



**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS** from the **CLARKS** to each of you! **WHO CAN COMPREHEND GOD'S LOVE** in sending his only Son to this "dirty little tennis ball" earth, as C.S. Lewis described it, and allowing Jesus to sacrifice His life so that we may be with Him eternally? He was born an innocent baby but by the age of twelve He knew His purpose. Israel, God's nation, rejected Him as do most today. Yet, God sent him so that "all who believe in Him may have eternal life." As our Brother Kimura pointed out in a recent sermon, the Roman Centurion at the foot of the cross praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." Jesus came to save the Jewish people, but few believed; however, the Roman did! Please pray for believers from the nations of the world, even though most of the Western world denies Him!

**TRIP TO THE U.S.** It seems we have packed six months' worth of activities and meetings in just the last five weeks, with much to tell you! We left Japan on November 3rd, in the middle of **Tanemaki-Kai**, flying all the way to Indianapolis, IN, for a wonderful weekend of Missions emphasis at the Cornerstone Christian Church in Brownsburg. I was asked to speak at both services (that seldom happens) while Rickie was at our Osaka Bible Seminary table in the fellowship hall, representing one of the twenty missions they support. What a blessing to greet children and adults and tell of the work God has given us to do in **JAPAN** and in **MONGOLIA**. We also enjoyed getting acquainted with other missionaries and/or their mission representatives. Thank you, Missions Team, for always inviting us each year. We are grateful we could make it this year!



Brother & Sister Chae  
Old friends from Korea



Cornerstone



With three of the Wolfe  
grandchildren (two in college)

From Indianapolis we flew back through Chicago and on to Columbia, MO, where we were able to spend four days with Chris and Jocelyn (our son-in-law and daughter) and three grandkids. It helped us get over jet lag and prepare for the rest of the time in the Mid-west. The following week Jocelyn, Johanna and Benjamin (one of their two in college) joined us at the International Conference On Missions (ICOM) in Peoria, IL.

The weekend of November 10-12 we flew (back through Chicago) to Columbus, OH, to be with the Millersburg Christian Church, which today is the longest OBS supporting congregation, having begun support in the late 1940s and **continue strongly** even now! We had a special time with some of the families there and enjoyed our visit on the Lord's Day.

From Ohio, we flew back to Chicago and rented a van needed for ICOM. We spent Sunday evening with our granddaughter Anika from Japan, who is a freshman at Wheaton College and has adapted very well to life in the U.S. We enjoyed touring the campus the following day. We then drove down to Lincoln Christian University where I had finished two degrees as well as while doing my doctorate at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Lincoln is one of our kids' "home towns" and we enjoyed our visit with many friends there!



Millersburg



With Anika at  
Wheaton

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**THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR TIME IN LINCOLN** was Tuesday Undergraduate Chapel, where President Kishimoto was the guest speaker. Our delegation of four people representing OBS and the Kilsons, recently arrived missionaries, had arrived the night before. Brother Kishimoto challenged the student body to "go into all the world" and shared the need Japan has for more missionaries. Yu Yamada, our Kansai Christian School graduate who is a sophomore at LCU, did a wonderful job translating for him!



**THE MAIN PURPOSE OF OUR TRAVEL TO THE U.S.A. THIS YEAR WAS ICOM 2017.** The International Conference On Missions in Peoria, IL, was the **CAPSTONE** of **CELEBRATING Osaka Bible Seminary's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** year. Japan had been made the featured country of this missions conference attended by around 8,000 people. Brother Kishimoto and I were given the platform at a main session in which I shared a brief history of the 80 years since Osaka Bible Seminary was established and how "TOGETHER," the conference theme, our celebration had been made possible. Then I introduced Brother Kishimoto, our first post-war-born president, who expressed gratefulness for the American congregations' support over the years, especially for OBS. Four different Japan booths were situated on

the main aisle of the exhibit hall, and we spent most of our time at the OBS booth greeting people and sharing about OBS. Brother Kishimoto and I were also involved in workshops, and all of our group was invited to share about Japan and OBS in a special workshop.

**A TOTAL SURPRISE!** On Friday night of the conference we attended the Lincoln Christian University Reception and received a totally, unsuspected surprise (though our daughters knew!) when they presented me with the Restoration Award "For Outstanding Service in Missions"—from ordination 50 years. Then they called Rickie up to the platform and presented her with a Christian Service Award "For Faithful Service in Missions." They wanted to give us both Restoration Awards but someone had pointed out that Rickie was not a graduate of LCU, but of William Jessup University. :)



After ICOM we flew to Southern California and enjoyed a four-day visit with our son Jonathan and Sean. We celebrated Thanksgiving there after spending the day before at the beach in record 91 degree weather for that date!

We returned home to spend the week recovering and getting ready for our Christmas International Night, along with our regular schedules. We cooked two turkeys along with dressing and gravy and our guests brought other foods, including homemade cranberry sauce and sushi, to round out the meal. The games were especially fun and we had several first-time guests, one from as far away as Florida. My devotional talk was on the theme of "For the Joy set Before Him". Jesus was born to fulfill the joy that is available for all who believe and obey Him with the end result of being with Him forever.



We wish you **THE MOST MEANINGFUL CHRISTMAS** and a **NEW YEAR OF BLESSINGS** as you serve our loving and gracious Creator who sent His Son to bridge the gap, (aida—loss of face) between us and Himself. What joy it is to serve Him wherever He puts us! For those who do not know that blessing, we pray that by studying God's Word you will join us in this most meaningful life!

**Unto HIM, Paul & Rickie**