



Jesus 4 Greater Asia

# UPDATE FROM JAPAN

Osaka Bible Seminary — Jesus for Japan

Paul and Rickie Clark

... our email to you ...



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**OSAKA BIBLE SEMINARY** is beginning the new school year, which runs from April to March. The Japanese love ceremonies and we had two at OBS this spring—the graduation ceremony and the new student entrance ceremony. We graduated Mrs. Morihiro, who earned a four-year degree and will become the minister of the Daito Christ Chapel in Osaka. She is a widow and is following the calling the Lord gave her to share His word in this way. The other graduate is Brother Atsushi Otsubo. He spent nine years studying online and graduated with a three-year degree! What commitment that is!



We have just had the new student entrance ceremony and have two new students. One is the son of two former OBS Professors, Brother and Sister Saito. He has been planning to take classes at OBS for some time, but COVID-19 affected his plans. Now he will be a full-time student, along with the assistant minister of a congregation in Eastern Japan near Tokyo, who will be taking classes online. Please pray for our small student body that they will remain committed to God's calling on their lives for ministry.

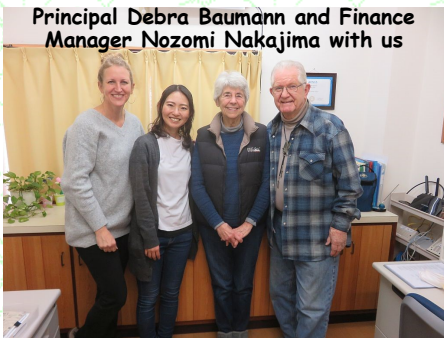


**LADIES' ENGLISH/BIBLE CLASS:** Rickie began her English Bible class in 1999. The class meets in our home every Tuesday morning and studies Bible twice a month and straight English twice a month. They give her a small stipend for the English classes and the Bible class is free. They rarely miss either class. Several different ladies have studied through the years, but two (those on either side of Rickie in the picture) have studied for 22 years! The lady on the right just joined the class a few months ago. This has been a good opportunity for outreach. Please pray that these ladies' hearts will continue to open to the message of good news—the Gospel!



**EASTER, or RESURRECTION DAY** as my father preferred to call it, is one of the two most significant days on the Christian calendar. Christmas is celebrated by the world but Christ's resurrection is celebrated only by Christians. (Easter egg hunts don't count!) I am preaching on it this month and Rickie's English Bible class is studying it as well. Years ago Henry Blackaby wrote: "Can anyone believe that Jesus' disciples were willing to be ostracized, beaten, persecuted, and all but one, suffer a martyr's death without ever renouncing that they had seen Jesus bodily resurrected? Does anyone really think the disciples could have maintained a lie all that time under that kind of pressure? Why didn't they crack? Because they had come face to face with the living God! They could not deny what they had seen. No one will give his life for what he knows is a lie!" **He's Alive!**

**KANSAI CHRISTIAN SCHOOL** has attracted many new potential students for this Spring and for next Fall. It is not easy to get into KCS because we have high English standards. We have a standardized test that reveals a lot about the student's ability in different areas and also have an interview with each student and their parents. Our first priority for acceptance is children of missionaries, followed by the second priority of children of pastors. The third priority is students from overseas or from Japan who can pass the English test at grade level or one grade below. All parents must sign that they are willing to have their children study Bible and that all classes are taught from a Christian worldview. One class is already full for next fall and some other classes are almost nearly full. Rickie gave achievement tests this year to two first graders and, at a break between tests, the children asked Rickie how old she is. She told them she is 80 and the little boy said he knew Mr. Clark was 81. Then one of the children said, "But God is much older than that! He must be three hundred trillion years old, or even older!" This is just an example of how our students naturally think about the lessons they are learning about the Bible! What a privilege to interact with all our students! Most students have become believers by the time they graduate, and many have gone on to Christian universities.



Recently our high school kids put on a Spring Fest—outside, masks on, social distancing! One of the activities they did was to see how fast and far a student could crawl in a cardboard shell! They study hard and they play hard!



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