

## *“In Giving We Receive”*

June 23, 2022

Dear Friends,

I want to express thanks for the prayers and support which helped me navigate my way to Kobe, Japan, despite several unexpected twists and turns. God’s angels showed up to assist me. I was the recipient of grace for sure through the hands, feet, and attention of several special angels along the way!



After a delay in Boston and missing a connecting flight in Tokyo, Masanori Ookbo assisted me at the domestic terminal. Although I will never see him again, he stopped, listened, utilized his phone’s translation app, and took time to help with my excess bags and guide me.

In this spirit of knowing when it is our time to give and when it is our time to receive, I share this reading from Joyce Rupp’s book, *Prayer Seeds*.

### **“In Giving We Receive”<sup>1</sup>**

“There is a time to give and a time to receive:  
a time to breathe in and a time to breathe out.  
a time to wake up and a time to go to sleep.  
a time to speed up and a time to slow down.

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<sup>1</sup>Rupp, Joyce. *Prayer Seeds* (Notre Dame, IN: Sorin Books 2017), p. 131.

a time to speak and a time to listen.  
a time to be active and a time to be still.  
a time to give gifts and a time to accept them.  
a time to pray alone and a time to pray together.  
a time to be strong and a time to be vulnerable.  
a time to hold on and a time to let go.  
a time to read and a time to reflect.  
a time to laugh and a time to be serious.  
a time to reach out and a time to withhold.  
a time to give away and a time to gather back.  
a time to extend kindness and a time to receive it.  
a time to embrace and a time to be embraced.

David recently had the opportunity to visit the Geriatric Center connected to Yodogawa Christian Hospital before I arrived. He was very touched by the compassionate care being done there to “give back” to older citizens in Japan. As you may be aware, the population in Japan is declining even as the population is aging, which means that a greater proportion of the people in Japan are in the older age bracket. Sound familiar? One of the doctors at a recent Board Meeting explained that the people born after the war in Japan represent the “Baby Boomer” generation. They are living longer, but also need more specialized therapy and care.



Just as in the United States where elder care is becoming a higher priority, our partners welcome our prayers and support as they discern how best to meet these needs in years to come. It is important for our respected elders to have places to live, healthy interactions with others, exercise opportunities, balanced diets, and assistance with daily needs when they are unable to care for themselves and when family members are not close by to assist them.



The hospital vans pick people up and bring them to the day center for therapy and activities.



We especially hold in our hearts and prayers the nurses, assistants, dieticians, and other medical professionals who are trained, gifted, and present for the aging population.



“Listen to me...  
Even to your old age...  
even when you turn gray,  
I will carry you. I have made and I will bear; I will carry and will save.”  
[Isaiah 46:4]



David was grateful to meet with the staff in the Chapel at the Geriatric Center near the main hospital in Osaka. They gave him a tour and introductions to staff members. The business manager is on the left, the chaplain in the middle, and the Director of the Center is on the right.



We are grateful to have the privilege of learning how common are the threads binding us together, as we share similar concerns and challenges to be present with and for the saints.

“Jesus, we turn to you, our model and mentor of giving and receiving. We recall how you poured yourself out in service to those who crowded around you. We bear in mind, too, how you withdrew to the mountainsides to pray and restore what was depleted in your body and spirit. Grant us, Giver of Gifts, the wisdom, inspiration, and discipline to cultivate a healthy balance between generous service to others and compassionate care of ourselves. Amen.”<sup>2</sup>

Your prayers and support enable us to share in God’s mission. Thanks!

In God’s abiding love,  
Sue and David Hudson

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<sup>2</sup> *Prayer Seeds*, p. 134