Visit to Ojiichan's cemetery & Maruyama-san

Contributed by Kay Soede
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Saturday 10th July, we went to visit Ojiichanâ€™s (my grandfather, A-chanâ€™s husband) cemetery.Â Iâ€™ve realised that almost 18 years since he past away and I havenâ€™t even seen the cemetery!Â In Japan, normally, lots of people visit their family cemetery at least once a year, if not more often.Â But as I am a Christian, I donâ€™t have any attachment to cemetery and didnâ€™t even think about it until it came up in the conversation!!Â As we have friends who wished to see Zac and Fidel who live near the cemetery, we decided to visit them and cemetery on the same day. Â This is very unusual cemetery.Â Itâ€™s a group one.Â The church A-chan goes to, owns a group cemetery, so everyone who goes to that church and wishes to be part of it can be part of it. Â Â Â Ojiichanâ€™s name is shown here.Â Itâ€™s hard to see it on the photo above, but ba the black stone behind the grey one with cross has the name listing.Â As I have never been there before, I was quite surprised how many peopleâ€™s name were behind his, but then I realised that the date is almost 18 years ago, and itâ€™s not so surprising at all!! Â Â Â We visited Mr Maruyama and his mother, Mrs Maruyama after the visit to cemetery.Â Mr Maruyama is normally on wheel chair, and Iâ€™ve put a photo of them from our previous visit to Japan.Â You can click here if you are interested in checking it out. Â They are again, mumâ€™s Amway friends, but completely different group. Â They have been friends of my mumâ€™s for many years and mum has taken them to multiple overseas trips as well. Â She always mentions barrier free, as she knows what sort of things they have to go through as a wheel chair person. Â Itâ€™s great to be able to understand lots of peopleâ€™s perspectives. Â I really respect mum that way â€“ for looking out for lots of people around her who are less fortunate. Â Mr and Mrs Maruyama have been watching Zac growing since he was a newborn. Â They have given us lots of gifts in the past, and this time, theyâ€™ve prepared lots of toys for him to play with while we visit them. Â It was really nice of them to look so forward to our visit. Â Â Â Unfortunately, again, Fidel slept through the whole visit, so Mrs Maruyama came out of their house to see Fidelâ€™s sleeping face in the car, but that was it!! Â Well, I think it was better that it was only one boy in the house â€“ so no breakage happened, as their place was definitely not little kids proof!!! Â Â Â Â Â Â