and what it is like to be a Christian in that place. Thank you for your prayers for this event.

Additionally, **Bernie** joined in orientation camps for 150+ first-year junior high school girls (7<sup>th</sup> grade) and 190 first-year senior high school girls (10<sup>th</sup> grade). It was a time for new students to get to know each other and for the school to introduce the Bible, faith in Christ, and give opportunity for girls to choose “Christ for Life,” the theme of the senior high camp. Again, we are thankful for your prayers that do support these significant events in the life of **Tamagawa Seigakuin**.

## **Looking ahead**

- ▶ Yesterday I booked our tickets for a July visit back to Japan with **Bernie**. Please pray that God will open the doors for this trip if it is his will for us to return;
- ▶ One of the things we’ve been praying about forever is my malnourishment. Please continue to pray as this remains a vital concern
- ▶ The International Convention of the Church of God in North America convenes June 24-29. Pray that our national church will be energized in such a way that international missions efforts will benefit as a result.

Thank you for your faithfulness to God and to us,  
Cheryl and Bernie Barton