

October 19, 2007

Dear Friends and Family,



FAMILY NEWS

We have exciting news. As it has taken a while for me to write this letter you may have already heard it.

We have a new healthy baby. The arrival was September twenty-fifth. The weight was seven pounds and two ounces. The length was about twenty-one inches. The hair color was black. The eye color was blue. I don't know what else to tell you—Oh yes, it's a BOY!!! His name is Corey Yuki. "Corey" is a Gaelic name and it means Chosen One. "Yuki" means God gives hope. Yuki uses the same ideograph that is in his mother and brother's names. Yuko and Caleb Yuta both have the ideograph for God blesses or God gives. So the boys and I all have the same initials, C.W., and the boys have the same Yu as their mother has in her name. Confused? Welcome to my world.

We are ecstatic about our little blessing. Corey and mother are doing fine. He is already nine pounds and four ounces. His eyes have not changed color yet but I have heard that they will in time.

The Sunday after his birth, a white rose was placed on the altar at Pearce Memorial Church to announce Corey's arrival. We took a picture of the four of us with the rose at the Pearce Mission House. Corey will be dedicated to the Lord on Sunday the twenty-eighth of October at Pearce Memorial. I will share a five-minute mission moment in both services and in the evening the church will have a reception for us. I don't think I'll try to explain the name thing again.

Recently Yuko and I celebrated our sixth anniversary of the day we met. I was away for a service in Pennsylvania, but upon my return Yuko was treated to a surprise—a used birdcage. Yeah, she was as excited as you, but listen a moment. It had imitation ivy on it and matches our ivy clock! So we don't have a bird. One can stick a loaf of bread in it and tease the mice. Or, it would make a nice planter for a real ivy plant. The possibilities are endless. You're not buying this either are you?

Anyway, I'll try again next year.

MISSION

Our home-assignment was extended because of Yuko's pregnancy. Hopefully we are drawing close to our time for departure. I say "hopefully" because the date depends on our support being fully funded. Our total, which includes ministry expenses on the field and ten percent of our total for the Free Methodist World Missions Department, comes to \$77,000. We are at \$52,400 from churches, \$5,300,00 from individuals, and we anticipate \$6,000.00 from the Japan FMC.

Starting next year Yuko will receive a salary like other missionary wives do. She obtained her green card in June. If you would like to see how our support is going you can check out the mission section of the Free Methodist web site.

There will be a special event in October to help attract partners and raise support for the missionaries of Genesee Conference. Superintendent Mitch Pierce will preside, and missionary Max McGinnis from Chile will be the speaker.

CAMBODIA

We learned that the Missionaries of our group met with the government officials of the Ministry of Cults and Religion. Our outreach at the university is being discouraged because the school is a public institution, but the meeting, overall, was positive.

FUTURE

Our family is blessed with our new addition, Corey Yuki Wilkins. We are so happy he has arrived. We hope to be leaving just after Christmas for Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Upon arrival we need to find a place to live and to get our furniture from a fellow missionary's ministry center. The Cambodia Mission District will be having it's annual meeting in early March; it seems best that we attend so we can be appointed to our several responsibilities on the various committees. In addition to these we know that I will be appointed to pastor the Phnom Penh Church and study at the university. Yuko will work with the mission finances and development groups. I hope to visit the Kampong Cham church plants once a month.

Please pray we are able to leave at our anticipated time and find an apartment suitable for the four of us.

DEVOTION

I've been having my devotions in the Book of Hebrews lately. Chapter eleven has a phrase that is repeated several times. It is used like an epitaph. Various individuals are

mentioned as having accomplished something monumental by faith, e.g. “By faith Noah...” or “By faith Moses...” The thought came to me about the inscription after my name, “By faith Chris...” For me it was a challenge to grasp the things of God by faith. To have Kingdom eyes. Ever think about your epitaph?

APPRECIATION

Thank you all for your prayers and support. It’s a privilege to labor with you for Him.

By faith, Chris, Yuko, Caleb Yuta, and Corey Yuki

Ps. Corey still has the blue eyes but his weight has changed. He’s now over eleven pound