



Jesus 4 Greater Asia UPDATE FROM JAPAN



Osaka Bible Seminary — Jesus for Japan

Paul and Rickie Clark

... our email to you ...

No. 131 April-May 2024

A SHORT HISTORY OF OUR LIVES IN MINISTRY:

Only a few of you have any idea of our history before we came to Japan as missionaries in 1985, so we thought a short review might be appropriate for some of you. Actually, our history goes back a L-O-N-G way to when Rickie's father, Dennis B. Rickard, baptized my father in Merced, CA, around 1930 in one of her dad's early ministries, and was instrumental in influencing my father, Martin B. Clark, to become a preacher. So I was a PK (Preacher's Kid) before I became an MK (Missionary Kid) to Japan from 1950-1955. Rickie and I actually met in 1950 just before my family sailed to Japan on Easter Lord's Day. We would meet again at church camp in 1955.

THEN next we met again at San Jose Bible College in September 1958 and were engaged by February 1959! Rickie would spend almost a year (1960-61) in Japan studying at Osaka Bible Seminary while living with my parents and sisters. We were married on July 9, 1961, by both of our fathers. In December 1961 I joined the army and Rickie graduated from SJBC in June 1962. (Our lives were a little topsy-turvy in those days!) We lived in North Carolina near Fort Bragg for a little over 2 1/2 years and, after studying at a junior college in California, I yielded my life back to preparing for the ministry and was ordained in 1967 by both our fathers!



Tahoe Christian Center
and Clarks' home

Following my graduation from SJBC in 1967, we answered God's call to a ministry in Vernonia, OR, for three years before following the Lord's leading to a unique church plant at Lake Tahoe, CA. Our daughter Jennifer was almost two and Rickie was pregnant with Jocelyn—born on Jennifer's birthday, July 4th, 1970—shortly after we moved. Our two boys, Jeremy and Jonathan, were both born in May (1974 & 1976) while we ministered at Tahoe. After 5 years of ministry at Tahoe Christian Center, I was given a 9-month sabbatical, so we moved temporarily to Lincoln Christian Seminary in Illinois where I did my first semester of graduate study. Then we visited Japan



Parsonage & Church Bldg.
Vernonia, Oregon

for 3 months in the summer. We were back at Lake Tahoe for another 2 years when I experienced the Lord's nudging me to continue my graduate studies. In 1977 we moved to Lincoln, where I studied under Dr. James Strauss at LCS, earning my M.A. and M.Div. degrees. I continued my studies at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, by commuting from Lincoln to TEDS, and received my D. Miss (Doctor of Missiology) degree under Dr. David Hesselgrave. During our time in Illinois I ministered to two different congregations; then we moved to Lincoln and I studied full-time while Rickie went to work as secretary to the deans, so we could get to Japan more quickly. We arrived here with our four kids (17, 15, 11, & 9) on July 19, 1985, 39 years ago.



Osaka Bible Seminary

OSAKA BIBLE SEMINARY: My father was president of OBS for 39 years until his death in 1989. I had been called initially by the OBS Board to follow Dad, which I did then for twelve years, until the goal could be accomplished of turning the seminary over to the Japanese. We now have our second Japanese President (1st post-war born) who is involved in many diverse roles fulfilling the OBS purpose of bringing needed unity among God's people in Japan. The new 2024-25 school year began in early April with a ceremony welcoming our four new students who will all be studying online. I attend OBS Chapel twice a week and Rickie usually goes with me on Fridays, as she teaches English and Bible on Tuesday mornings.



Brother Motobayashi translating

KAMIZONO: I preach monthly at the Kamizono Church of Christ near Kobe, every-other-month at the Nakaburi congregation next door, and occasionally as guest at other congregations. I continue to research, write and publish.

MONGOLIA: We became involved in ministering to the military when the country opened up after the Soviets left. I was asked to work with the military ministry because of having been a Green Beret in the U.S. army. I entered Mongolia 31 times since 1999, and Rickie has entered 14

times. We continue to have good contact with the leaders there and even spent 2-3 days with one of our leading families last summer on the East Coast. We met Gantumur in 1999 as he became the first Director of Centurions Ministry. Now he works with the Campus Crusade for Christ military ministry as the director of their Eastern Asia Military Ministry.



Gantumur (next to Paul) and family

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