



THE MANSELLS

YOUR VOICE IN JAPAN SINCE 1983



DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS,

JANUARY 2009

Eph 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

THIS PAST MONTH THE LORD GAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE THANKS BECAUSE OF THE NAME JESUS CHRIST. KEN HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO INTO A LOCAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL TO HELP WITH ENGLISH. AS AN ASSIGNMENT THE STUDENTS WERE TO FIND WORDS IN THEIR DICTIONARY WITH THE LONG "T" SOUND. ONLY TWO OR THREE STUDENTS ARE PICKED AT "RANDOM" TO PRONOUNCE THESE WORDS IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE CLASS. ONE OF THE STUDENTS FOUND THAT PRONUNCIATION IN THE NAME JESUS CHRIST! KEN TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE A SHORT EXPLANATION OF WHO JESUS CHRIST WAS AND THE MEANING AND PURPOSE OF CHRIST IN HIS NAME. EVERY DAY WE EACH HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE THANKS AND GIVE WITNESS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IF WE BUT PRAY AND LOOK FOR THOSE OPPORTUNITIES AND THEN BOLDLY USE THEM IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. MAY THE LORD GRANT YOU THE BOLDNESS THIS DAY TO DO SO!

WE ARE ALSO THANKFUL FOR SAFETY ON WINTER ROADS WITH TRAVELING TO THREE OTHER COMMUNITIES FOR OUR WEEKLY CLASSES. OUR AREA OF HOKKAIDO HAS BEEN UNUSUALLY COLD, THEN WARM, THEN BACK TO COLD SEVERAL TIMES. TWICE NOW THOUGH IT HAS GONE FROM LOW 20'S UP TO LOW 40'S (ONCE WITH RAIN INCLUDED AND THE OTHER TIME JUST MELTING) AND THEN BACK DOWN AT LEAST TO 30 AND FREEZING AGAIN! NEEDLESS TO SAY, OUR ROADS ESPECIALLY IN TOWN ARE COMPLETELY ICE COVERED. IT IS ALMOST EASIER TO DRIVE AROUND THAN IT IS TO WALK AROUND. IN OUR 25 YEARS WE HAVE NEVER HAD RAIN THE END OF JANUARY BEFORE. WEATHER DEFINITELY HAS DONE SOME CHANGING OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. WE ARE THANKFUL FOR A VEHICLE THAT WORKS, A WARM HOUSE AND A SAVIOUR WHO PROVIDES FOR US!!

THESE COLD TEMPERATURES ARE NOT THE EASIEST TO DO CARPENTRY IN BUT KEN HAS ALSO CONTINUED TO MAKE HIS WEEKLY TRIPS TO SHIBETSU TO HELP WITH THE MINKS FAMILY MISSION BUILDING RENOVATION. A CERTAIN LIST OF THINGS IS DESIRED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED AGAIN THIS YEAR BEFORE OUR REPORTING TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES AT THE END OF FEBRUARY. WITH TWO WEEKS OF VACATION FROM SCHOOL ACTIVITIES DURING JANUARY, KEN TOOK THOSE TWO WEEKS TO BE THERE FROM TUESDAY TO FRIDAY FOR SOME EXTENDED WORK TO BE DONE INCLUDING BUILDING THE FOURTH AND FINAL STAIRCASE. THIS ONE WAS THE MAIN STAIRCASE INTO THE MEETING ROOM FOR SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY SERVICES SO IT WAS EXTRA WIDE AND DONE IN SPECIAL BEAUTIFUL WOOD SO IT DIDN'T NEED TO BE CARPET COVERED. THIS WORK WENT ON IN SUB-ZERO WEATHER MOSTLY EXCEPT FOR THE GLUING, WHICH HAD TO BE DONE IN A HEATED ROOM. PRAISE GOD IT IS FINISHED AND THE WORK ON BROTHER MINKS' OFFICE CONTINUES. AS THAT PART OF THE RENOVATION CONTINUES, IT ALSO IS UNHEATED SO EVERYONE CERTAINLY LOOKS FORWARD TO SPRING AND WARMER WORKING WEATHER.

IN MARCH AND APRIL, WE WILL BE REPORTING THIS YEAR TO CHURCHES IN MINNESOTA. IT HAS BEEN SIX YEARS SINCE WE HAVE BEEN THERE TOGETHER SO WE LOOK FORWARD TO THIS TIME. USUALLY WE ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO LEAVING WINTER BEHIND BUT THIS TIME IMAGINE WE ARE GOING FROM ONE WINTER TO ANOTHER! WE APPRECIATE YOUR PRAYERS AS WE CONTINUE TO PREPARE FOR THIS TRIP. WE WANT TO BE AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO THOSE THAT PRAY FOR US AND PROVIDE FOR US BY GOD'S GRACE. WE ALSO ARE PRAYING FOR SUMMER INTERNS, AS IT WILL HAVE BEEN TWO YEARS THIS SUMMER SINCE OUR LAST INTERN WAS HERE. IF THE LORD WOULD ALLOW WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOUNG MEN THIS SUMMER AND OUR DESIRE IS STILL TO AT SOME TIME HELP A YOUNG COUPLE PREPARE FOR MINISTRY HERE IN JAPAN AS WELL. IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY INFORMATION ON THIS INTERNSHIP, PLEASE ALWAYS FEEL FREE TO ASK. WE HAVE PRINTED MATERIAL THAT COULD BE SENT BY EMAIL (PDF) OR REGULAR MAIL AS WELL BECAUSE WE WILL NOT BE AROUND OUR REGULAR COMPUTER DURING THIS REPORTING TIME WE WILL BE ABLE TO POST A PRAYER LETTER EACH MONTH ON THE BLOG WEB SITE SO THAT YOU MAY ACCESS THAT SITE AND READ OUR CURRENT NEWS THERE. IF YOU NEED TO RECEIVE A HARD COPY INSTEAD DURING THE MONTHS WE ARE GONE, PLEASE LET US KNOW.

