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★ Pray that as Wataru and Izumi begin their life together, they would early on establish the habit of daily reading the Word and praying together as a couple.

★ Wataru is the only believer in his family. His parents do not appear to be opposed to his faith and his older brother and family have become our friends. Thank you for praying that by word and deed Wataru and Izumi would manifest their devotion to Christ in the presence of Wataru's family members.

★ Plans are underway for Wataru to be baptized in September. Pray that through the preparation process, he would grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that unsaved family members would be on hand to witness his baptism.

Dear Praying Friends,

Far more fascinating than those fairy tales we all read as young children where prince charming always managed to snatch his bride from imminent danger and together they lived happily ever after, is the true love story of Wataru and Izumi.



To be honest with you, a year ago when we first learned that Izumi (a believer from the church here in Hikari) was dating a non-believer from her workplace with the intent of marriage, we were deeply concerned. We had seen other Christian Japanese girls go down that same slippery slope which ultimately led to their walking away from the church and the faith.

Thankfully, when Izumi was shown from Scripture as to why she should not marry a non-believer, she agreed to postpone marriage to Wataru until he believed. In November we had Wataru over for dinner, answered his question as to why Christians are to only marry fellow-Christians, and offered to study the Bible with him. Initially he turned down the offer, but in January he had a change of mind and commenced studying on a weekly basis. This was followed by a change of heart as well when in April he called upon the name of the Lord for forgiveness and salvation.

Upon believing, Wataru revealed as to how he was led in his decision to begin Bible study back in January. The day before he was scheduled to take an important exam relating to his job, he was so sick he could not even get out of bed. In desperation, he prayed to God asking for healing. Amazingly, the next day he was well and passed the exam. That answer to prayer convinced him that the God of the Bible was real.



In June Wataru and Izumi became officially engaged at the close of a morning worship service, and on August 12th were joined together as husband and wife.

When we sat down with Izumi's parents (devout believers living in another part of Japan) after the reception, they expressed how grateful they were that like they themselves, others had spoken to their daughter when she was contemplating marrying an unbeliever.

We were able to share with Izumi's parents that many of you had been praying that their daughter would not marry Wataru unless he believed. They were delighted to hear that.

*Telling others how they too can live happily ever after,
Jonathan & Dorothy*