

Testimony of Patmos team

Erika Uenishi (TLCCC Tokyo Antioch church)

I praise the name of the Lord. I could receive the blessing to join in the Patmos team for consecutively two years. In the last Patmos team dispatch, which was my first dispatch to Patmos, we have encountered coup at the airport in Istanbul, which changed my life drastically and led me to dedicate myself to God. During this first dispatch, my ukulele was used, because our keyboard was broken. After this first Patmos team, various chances of service were opened for me, even piano service, which surprised me of the planning of the Lord. Before I departed for this second Patmos team dispatch, God gave me the wish of taking other musical instruments on top of ukulele. While I kept on praying for this topic, two parts from I Chronicles 23:3-5, which are "The Levites thirty years old or more were counted" and "praise the Lord with the musical instruments I have provided for that purpose" have been echoing strongly in my mind. With permission of the team sub leader, I could join the team, carrying a ukulele, a clarinet and a keyboard.

Although I was not supposed to be given any musical instrument services other than ukulele during the dispatch at first, I was given the service of playing clarinet in the special praising in the holy meeting at night, after I played clarinet on the street performance in the day time. I was given many chances of praising like in the beginning praising, pastor's praising and special praising. I was able to experience the joy of praise with my voice that God made for me and musical instruments. I didn't think I was anything to do with praise band, because my skill of musical instrument and singing is not good and I am not talented in music, even though I am playing in orchestra. However, I understood that God is using me as one of worshippers through divine providence, His word, this dispatch and my own learning for this one year since my dedication proclamation.

At the prayer time at Patmos, I could not concentrate praying because of many bees, strong sun light, other thoughts and blur mind because of tiredness. I felt my weakness that I myself don't have power to pray and obey the Lord at all, even if I have done preparation prayer for prayer in Patmos.

While I was suffering from that, I noticed his word "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." from Colossians 3:2, and was led to repent of myself being caught by seeable things and walking on them. Message topics as walking toward eternity and to live as a stranger were spoken during this Patmos team. I have been able to walk to this distance because of God's deep blessing solely, even if I haven't seen the whole picture of his calling on me and I still cannot examine his word. I would like to rely on the Lord's blessing and prepare for revival as the one who is suitable for eternity. I strongly want to loyally train myself to complete all the given services, pray about everything with thanks, rely on God's word and choose God in every situation. I give thanks to the Lord.

Israel Kishima (TLCCC Nagoya church)

Thank you for your prayer for Patmos team.

First, I would like to speak testimony about the blessing that I received before I departed for this dispatch.

I am a full time company employee and have been praying for a contest related to my work since a year ago. For this dispatch, I took a half day leave on the day before I departed in order to stay in Narita for one night. At the very good timing just after I left company earlier on that day, I was informed by my boss that I have got a prize in the contest, which probably had proven to my boss and colleagues that I am taking 2 weeks leave not because I don't take my work seriously, and I could depart to Patmos with peace in mind without feeling that they are blaming me of taking long holiday. When I obey the Lord, I think the Lord blesses my work.

I would like to report about the team. In this Patmos team, 4 days were given to pray on the hill near John's cave. I heard that church members prayed for cool weather, because Pastor Akimoto had almost got heatstroke. As the result, we had continuously cool days and were able to pray comfortably. The worship Sunday morning was especially cool, with cool wind at the hotel, which is called the best wind in the world. We were protected from the heat during Sunday worship service.

There were bees flying on the hill near John's cave on the first day. However, when Pastor Akimoto prayed for it, we didn't see any bees on worship Sunday. That was the miracle that is the same as the one in the Book of Exodus controlling gnats and frogs. On that night at the restaurant, many bees gathered at Pastor Akimoto's table and we asked the restaurant people to burn insect repellent. From this, we could see the apparent difference between the result of God's work when we prayed and when we did not pray.

In the Sunday worship service, God spoke to us that we should walk preparing for eternity, because the subject of Hebrew 11:16 "Instead, they were longing for a better country? a heavenly one." is eternity and that the point to prepare for the eternity is to know that our foundation of life is not in this world but in heaven and to do the Lord's will. In the Book of Genesis, death entered in this world as the result that Adam and Eve disbelieved God's word and disobeyed God. However, in the Book of Revelation, door to the eternity was opened for Saints who believed and obeyed the word of the Lord. I was impressed by the word, "Book of revelation is the door to open eternity."

We held street performance around dinner time every night on Patmos. A primary school boy participant was very popular because he showed his praising, dance and ukulele. He was given a gift from the restaurant owner and was hugged by audiences. Mostly dining people listened to our praising and they were taking pictures and videos of us. Children came very near us and listened to us joyfully. I give thanks that I could stand as one of praise band members at Patmos.

Although Corinth usually is very hot and is around 40°C every year, it was only 22°C this year! Therefore we could stay very comfortably in the very cool weather. The Lord has shown His miracle, because Pastor Akimoto and others' prayer were heard by Him. Pastor Akimoto said that this was the rarely cool weather in Patmos, compared with his past experiences. On the worship place, we found benches placed for the first time, so we could pray sitting on them this year. We felt the Lord's love and care on us.