



Jesus 4 Greater Asia

UPDATE FROM JAPAN

Osaka Bible Seminary — Jesus for Japan



Paul and Rickie Clark

... our email to you ...

No. 105 November-December 2020

We want to wish you a **MOST MEANINGFUL CHRISTMAS** as we commemorate the sending of God's Son to earth in the form of a weak, human baby. What a unique plan that was for our Creator to send Jesus to our "dirty little planet" (as J.B. Phillips writes) to become a man, yet still be God, and to sacrifice his life so that we can choose to be with Him forever, in this life as He indwells us, and in life as it shall be as we dwell with Him! May we try to set aside for a moment our human traditions of the Christmas season and consider that God loves us so much that He sacrificed his Son and desires us to live a life of service to Him!

RICKIE'S ENGLISH and BIBLE CLASS: Since 1986 Rickie has taught a weekly English and Bible class in our home. It first began with the request of a lady who lived in a "mansion" (apartment building) near us. She came to our house saying she wished to learn and improve her English and asked if Rickie would teach a weekly English class. She said other ladies were interested as well. Rickie told her she could teach English twice a month but informed the lady she wanted to teach Bible (in English) the other two times each month. The students could choose to come for only English (at a minimal monthly fee) but would also be welcome to come to the Bible class the other two times a month (no fee). Some chose to come only for the English lesson but eventually they came every week. Students have come and gone, most studying for several years. Two of her present students have attended over twenty years now—both classes!

A new lady joined the class last May and is very receptive. Just recently she wrote an essay about going to the National Art Museum here in Osaka. She had seen the famous painting of Jesus driving out the money changers in the temple. She wrote, "I was very excited to see El Greco's painting, who was famous Spanish artist in 15th century. I thought that is the story of the Bible we read last time." Yes, we had studied that scripture in John just the week before. Please pray for these ladies! God's word will not return unto Him empty, but will accomplish what he desires and achieve His purpose (Isaiah 55:11, paraphrased).



OSAKA BIBLE SEMINARY has been back in session on campus since September. I continue to attend chapel twice a week and am the chapel speaker when it is my turn. Rickie has been going with me once a week. Our students get practical leadership experience as they serve in the congregations where they are members.

Our **NAKABURI CONGREGATION** is next door to our house and we attend there when I am not preaching elsewhere. Rickie plays the piano twice a month at Nakaburi.

Once a month I also preach to the **KAMIZONO CONGREGATION** near Kobe. We are greatly blessed with the health to continue serving our Lord here and we thank you for your prayers and support.



NEW SISTER IN CHRIST! Our granddaughter Katia made her confession of faith and was baptized this last Lord's Day in the ocean near Ishinomaki. (Added to her faith was bravery to go into such a cold grave to rise again to a new life!) 😊



KANSAI CHRISTIAN SCHOOL staff and students were happy to welcome our new teacher from Minnesota who has been waiting for permission to travel to Japan. Several of our staff filled in by teaching Ethan's different classes and we are so grateful for their willingness. We've had several families inquire about entering their children in KCS next year.



RICKIE almost caught up with me by turning 80 in November. There were many celebrations including all the KCS 1st & 2nd graders hurrying out of their classroom to sing Happy Birthday when we drove in to campus, a party at school, and a party at the home of one of the KCS families. We had lots of fun celebrating!



Happy Birthday from 1st & 2nd graders!!

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

www.jesus4greaterasia.com
paulrickie@jesus4greaterasia.com

OBS Support:
Osaka Bible Seminary
PO Box 696
San Jose, CA 95106

FAMILY NEWS: For those who are interested, here is an update on our family, which usually goes with our Christmas and New Year's greetings to you:

Jennifer and Chad continue their ministry in Ishinomaki (northern Honshu Island). You can visit their website at <https://b-1.jp/ishinomaki/en/>

Anika (22) just arrived back to Japan this week after spending several weeks in Croatia with her fellow students from Wheaton University. She is an anthropology major and they went on an anthropological "dig" there. She will graduate this spring.

Josiah (20) has been working at a Christian camp in Ontario, Canada, but had to return home because the camp was closed because of the virus. He has been doing a major construction/restoration project of the bath room and toilet area of the 2nd floor of their house, along with some help from Chad.

Caleb (16) is in high school and is home-schooled along with other siblings and other M.K.s in the guest house on their property. He also has two part-time jobs—one at a convenience store and another as a coffee shop bistro. He has now come to his growth spurt and is growing taller rapidly!

Katia (15) is also home-schooled and, as you will see in this eUpdate, was just baptized after having confessed her belief in Jesus as the Son of God. She is in 9th grade and plays ice hockey on a team with both boys and girls. Better watch out for her!

Gideon (13) graduated from 6th grade in Japanese school and now, like his siblings, is also homeschooling (in English). He, too, is growing taller rapidly. Jennifer does all of the lesson plans for their children and different adults monitor their classes.

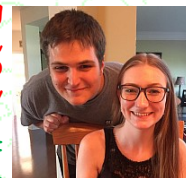


Jocelyn and Chris continue their "ministry job" as forwarding agents for Osaka Bible Seminary in Columbia, Missouri. Chris is a Systems Engineer at Carfax and Jocelyn teaches English online for VIPKid.



Michaela (24) and **Sam** have been married two years now and live near Baltimore, MD with their cat Frida. Sam is an accountant and Michaela works at a cafe. They met at Milligan College six years ago.

Benjamin (22) is a Process Engineer for a chemical engineering company and does a variety of engineering related jobs in Rolla, MO. Several of the men he works with are Christians. He is also active in the Christian Campus House and leads a Bible study there.



Elijah (21) graduated this year from State Technical College of Missouri with an Associate Degree in Applied Science in Drafting and Design Engineering Technology. He was hired immediately after graduation

and is enjoying his work near Rolla, MO.

Johanna (19) is a sophomore at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, MO majoring in Cyber Security. She is the one who spent a semester with us in 2019—and misses Japan and wants to return for another semester.

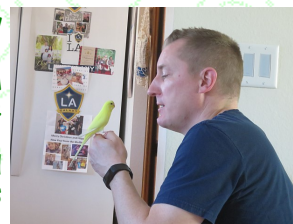
Ami (14) has made the switch from homeschooling to a public high school—but she is still at home, learning remotely because the school has gone online instead of on-campus. She is doing very well, making great grades and is very self-motivated.



Jeremy and Amy live in Raleigh, NC, where Jeremy works from home doing website design for a company in New York. Amy is working on a Doctorate of Education in "Cognitive Diversity" (Ed.D). Edison is now 7 years old and his big interest this last year has been in astronomy. He tested his grandma out when we saw him last, as to whether she could name the planets. She did them in order, except she didn't know the name of the newest planet—we think he was impressed. It's hard to keep (or get) ahead of him! He is studying by Internet in California at an "Unschool."



Jonathan and Chi live in Southern California. **Sean** (11) is now in Junior High, which is hard to believe! He's a good student and likes school. Jonathan and Chi have both been working from home, which means a lot less time on the busy freeways in the Los Angeles area. They are happy about that and so are we. Jonathan works as Sales Coordinator for Sumitomo Electric and Chi works at an insurance company. Their parakeet P#2 keeps them entertained. (P#1 died).



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