WE HAVE BEEN OR TRIED TO BE IN CONTACT WITH EACH OF OUR BELIEVERS BUT SOME HAVE NOT ANSWERED OR HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ATTEND SERVICES RECENTLY. MRS. SONODA MANAGES TO GET AWAY FROM CONSTANT CARE OF HER 90-YEAR-OLD FATHER-IN-LAW EACH SUNDAY FOR AN HOUR BUT IS NOT ABLE NOW TO BE WITH US MUCH LONGER UNLESS HER HUSBAND IS AT HOME. THE FATHER-IN-LAW IS NOW BLIND AND MOSTLY DEAF ALTHOUGH HE DOES USE A HEARING AID. HE IS IN THE BEGINNING STAGES OF ALZHEIMER'S OR DEMENTIA AS WELL SO THIS IS WHY THE CONSTANT WATCH CARE IS SO IMPORTANT; ESPECIALLY WHEN WINTER WEATHER AND EXPOSURE WOULD SURELY KILL HIM IF HE MADE THE MISTAKE OF GOING OUTSIDE. SATAN CONTINUES TO USE JOBS AND FAMILY SITUATIONS TO KEEP OUR OTHER BELIEVERS AWAY FROM REGULAR ATTENDANCE. WE FEEL THIS LACK OF TEACHING OPPORTUNITY KEENLY AT TIMES AND CONTINUE TO DESIRE YOUR PRAYERS FOR THEM AND US AS WE PRAY FOR FREEDOM AND A YEARNING FOR THEM TO BE HERE ON A REGULAR BASIS.

IN ONE OF THE ADULT ENGLISH BIBLE STUDIES, THE MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS MONTH IS MARK 8:36-- FOR WHAT SHALL I PROFIT A MAN, IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD, AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL? KEN USED AN ILLUSTRATION TO HELP THE CLASS START TO UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THIS VERSE BY OFFERING TO TRADE HIS CAR KEYS FOR ONE OF THE MEN'S PENS IN HIS POCKET. KEN THEN ASKED HIM AFTER HANDING HIM THE CAR KEYS... WAS THIS A PROFITABLE EXCHANGE FOR THE MAN. THE MAN REPLIED YES. KEN THEN ASKED IF YOU GAINED THE WHOLE WORLD OR BILL GATES FORTUNE, OR THE MOST POWER ANY ONE COULD EVER HAVE BUT LOST YOUR SOUL SO THAT YOU WENT TO HELL, WOULD THAT BE A PROFITABLE EXCHANGE? MUCH FOR THEM TO THINK ABOUT AND WE CONTINUE TO PRAY THAT THE WORD OF GOD WILL NOT RETURN VOID! THANK YOU FOR PRAYING WITH US.

PRAYER & PRAISE:

- 1. LADIES' FAITHFULNESS AND BAPTISM; SALVATION OF THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS**
- 2. MRS. SONODA IN CARE OF FATHER-IN-LAW AND HER DAILY HEALTH**
- 3. MRS. SONODA AS SHE HAS THE DOORS OPEN ON SUNDAY A.M. FOR US; USING ONLINE SERMONS FROM FELLOW MISSIONARY FOR SERMONS**

Field Address: Kaigan Dori, 2-Chome; Teshio, Hokkaido 098-3306 JAPAN; ph#: 011-81-1632-2-2462; (American# to our home in Japan: 520-303-1446-add 14hrs-EST)

Home Church: Bethel Baptist Church, 11040 E. Escalante Road, Tucson, AZ 85730; (520)722-0818 Support: CMC, PO Box 219228, Houston, TX 77218-9228;

Email: mansell@worldtell.com; Web Page: www.worldtell.com blog: www.mansellmusings.blogspot.com

4. **PREPARATION FOR OUR SHORTREREPORTING TRIP; THAT NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN TO MINISTRY OR THOSE WE DESIRE TO REACH WHILE WE ARE GONE**
5. **SALVATION OF THOSE IN ENGLISH CLASSES WITH BIBLES STUDIES AS WELLAS OTHERCONTACTS**
6. **THE CHORUS THAT VICKI IS A MEMBER OF HAD FOUR NEW LADIES JOIN—NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR WITNESSING**

Serving Christ Together, *Ken and Vicki Mansell*

Just A Prayer At Night – your evening is our daytime