

BE A BRINGER

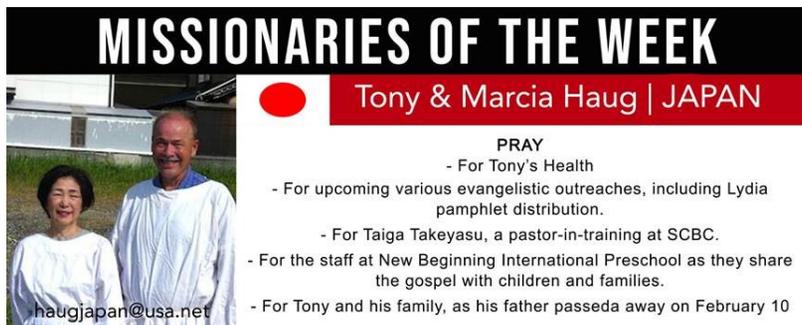
“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



MISSIONARIES OF THE WEEK

Tony & Marcia Haug | JAPAN

PRAY

- For Tony's Health
- For upcoming various evangelistic outreaches, including Lydia pamphlet distribution.
- For Taiga Takeyasu, a pastor-in-training at SCBC.
- For the staff at New Beginning International Preschool as they share the gospel with children and families.
- For Tony and his family, as his father passed away on February 10

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Handout: 03/12/23

Study: 03/19/23

Best Family Ever

There are many challenges facing modern families which we will examine in our current sermon series. Though family life can be difficult, God does have a purpose for our families. In his article, “The Ordinary Christian Family”, Tedd Tripp gives us three callings for the family.

The family is a school of theology. The family is the place for being mesmerized by the wonder of who God is and for instilling in children a profound sense of the glory of God. The psalmist puts it like this: “One generation shall commend your works to another” (Ps. 145:4). What does this look like? What do you talk about as one generation commending God to the next? Psalm 145 tells us. It means meditating on the glorious splendor of God’s majesty; speaking of God’s majestic deeds; declaring His greatness; pouring out the fame of His abundant goodness; singing of His righteousness; speaking of the glory of His kingdom; talking of His kindness; speaking His praise (145:4-20). Love for God is instilled as we meditate on His glory and goodness. Children cannot be brought to delight in God in a conceptual vacuum. And if parents are to show their children God’s glory, they, too, must be dazzled by God.

Family is a place for loving others. Family life affords marvelous opportunities to show the love of Christ to others. Why? Because family living provides the greatest occasions for relational conflict. James 4 addresses social conflict with the perceptive questions: “What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not your passions that are at war within you?” (4:1). We typically look outside of ourselves for the reason for conflicts—“he makes me so mad”; “she laughed at my mistakes.” James turns the tables on us. He says that relational conflicts come from desires that battle in our hearts. Our passions and desire produce conflicts. The family is the place to gain insight into the desires that wage war within and bring us into conflict with others. Family living provides the opportunity to learn the excellence of sacrificial love for others. It is an excellent place to learn to truly seek the interests of others.

Finally, ordinary Christian family life is a school for the gospel, a place for living out the grace of the gospel. Conflicts that arise as we strive to live together in love show our profound need for the grace of the gospel. We cannot love God and others without grace. Christ lived in human flesh without sin to provide us with righteousness that we can have no other way. He died to pay the guilt of our sin, fully satisfying the demands of God’s law. Even now, He intercedes for us so that we might experience His grace and live as people who have known forgiveness and can extend forgiveness to each other.

The ordinary Christian family is not a place of perfection. We sin and are sinned against. Our children sin and are sinned against. We are tempted to resolve conflicts through human wisdom, but we lose the benefit of our conflicts if we try to resolve them without reference to the gospel. The inevitable conflicts of family living afford excellent opportunities to “be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you” (Eph. 4:32).

KEY VERSE

Joshua 24:15 (NKV)

“And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Genesis 2:18-25; 4:1-2; Joshua 24:14-18

Introduction

1. What are some things that you enjoy about your family?
2. The cover of this Growth Guide listed three callings for families. Why do you think that God made families?

Tuesday: John 16:33b; Proverbs 14:26; Psalm 91

Establish Your Family as a Shelter From Storms

3. What kinds of storms of life do you and your family face?
4. What can you do to make your family a shelter from these storms?

Wednesday: Luke 2:52; Deuteronomy 6:5-7; Psalm 145:4

Equip Your Family as a Learning Center for Life

5. Who has the primary responsibility to teach children about God? If you have children, what are they learning from you?
6. How can you make your home a place for spiritual growth?

Thursday: Psalm 127; Proverbs 17:22; Psalm 16:9-11

Enjoy Your Family as a Place to Play

7. How would you rate your home in terms of being an enjoyable place to be?
8. If you have children, do they have fun in your home? How does this impact your relationship with your children in the short term? In the long term?
9. What are some things that you can do to make your home more enjoyable for your family?

Friday: I Corinthians 16:15; I Peter 4:10; Romans 12:9-21

Engage Your Family as a Team for Ministry

10. How can your family be a team to serve God?
11. What is the benefit of doing ministry together as a family?
12. If you have children, how well do you know how God made them? What are some ministries that would be fulfilling to your children?