



Jesus 4 Greater Asia UPDATE FROM JAPAN

Osaka Bible Seminary — Jesus for Japan



Paul and Rickie Clark

. . . our email to you . . .

No. 130 December 2023/January 2024

CHRISTMAS TIME IN ISHINOMAKI :

December was a busy month for most people, and it certainly was for us, too. My sermon preparations certainly did not slack off, nor did Rickie's time of preparing for and teaching her English and Bible classes.

This year we were not free to attend the Kansai Christian School Christmas program as we usually do, since we flew up to Sendai that day to be with Chad and Jennifer and family for Christmas in Ishinomaki. We enjoyed being with them all, including Anika and Josiah (the two who live in the U.S.). We participated with them in their Christmas events and programs and were also able to catch up on things we hadn't had the time to do at home.



Christmas worship at Ishinomaki



Candlelight Service in Ishinomaki

Christmas with Chad and Jennifer and Family



OUR 2024 CALENDARS: Our son Jeremy, who lives in North Carolina is a web designer by vocation and has finished designing our 2024 Calendars, after doing many different experiments that we asked him to do. We are so grateful for our children and their involvement with our ministries.

With the January year-end receipts from Chris and Jocelyn Wolfe (Jocelyn is our daughter in Missouri), they will be including a calendar for our donors, as well as some others. If you would like to receive one and have not received any in the past, please write to the email address below and request a calendar. (They make nice bookmarks or a handy small calendar on your refrigerator, or a reminder to remember to pray for us.)

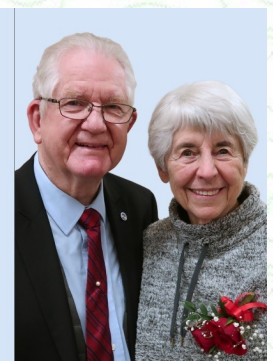
THIRTEEN YEARS AGO on March 11, 2011, the super strong earthquake (9.0 on the Richter Scale) hit in the Sendai area and further north, followed immediately by the tsunami that caused terrible damage and loss of homes and some 20,000 deaths. Our son-in-law Chad was among the first to arrive in Ishinomaki helping however he could. Even today there are still empty lots and lands where buildings and houses once stood. He made many trips up there and, after about six months, he and their family (5 children) moved to Ishinomaki. Today a faithful congregation meets together with many different outreaches.

2024

OSAKA BIBLE SEMINARY
CENTURIONS MINISTRIES MONKODAI
www.jesus4greaterasia.com

Paul & Rickie Clark
2-201 Sakurazaka, Hirotsugu-ku
Osaka JAPAN 573-0095
paulrickie@jesus4greaterasia.com

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



Personal Support:
Osaka Bible Seminary
PO Box 1697
Columbia, MO 65205

Pray Ye Lord of the Harvest, Acts 17:30
www.jesus4greaterasia.com
paulrickie@jesus4greaterasia.com

OBS Support:
Osaka Bible Seminary
PO Box 1697
Columbia, MO 65205

RICKIE'S ENGLISH AND BIBLE CLASSES:

It is good to be back to a more normal schedule now. The three ladies in Rickie's weekly English and Bible classes are always faithful in attendance and well-prepared for the lessons. They are required to write an essay for the English classes (1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month) and those essays are always enjoyable to hear them read. Rickie corrects the writings (with red ink!) and recently two of the ladies have had only one or two mistakes in their writing! On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, we study the Bible as they take turns reading the passages with Rickie's teaching.

One of her students is quite out-going and began greeting an older lady, a widow, who lives down our road (whom we had never officially met but had waved to as we passed). She told the lady (78) about the classes and the end result is that Rickie is now teaching private lessons to Mrs. T.



In November, learning from the others that it was Rickie's birthday, she came later with a birthday orchid!

This last week Rickie took down some lessons to Mrs. T so she could work ahead on them, and Mrs.

T insisted that Rickie come in for tea. Over an hour later Rickie returned home and told me about Mrs. T's hospitality. She didn't want Rickie to leave. Please pray that Mrs. T will have a desire to learn not only English, but the good news in God's Word.

OSAKA BIBLE SEMINARY has continued faithful since it was founded in April 1937 by missionary Harold Cole, who was called to Japan by M.B. Madden, Osaka Christian Mission Founder, to begin the seminary for training Christian workers. It closed during the war years but classes were begun again in April 1947 with Brother Cole's (the earliest of missionaries) return to Japan—followed afterwards with the rest of the family. Brother Harold Cole "put the Call of God" on Martin B. Clark (my father) in 1946 when he asked my dad to come to Japan and be president of OBS. Dad had to finish his graduate work at Butler University School of Religion, Indianapolis, IN, and raise support for our family. Brother Cole asked him to extend that time by a year in the States for raising additional OBS support. The Clark family (Dad, Mom, myself, and my two sisters) arrived in April 1950.

My father led the school until 1989 when he passed on to the Heavenlies. The OBS board then made me president, which I was for 12 years until the plan was fulfilled in calling an older man on staff to be the first Japanese President, Brother Nakano. He had given his life's work to OBS in several roles, but particularly as the one in charge of finances. He led OBS for 9 years. Both my father and I saw my calling to be seeing the post-war born "coming of age" New Japan in leadership, as with our present post-war-born President Brother Kishimoto.

After receiving M.A. and M.Div. degrees from LCU under Dr. James Strauss and while I was doing my doctorate under Dr. David Hesselgrave, Dean of the Missiology Department at TEDS, the OBS Board encouraged me to finish my doctorate and then join the faculty at OBS toward following my Dad as President. At one point, I told my Dad he should be looking for someone else, as I didn't want to just be the "heir apparent," but when he passed, I (and Rickie) saw it as the Call of God, and I so served until 2001 when made President Emeritus by the OBS Counselor Body. I continue on campus two days a week, speak in chapel, and attend OBS and OCM board meetings.



RECENT INTERNATIONAL NIGHTS:

Because of our not having International Nights during COVID and our nearly three months in the U.S. (July-September) last year, it has been a bit difficult to get back to our normal schedule of International Night being on the first Saturday night of the month. In December, other Christmas events made it necessary to change to the second Saturday night and we had only 13 at the party. HOWEVER, it was one of the **best** International Night times we have ever had! Our last guest didn't leave until about 1:30 a.m. and the time with him was especially important as well as our enjoyment of having that time together.



Fun games
Refreshments
Worship
Message

This time we had an attendance of 25 and again, people stayed and chatted until quite late.

We love it! Our songs of praises to our Lord were led by my "Timothy," Yu Yamada, who received his M.A. degree from Lincoln Christian Seminary in Illinois (my alma mater) in 2023. This time, too, people enjoyed staying long after the devotions were over so they could visit with one another.

Please continue to pray that our International Night outreach will bring those of His choice and that our non-believer guests may come to know the Lord!



Yu Yamada
leading worship