Yuri Yatter April 2022



Lenten and Easter

Greetings!

For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:9-11



In Japan, April marks the beginning of a new school year and fiscal year. It was nice to see young parents walking with their first graders dressed in their school best and their shiny new school backpacks today (April 7). They were dressed up to take pictures under the cherry trees to mark the special occasion. April is also the month that I arrived in Japan as a career missionary back in 2010, so this month marks the end of 12 years!

This Lenten season, I have been reading through two books specifically for Lent (40 Days of Decrease by Alicia Britt Chole and More Power to You by Margaret Feinberg) on top of my regular devotional routine, so I have been having a very "rich" time meditating on the sacrificial path of Jesus to the Cross. As I meditate on Jesus' life, I see how focused He was on his mission and call on His life...to do what God the Father has told Him to do, despite the suffering He knew He would face. Right now, I am called to walk alongside women and encourage them to disciple other women to live victoriously in their faith. All relationships take time. With shared experiences and a mutual desire to be courageously vulnerable with one another, we can point each other to God and discover the power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives. I am starting to see the "fruit" of spending over a year with some of the women. It's wonderful to see the power of the Holy Spirit and the truth of God's Word making a difference.

Praise God with me for:

- 1. The Holy Spirit's guidance and leading in the prayer/mentoring times with various women and to see visible transformation.
- 2. A meaningful Lenten season and that the Komyo church and Kongo church can celebrate Resurrection Day together at a special Easter service in a large hall so that we can socially distance and worship all together as one group.
- 3. Paul and Melissa Ewing who planted the Komyo Christian Church and led the church faithfully for all these years to officially step out of leadership at the end of last month. We are so thankful for them. Pray for them as they prepare for home assignment and also their next church plant.
- 4. Shan Reed who also has faithfully served at Komyo Christian Church from the start and her continual work as she helps with the transition period. Please pray for her as she navigates the transition as well and continues to serve alongside Pastor Saijo.

Thanks for reading and for praying with me!

Resting in Resurrection hope,

Yuri