



THE MANSELLS

YOUR VOICE IN JAPAN SINCE 1983



Dear Praying Friends,

October 2008

In these uncertain financial and political times, the Morning by Morning sermon by Charles Haddon Spurgeon for October 26th is a great thought that we need to recall and act on in Faith of the truth of scripture and the commission we have been given by Christ. May your prayers and giving for the local church and missions be rekindled in faith, knowing God will answer.

"Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the Lord of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house." —Haggai 1:9

Churlish souls stint their contributions to the ministry and missionary operations, and call such saving good economy; little do they dream that they are thus impoverishing themselves. Their excuse is that they must care for their own families, and they forget that to neglect the house of God is the sure way to bring ruin upon their own houses. Our God has a method in providence by which He can succeed our endeavors beyond our expectation, or can defeat our plans to our confusion and dismay; by a turn of His hand He can steer our vessel in a profitable channel, or run it aground in poverty and bankruptcy. It is the teaching of Scripture that the Lord enriches the liberal and leaves the miserly to find out that withholding tendeth to poverty. In a very wide sphere of observation, I have noticed that the most generous Christians of my acquaintance have been always the most happy, and almost invariably the most prosperous. I have seen the liberal giver rise to wealth of which he never dreamed; and I have as often seen the mean, ungenerous churl descend to poverty by the very parsimony by which he thought to rise. Men trust good stewards with larger and larger sums, and so it frequently is with the Lord; He gives by cartloads to those who give by bushels. Where wealth is not bestowed the Lord makes the little much by the contentment which the sanctified heart feels in a portion of which the tithe has been dedicated to the Lord. Selfishness looks first at home, but godliness seeks first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, yet in the long run selfishness is loss, and godliness is great gain. It needs faith to act towards our God with an open hand, but surely He deserves it of us; and all that we can do is a very poor acknowledgment of our amazing indebtedness to His goodness.

October quickly went into the memory banks of a month of general activity and daily work. Words of witness were given in our various work and outreach areas. Some extra time was spent in helping a missionary family with some unexpected events in their life. The work on the building in Shibetsu continues to go forward. When moments of possible discouragement knock at our hearts' and minds' door, we remind ourselves that we labor for Christ whether we are in services on a Sunday, making a meal for an acquaintance who is spending time at the hospital each day, English classes, Bible studies, caring for someone else's children, sewing for missionary children's needs or making an old building 'new' for the work of the Lord in another area. As we labor in each of these we desire to bring praise to God's name--so rejoice with us, please, in these efforts.

Vicki keeps up correspondence with Mrs. Tanaka, a former English teacher from the high school. She asks Vicki for help with various English opportunities she has with her part time job. Through this, Vicki continues to be able to share various verses and thoughts on Christianity through correspondence. Also we are starting an every-other-week letter to our believers when they aren't able to attend Sunday services. With this outreach we trust to be able to keep our believers informed and know that they are a part of us whether here or not. Pray for wisdom in putting these letters together for their growth and encouragement and that they would be able to attend the House of God more faithfully.

October 7th was the 25th anniversary of our arrival in Japan! Rejoice with us at God's faithfulness to us over these years and pray that as He tarries we would continue to be faithful to Him in the work He called us to. On our blog we are contributing news of the 'past' in 25 segments. (www.mansellmusings.blogspot.com)

Contact was made through two city events this month with present Mayor Asada and former Mayor Honda. Please continue to pray for studies to be able to be started with these men.

Serving Christ Together,
Ken and Vicki Mansell

Just A Prayer At Night – your evening is our daytime

