



Jesus 4 Greater Asia

UPDATE FROM JAPAN

Osaka Bible Seminary — Jesus for Japan



Paul and Rickie Clark

... our email to you ...

No. 122, November 2022



BROTHER DAIKI KISHIMOTO is shown here, speaking in Osaka Bible Seminary chapel. He and one of our professors, Brother Motonobu Ikeda and his wife, Hiromi, along with missionary Tim Turner and two of our pastors, Brother Yokomizu and Brother Nishiyama who are both graduates of OBS, attended ICOM (International Conference on Missions) this month in Columbus, Ohio. After the convention, they followed up with seeking out some of our Restoration Movement history continuing first to Emmanuel Christian Seminary in Tennessee, stopping at Kentucky Christian College then on to Johnson University.

At Emmanuel **Dr. Bruce Shields** was prepared to share with them the standing tribute to world recognized Old Testament and Hebrew scholar Dr. Toyozo Nakarai (a Japanese member of the Imperial Family who never returned to Japan initially fearing for his life), 1898-1964. Particularly the Mings, Beckmans and Clarks studied under Brother Nakarai at Butler University School of Religion and all (including myself) learned our first Japanese from Brother Nakarai. Brother Shields initiated our OBS Founder's Lectureship in 1997 upon OBS' 60th Anniversary.

Dr. Gary Weedman (whose four-generational families are all of our RM Heritage), visited Japan and OBS in 2019 and showed them around the JU Campus. His lecturing at OBS brought a freshness to our by-line in the

OBS Seal, "One in Christ that the World May Believe." encouraging us to remember our roots as a unity movement grounded in the Scriptures and not a new denomination as is being seen to by president Kishimoto.

(We were next door neighbors of the Shields' family in Lincoln, IL and Rickie was LCU Dean Gary Weedman's secretary at Lincoln Christian College while I was doing my graduate work at Lincoln Christian Seminary and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, IL.)

On the way east, they stopped at the Cain Ridge Meeting House in Paris, KY, the site of a large frontier Christian revival of about 10,000 people in 1801 that resulted in the birthing time of the movement seeking unity among Christians along non-sectarian lines. They would call themselves simply "Christians." There were and remain no denominational headquarters. That is the history of the missionaries who came to Japan when she was opened in the late 19th Century and eventually established Osaka Bible Seminary in 1937. We are happy to be known as a part of that group who are "Christians only!"

PREPARATION AND PREACHING



I enjoy my sermon preparation and continue to learn so much from the scriptures in this era, which began with my Lake Tahoe years in ministry followed by my nearly ten years of study under my mentor Dr. James Strauss in Lincoln, IL. God's Word continues to grow in me.



OSAKA BIBLE SEMINARY STUDENTS are involved in more than going to class and studying. Each student works under a pastor in various congregations and learns in person how to serve others. The son of Brother Saito (now deceased) and Sister Saito who continues to pastor the Kamizono congregation, where I preach once a month, is a student at OBS. He is working with Brother Ikeda in the Megumi (Grace) congregation where Mr. Ikeda is lead pastor. Miss Nagahara, graduating with a 4-year degree is also a graduate of Kyoto University. She has become a Greek scholar and will eventually take over the Greek classes at OBS when our Brother Sugiyama retires. The students all preach in congregations on a regular basis and take turns preaching in chapel.

Personal Support:
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Pray Ye Lord of the Harvest, Acts 17:30
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KANSAI CHRISTIAN SCHOOL was established in 1970 for the education of children of missionaries. Three of our four children graduated from KCS in the years following our arrival in Japan in 1985. (Our eldest, Jennifer, who is a missionary in northern Japan with her husband Chad, had already graduated high school in Lincoln, IL.) The school continues faithfully in its ministry to families who want a Christian education in English for their children. A good percentage of children from non-Christian families end up following our Lord Jesus as their Savior.

We had a nice surprise this month when Mrs. Kobayashi, one of our former Japanese language teachers, came for a visit. She had known our Interim Principal, Kenelee Proctor Henderson, back in the 1990s when Kenelee was Principal at that time.

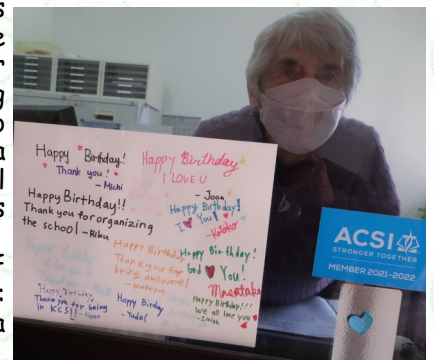
Pictured left to right are Ikumi Yamada, who is in her 18th year of teaching at KCS, Mrs. Kobayashi, Rickie, Kenelee, and Yoshiko, our new office lady and mother of two of our students. She speaks not only English, but Japanese and Korean. I am Vice President of the Board and Rickie, as Executive Assistant, also attends board meetings as a non-voting member because of her knowledge of the school and its history. Rickie plans to retire in June after 38 years of serving the Lord through KCS.



3rd & 4th graders with Teacher Ikumi, visiting the office and wishing a Happy Birthday to Rickie

The students of KCS love to give, especially those in the elementary school. On Rickie's birthday, the 3rd and 4th graders came into the office with Ikumi, their teacher, and sang "Happy Birthday" to her, then gave her a card they had all written greetings on. What fun!

(Last year one of the children wrote: "I'm glad you are a year older!")



RICKIE'S ENGLISH BIBLE CLASS ladies are very faithful in attending their Tuesday class. We alternate between studying the Bible in English (as well as reading it in Japanese, too) twice a month. We are currently in the Gospel of Matthew. Then, on the alternate weeks, they study from English sources. They are assigned homework and always write an essay.

They obviously enjoy their time in our home. Their pleasure is always shown as Paul often returns from OBS Chapel before they leave. Two of them have studied in this class for 23 years and their English is very good.



SUMMER PLANS: We will soon be planning our three-month U.S. itinerary beginning the middle of June and will be planning to visit a limited number of supporting friends and congregations to share the work the Lord has given us to do in Japan and Mongolia. If your congregation has a special Lord's Day you would like us to be with you, please let us know soon. We will try to plan, as best we can, an itinerary that requires as few miles as possible. (One summer we traveled 27,000 miles by car in 27 states —too much! and spoke 80 times.) Also, if anyone has an extra car we could use on the West Coast, the Mid-west, or the East Coast, please contact us. We look forward to visiting and sharing how the Lord is using us, as his servants in Japan. Since Chad and Jennifer will also be in the U.S., we are hoping to have a family reunion. It will have been 7 years since our last reunion.

RED MOON: Many years ago, September 5th, 1960 to be exact, I was off-trail backpacking in YoSemite, but had a hard time going to sleep that night because a high overhead full moon was reflecting off the canyon walls of granite, making it as bright as day! Then I awoke sometime between 10 and 11 p.m. to **TOTAL** darkness!! It was a moment of panic for me, before the NATURE of the situation came to me, and in due time the moon shone forth again. Indeed how may the ancients of YoSemite have wondered in fear of such blood moons!? Here in Japan we just experienced a clear night sky allowing us to view the rare occultation of Uranus with a full red lunar eclipse--the last was 442 years ago and the next won't be for another 322 years with Saturn! Oh! The WONDER of creation and the WITNESS to GOD as "Eternal Power" and "Divine Nature". . .! (Romans 1:19-20).



A friendly couple we often meet on our way home from KCS