

March 2009

Dear Friends and partners in ministry:

We give thanks for your prayers and support. Recently we asked you to pray with us for a new Bible study called “Shalom Fellowship”. About 15 people have attended each week so far, including two who are not Christians. As we talked with them at the end of the first meeting they told us they were excited to have this chance to study the Bible. What will the Lord do in their lives and in the “Shalom Fellowship” through your prayers? This is another time we feel blessed to see what God is doing in the lives of the people of Japan.



However, these are difficult times because of the economic crisis that is affecting people across the US and around the world. We know that you and many of your friends, like ours, are experiencing a sense of loss and uncertainty in this time.

Just this month International Ministries had to lay off six of our home office staff and the budget is being re-structured. Missionaries are being asked to do everything we can to encourage financial gifts toward our support, so that we will reach 100% of our support goal by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

We give thanks for your support, encouragement and partnership in missions. If you are one of our partners who support us with your gifts, thank you! If you one of our partners who supports primarily through prayer, thank you! Would you consider becoming a regular financial supporter as well?

Between now and June 30 we have a special opportunity to double support gifts from new donors. A group of generous donors, *The Luther Rice Society*, has created a *Matching Gift Fund* that will double any new gifts between \$200 and \$2000 given to International Ministries toward our support. If you are interested in making a matching funds gift, please let us know and we can send you the details. Also, you can view/print our “Armagost Matching Gift Fund Form”, and make an on-line matching funds “Give Now!” donation, by using the “Supporting our ministry” links on our website ([www.armagostjapan.org](http://www.armagostjapan.org)).

We realize that you are probably receiving appeals from community organizations, your church, and others. Please continue to support them. We know that God calls people to support different ministries, and the Lord blesses them with the resources and willing hearts to do so. In this way the words of our Lord Jesus Christ in Acts 1:8 are fulfilled: “*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*”

Grace and Peace through Christ our Lord,

John and Tomoko Armagost  
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