



THE MANSSELLS

YOUR VOICE IN JAPAN SINCE 1983



Dear Praying Friends,

January 2008

O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come. Psalms 71:17, 18

God has been so good to teach us through many faithful Christians and churches over the years. We pray we would be faithful in passing a godly testimony and Spirit-lead enthusiasm for the mission fields around the world and especially in Japan to the next generation. Ken hit the 55 year mark in January and it reminds us that we have one fewer year now than last year to pass the torch to the next generation. Pray for those God would have come train with us for the evangelism and church planting ministry here in northern Hokkaido Japan.

We'd also like to thank those of you who sent both of us birthday and Christmas cards over the last two months. We really appreciate your effort to keep connected with us in this way and to make our day a little extra special.

A couple interesting opportunities have come about this month in every day living experiences. We have mentioned before that one of the teachers at the high school Ken teaches at reads her English Bible verse calendar month by month and will at times ask about a phrase on the calendar. January's verse was: *Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.* (Matt. 11:28). Ken explained to Mrs. Miyakoshi why we 'labor and are heavy laden' and who the rest comes through. With February's verse being from Isaiah 53:6, we trust her heart will continue to be open to God's Word and the Holy Spirit work in her heart. Several times Ken has also been asked through an English speaking opportunity as to why we came to Japan. We always try to use this open door to share as much as time allows.



A 6th grader chose his winter vacation homework assignment to have an interview with Ken about teaching English and our work here. Ken was able to spend about 2 hours with Yuta—why we are here, the English teaching, a little fun time with him and found out later that he is a principals' son. All of these small openings from the Lord may be used by Him later in someone's life even after they have gone from Teshio. One of the many challenges of this country is that so many of the main stream jobs unless a family business, have mandatory transfer conditions after 2 to 7 years. So we always know with some of our people time is limited but isn't it wonderful that God's time is not!

The work in Shibetsu on fellow missionary Minks' mission building continues on. It can be quite challenging when you are working in an unheated building at -2 to -14F degrees Two new staircases have been completed with many old walls and ceilings being torn down. Ken will begin building the kitchen cabinetry work this next week hoping to complete the basic cabinets before the end of the month. Then Mr. Minks and another fellow missionary will be able to do the finishing work on them while we are in the States on a short furlough. Please pray that the desired goals will be able to be accomplished as well as our short furlough preparations.



We are going to concentrate on an extended amount of time with our home church, Bethel Baptist, in Tucson, AZ on this trip. Although we have been associated with this church through support for quite awhile, since they became our home church last year, we have not had the opportunity to spend a good block of time with them. We are excited about this and trust we will all come away with a better understanding of how to pray for each other as the Lord tarries.

No further word yet from Mr. Kishida. We thank you for your continued prayers for him and that he would be open again to further discipling and desire to walk with God and not allow fears of retribution control his life. Pray for at least one time to be able to talk to him again. He was so closed to that last time he and Ken talked.

Serving Christ Together

KEN AND VICKI MANSSELL

Just A Prayer At Night – your evening is our daytime

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