



Jesus 4 Greater Asia

UPDATE FROM JAPAN

Osaka Bible Seminary — Jesus for Japan

Paul and Rickie Clark

... our email to you ...



No. 100 February-March 2020

WELCOME TO ISSUE #100 of our eUpdates! We changed to this method of reporting in April 2009 and have enjoyed sending you news and pictures of how the Lord is working through His servants in Japan and Mongolia.



OSAKA BIBLE SEMINARY GRADUATION was a joyful event in spite of practicing "social distancing!" Four more laborers for the Lord will be ministering in different areas of Japan. Brother Nishiyama (right) was a friend of Dad Clark for many years and a disciple of Audrey West, a missionary in Japan for over 50 years and who died at the age of 102. He has retired as a school principal and will continue to work with Missionary Keith Summers and our OBS Greek teacher, Brother Sugiyama in Okayama Prefecture. Brother Yanagibashi, next to him, will be serving as an



Student on right is a pastor's widow

intern in several congregations before becoming a pastor. Skip Tanaka encouraged his coming to OBS and he came especially to study Greek. The young lady, Nagisa Yada, is married and serving with her husband in Osaka. Brother Kim on the left and his wife, are both very talented musicians. They have moved to Okinawa to serve the Lord there. Numbers in Japan cannot be compared to numbers in the United States because only 1% of the population is Christian. We are thankful for this "large" number of OBS graduates!



Social distancing!

Our monthly INTERNATIONAL NIGHT PARTIES averaged 40 in attendance during 2019! This reveals several things to us: 1) people will gather in places that are non-threatening, such as homes, while they are reluctant to enter a church building; 2) our Japanese friends love to laugh, play games, and have a good time; 3) they like having good conversations along with snacks and juice, tea or coffee; 4) all ages can enjoy each other; and 5) they are curious to learn what Christians have to teach about Jesus.



Game time

The KAMIZONO CONGREGATION laughed at the thought of my preaching to them through a mask, so, of course, I removed it as planned. My message on SHALOM, the all-encompassing Hebrew greeting for God's peace, was comforting and well-received during this uncertain time. We can be certain, however, that our God is in control and we can depend on Him! Because our congregations in Japan are much smaller than in the States, most are continuing to hold regular worship services.



Skip Tanaka leading worship

We have had to cancel the March and April International Nights because of the worldwide threat of the CORVID-19. Please pray that we will be able to continue to see results from this unique ministry!

The KANSAI CHRISTIAN SCHOOL campus has been closed since March 2nd but classes still continue online. Rickie is there on her normal 3-day-a-week schedule and the teachers come in 4 hours a day. Three new students are due to begin at KCS in April.

ONE OF OUR VERY SPECIAL FRIENDS is Erika Matute from Honduras. She has lived and ministered in Japan for 7 of the last 14 years. She is very fluent in three languages—Spanish, English and Japanese and can switch from one to the other without thinking. Erika is 99.9% blind but that doesn't stop her from anything! She taught grades 5-6 at KCS for a year and also teaches Bible, Spanish and English. She stopped by for a "good-bye visit" a couple weeks ago as she was planning to return to Honduras last week but is now stuck in Japan because of airport closures. She has had to cancel her tickets home. Please pray that she can either travel or that her visa will be extended. God bless you, Erika, as you serve Jesus!



Erika

Brother Kimura

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