



Dear Family and Friends,

Christmas 2024

Greetings from Osaka, Japan! Winter has arrived and the temperatures are no longer comfortable without wearing layers and turning on the heat in the house.

We will be spending Christmas with Chad and Jennifer and three of their kids up in Ishinomaki, where they serve as missionaries. Their older daughter is in Chicago and their older son is on staff at a Christian camp in Canada. Katia began college at Pepperdine University this fall. She had a scary time recently over the Franklin Fire in Malibu but now is safely home in Japan for the holidays. It is so nice to have one of our families in Japan, even though they are about 12 hour drive from our home in Osaka (we fly). Our other kids are scattered: Jeremy and family in North Carolina; Jocelyn and family in Missouri; and Jonathan and family in California.

At the ages of 85 and 84, we continue to be active. I (Paul) have been preaching once a month for the last 9 years at the congregation in Kamizono (about an hour's drive from our home). From January I will begin my 10th year of preaching there every other month while continuing to preach on the other months here at our Nakaburi congregation next door. Rickie takes turns playing piano with Mrs. Kitano. I also attend OBS Chapel twice a week and Rickie goes with me on Fridays. I will also be preaching in turn at OBS Chapel this next school year which begins in April.

Our monthly International Nights, held in our large basement, keep us very busy with preparing messages, cleaning, planning games, making desserts, etc. We started International Nights not long after we arrived in Japan almost 40 years ago and they continue to draw people because of the time we have in fellowship, fun and worship as an outreach from our home. Friends, teachers, students and seekers come an hour by car or train from the Kansai Christian School area to these International Nights, as well as others who live an hour or more from our home. I pick up some of our attendees at the train station nearby.

Rickie still teaches an English/Bible class on Tuesdays, but is "on break" right now because of her "Total Knee Replacement Surgery" near the end of October as did one of the students who had similar surgery. Rickie is still doing out-patient visits twice a week at a rehabilitation hospital in the Kansai Medical University chain about a 30 minute drive from home, but she is now walking normally and will soon be dismissed. We plan to resume the English/Bible classes in January.

Always! Coming to the Christmas Season as a time of reflecting on the past year and awaiting the Spirit for insight toward a message that brings a fresh, like new, sense of its significance is found for me this year in the word translated in English as redemption ten times but more correctly as deliverance or rescue with Jesus' name JESUS meaning God SAVES. It is found in Paul's unique Greek word translated in English as redemption ten times, but more correctly as deliverance or rescue with Jesus' name JESUS meaning God SAVES. Before the cross and our deliverance through repentance and faith in Jesus, baby Jesus was delivered Himself by the Holy Spirit from what might be spoken of today as an assassination attempt four times and in fulfillment to prophecy twice. Praise God for our saving deliverance by faith in Jesus Christ, CHRISTMAS in a Word.--Matthew 1:18-25

We praise the Lord for giving us good health, and we thank you for your prayers and financial support!

For the Kingdom,

Paul and Rickie Clark