



UPDATE FROM JAPAN

Osaka Bible Seminary — Jesus for Japan



Paul and Rickie Clark

... our email to you ...

No. 82 January 2018

MORE DECEMBER EVENTS: Again, Christmas has been a time of opportunity, given the interest of the Japanese in Christmas, to reach them with the real meaning of Christmas. We were involved in several, beginning with our December International Night which we shared about in our last eUpdate. There were 34 people present for that event which included a turkey dinner. **FOLLOWING THAT** was our annual Christmas dinner for **OSAKA BIBLE SEMINARY** staff and students at a nearby restaurant. Several of the students and staff have just returned from a tour of the Holy Land with President Kishimoto.



OBS Christmas dinner

NEXT WAS THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT KANSAI CHRISTIAN SCHOOL.



Many of our students are from non-Christian families and we had the wonderful opportunity to share the story of God's coming to earth in the form of His son Jesus to give us the opportunity to be a part of his Kingdom. The Good News was clearly presented to an audience of over 115! Our Dean of Students was also a music major in college and the music was especially well done. We were proud of our students as they sang and acted out the good news of Jesus' coming. One "pre-Christian" family from KCS is faithfully attending our International Nights as well as Lord's Day worship at Nakaburi! They are hungry to hear the truth! We continue to receive applications for the next school year and are excited to continue teaching the Word daily



along with regular school subjects! It looks like we may have the most students next year in our 47 year history!



KAMIZONO CONGREGATION: Brother Motobayashi and I work together to deliver the Gospel message to the congregation of around 40 people (a medium sized congregation in Japan). The preacher of the congregation, Brother Saito, passed away five years ago after being hospitalized for a few weeks. The Sunday before he died he got permission for a temporary leave from the hospital to preach his last sermon to his faithful congregation. Following his death, the congregation ordained his wife, Reiko, as their minister. Each month she speaks twice, I speak once, and another preacher, once.



Working as a team



Mrs. Saito and Brother Niiro

Both from Maxeys' work in Kyushu

MONGOLIA: Christmas is always a BIG TIME of outreach events for our Centurions Ministry, and we are hearing already about the results. Meantime, our director, Brother Sumya, dislocated his ankle playing basketball and was hospitalized for several days with great pain and is now in rehabilitation. We, Centurions Ministry, are on the cusp of making a major announcement for which we have already realized ten thousand dollars in seed money. God continues to lead and bless the outreach to the military of this great nation through Centurions Ministry!



Brother Sumya

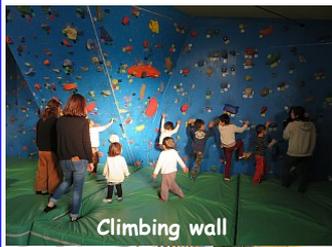


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OUTREACHES IN ISHINOMAKI: We flew up to Ishinomaki for five days with our son-in-law and daughter and family in the area where the tsunami hit so hard. They live in a house where the water was 3-4 meters deep. We made trips there to take supplies and help clean-up, and this was one of the houses we worked on. They had a monthly Kid's Club event on Saturday, the 24th, with different activities: rock-climbing wall, crafts, and games. Several of the mothers came and enjoyed the day as well. After the activities and refreshments, Anika read the Christmas story to them in very fluent Japanese.



Climbing wall



Crafts



Music and message time

On Christmas Eve they had a special program which included a visiting group of "Gospel Singers." Gospel is a genre of music which is very popular in Japan. Only three of the group are Christians, but the singers gave it there all! This is another opportunity for the Be-One group to show God's love to community groups. After the special music, the children and youth led songs and then the children acted out the Christmas story.



Gospel singers



Kids leading music



FAMILY CHRISTMAS: It was very special this year to spend Christmas in Chad and Jennifer's home with our grandchildren. Anika was home for Christmas break from her college in Illinois. We want to congratulate Josiah for winning first place in an International Photo Contest! His photos were taken in a mountainous national park that divides their city. Of course, Grandpa Clark is pleased with Josiah's interest in photography!



Josiah and Grandpa

JANUARY INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

Often in January, with the Japanese New Year Holidays, we have a low attendance for the month of January. **NOT this year!** More children than usual were present and one of the fun things we did was having a contest between two teams as to which team. There were 35 present for a wonderful evening of fun and worship! This is a record for the month of January! One of the games was to see which of two teams could



Tower building

build the highest and best-looking tower of blocks. As you can see in this picture, we had both. The tower in the foreground had more children building it and you can see how proud they are. The tower in the background had some "master builders" building it and it was the tallest. All had fun! The ping-pong table is always busy and this time the teen-agers and adults let the younger ones play. **International Nights are not all fun and games**, but they are one of the things that draws people to come.



After games and refreshments we always have time for conversation, then our worship time. Our teen-age music band works hard to provide a worshipful time of singing praises to our Lord. Following our time of song, I have a devotional message with participants reading scriptures and understanding how the Lord can work in our lives. Sometimes people stay another hour after we finish for the "Afterglow."

SUMMER IN THE UNITED STATES: Summer 2018 is our every-third-summer in the States where we visit supporting congregations and individuals to thank them for their prayers and support and to share with them how the Lord is working in Greater Asia. We take this responsibility seriously because we think our supporters should have first hand information about what is happening and how they can ask the Lord more specifically how to partner with us.

Generally, we plan to be in the Northwest for a couple weeks during June, then fly to Indianapolis for the North American Christian Convention the last week of June. Osaka Bible Seminary's President Kishimoto plans to join us during that week. During July we plan to be in the eastern states, then in the Midwest. After the first week of August, we plan to fly to California and then back to Japan for the last week of August.

We have made a tentative schedule and will be writing soon to supporting congregations about specific dates. It is better for all that we begin planning this way while being open to suggestions and change. If you have a preferred date, please let us know as soon as possible after hearing from us. We look forward to visiting with many of you, as well as spending a little time with our kids and grandkids.



Ready to fly