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UNION JAPANESE CHURCH of WESTCHESTER

August, September, October 2015

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"Three big damages"

by Rev. Akimitsu Nishikawa

"Let your eyes look straight ahead. Fix your gaze directly before you. Make the path of your feet level. Let all of your ways be established. Don't turn to the right hand nor to the left." (Proverbs 4:25～27)

I have suffered three damages since this summer.

The first damage is my PC. My data is all gone. I thought I was a fairly good computer operator because I had used computers for almost a quarter of the century. I did wrong in trusting too much in my ability. I should have remembered words in Proverbs 14:16, namely, "The fool rageth, and is confident".

The second damage is 'LINE' which I always use for contact with my family. My LINE's account was hacked and the hacker sent messages for bank transfer scam to my family or friends with my account.

Although the close family members are easily swindled by the phishing scam like this, they were not deceived because of not having enough money to pay for necessities with the poor pastor's family. As Jesus had said, blessed are you who are poor.

The third is my condition. My body was screaming from the stress of living overseas, the unbalanced diet and the terrible lack of exercise so far. But, just like "good news comes out of evil", this illness enabled me to take exercises such as stretching and walking more than before. In addition, I started to eat food which makes my body happy more than food which makes my pocketbook happy.

Ecclesiasticus 30:16 says, "There is no riches above the riches of the health of the body: and there is no pleasure above the joy of the heart." In addition, Ecclesiasticus 38:8 says, "The peace (health) of God is over all the face of the earth."

Our health is a gift of God, nothing is more valuable than our health. We should not spoil it by ourselves. Our bodies or mountains, rivers, plants and trees are all created by God and they are by the grace of God. I am reflecting back on things because of not having a habit to listen to nature or my body despite having a habit to listen to Bible.

SMJ Summer Camp and after camp rounding off meeting Aug 2

SMJ summer camp that took place at Shelter Island, Long Island from July 19 to 31 was successfully completed. Camp rounding off meeting was held at the Japanese-American United Church on August 2. This year, my two sons participated in it with great help of Rev. Yoko Asada and UJCW and Nishikawa support group. So, I attended that camp rounding off meeting with my sons. As there have been some children who started attending church through camp experience and a fellowship that followed, SMJ committee members have been considering the way for effective follow-ups. Please keep those children in your prayer.

Trumbul Meeting September 13

Trumbull Meeting for 2015 started on September 13th after summer vacation. We are expecting around 10 participants. The meeting starts with bible reading followed by Pastor's short message, then participants share their thoughts. After that participants enjoy the fellowship while eating lunch that Mrs. Naito had prepared for us. Thank you, Mrs. Naito.

Area Fellowship service September 27

This photo is taken during the Fellowship service at UJCW. First one was held on May. For first meeting there were fifteen participants and it was more than I prepared for. This time there were 21 participants, including guest speaker Rev. Stoller of Greenich Church, and it was very blessed worship service.. It will be 3rd meeting on November 29th. Please, keep that in your prayers.

Farwel to Dr. Taketomo October 14

Our beloved member, Dr Yasuhiko Taketomo passed into new life with our Lord. on October 14th, 9:15 p.m.. It was right next day of my visit with Mrs. Akimoto to the White Plains Hospital and prayed for him with his two sons. His family hopes to have a Memorial Service at UJCW in a future、Details will be reported in next Newsletter.

Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Dr. Yasuhiko Taketomo.

（The photo is taken at Taketomo's home when Rev. Nishikawa and Mr. Shunkichi Shimizu visited on October 18th）