

# LIFE IN THE *Light*

God is LOVE (1 John 4:8)

February is closely associated with Valentine's Day: a day of love, but also a day to thank God for all the love He gave us.

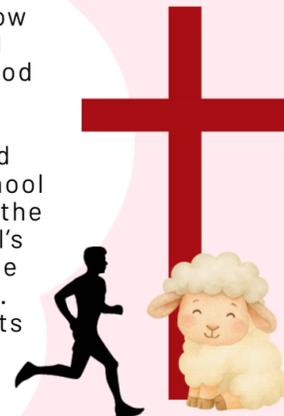
Last year, I became severely ill due to a five-year period of malnutrition. However, God saved my life through the Pastor's wife and daughter—Masami and Jun Asai. For about a year, they took care of me every day. I would text them daily about the foods I ate and how my body was reacting to them. They, in turn, would guide me on which foods were best for my recovery. Beyond the physical care, they frequently cooked me meals, even inviting me to their home for a special sashimi (my favorite)/ おでん (Japanese stew) dinner. Through our daily conversations, I got to talk to them as if they were my close friends; they got to know me and I got to know them. It was honestly the best season of my life. What moved me the most was realizing this care wasn't something I deserved. Through this experience, I came to understand the unconditional love of God—one that does not judge or criticize my stubbornness, but shows up the moment I reach out, regardless of how long I stayed away. Though I had brought this illness upon myself by ignoring many warnings, the moment I finally cried out to God, he answered, proving he never left my side.

-Youth, K.T.



In the start of middle school, I became interested in running and found it enjoyable. So I decided to join the track team. Once I was on the team though, I realized how hard track and field training was. I started to think that I wasn't fit for the team because of how hard it was, but God gave me the strength and endurance to carry on with practices and training. Eventually, through continuous training, I got more used to running and felt less tired. I'd eventually join different track meets that our middle school coach encouraged us to join, I got a couple of medals in the 100m, 200m, and 4x100. As of now, I'm on my high school's track team as a Freshman and am still getting used to the new environment because it has been a while since I ran. But thanks to God, I was able to find a sport that interests me and strengthens my body to do his will.

-High schooler, T.D.



## "First Time for Everything"



On February 8th, some members of the church, under the instruction of the Pastor's wife, helped a church member move into a new home. After the move, my dad decided to stay behind with the Pastor's wife who was helping the church member with further personal matters. During that time, God gave me a unique experience. As it was getting late, it was time for the church member's children to sleep. Part of their night-time routine involved taking a bath. As the church member was busy unpacking, the Pastor's wife asked me to step in and give the kids a bath. Having never done something like this before, I was a bit unsure of myself. Nevertheless, with the help/guidance of the Pastor's wife, everything went well. The kids were very obedient and it was not hard to give them a bath. In fact, it was quite a fun experience. Witnessing how the Pastor's wife and my dad helped the church member, I came to understand more practically what it means to love one another.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34, NIV).

-Youth, K.T.



## Valentine's Day

In our church, we had a Valentine's Day lunch and treats sale to share God's Love. One thing I made was a sheep amigurumi holding a heart. The sheep represents Jesus, who gave his life so that we can live. Other youth members made cookies, chocolate, cake, and tacos, too, thanking God for his never-changing love and sharing it with others!



"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

(John 3:16, NIV).

-Youth, A.N.



# Presidents' Day: Science Center

As co-leaders with another youth member, we were able to plan a visit to the Science Center.



My favorite spot was the exhibition on Egyptian mummies, where we saw real mummies which was fascinating. They compared ancient mummies to today's skeletons for a deeper insight on them which was very cool. This experience reminded me of the story of Joseph, who was one of Jacob's sons sold off to Egypt. Later on, when Jacob and Joseph died, they were buried as mummies.

-Youth, H.N.



# JUNIORS SECTION

For the Valentine's day special dessert, I made cookies with my mom, 2 kinds of chocolate and 1 kind of vanilla/regular. We started by making the dough and letting it sit at night, and started making cookies in the morning. My mom rolled out the dough and I cut out the cookies. We baked them and then took them out of the oven to cool down.

My mom melted down dark chocolate chips and dipped the vanilla cookies into the chocolate and sprinkled them with some crushed white milk chocolate and dried raspberries. We set them down to cool the chocolate and dipped the chocolate cookies into the white milk chocolate and sprinkled dark chocolate and dried raspberries on the cookie. Finally, we dipped the rest of the chocolate cookies in dark chocolate and coated them with only pieces of dried raspberries. We wrapped them in clear plastic baggies and a cute bag. I really enjoyed making cookies with my mom since I usually don't get to cook a lot with my mom and I really enjoyed the experience!

-Y.S.



On Presidents' Day, We went to the Science Center, and first, we watched a movie on mummies. I was trying to figure out how they made the images 3D instead of actually paying attention, so I think I should try to actually pay attention more than figure out how it was 3D, because I don't always watch movies at the Science Center.

-J.M.

On Presidents' Day, we went to the Science Center to watch the IMAX for ancient Egypt, and went to the exhibition of mummies.

My favorite part during Presidents' Day was when we went to the exhibition of mummies. I liked how I could see the corpses up close, and how there was information about the person.

-E.M.



## COME & JOIN US!!

### Sunday Worship:

Japanese Service: 9 AM - 10:30 AM

English Service: 11 AM - 12:30 PM

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