

# ~~ The MANSSELLS ~~

Your Voice in Japan Since 1983



Dear Praying Friends,

April 2015

**Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.--Hosea 6:1**

Whenever the men of God prayed for the repentance of their people, they always included themselves--"let us return unto the Lord". As we grieve over the wickedness and violence around us in this sin filled and controlled world, let us first return ourselves to our first love. Remember that we each must seek to walk close to the Lord and His truth. We must take the first steps of repentance and restoration. The Lord will do His part. He must do the healing, we cannot. He must do the binding, we cannot. Let us return and depend on the living God to work in the hearts and minds



of those around us as we first experience His work of grace in our own hearts and minds as we return unto the Lord.

In April, while maintaining our usual schedule, the main emphasis has been to continue **getting ready for the Jonathan Marks family arrival for June 25<sup>th</sup>**. This included a trip 5 ½ hours south to meet with the landlord of the property to work out details for the contract. This was concluded in the landlord's Sapporo home which we wrote about in an extra letter we put out right after our return. **We praise God that the contract has been signed and returned.** Since that day, Ken has been working in any spare time to specifically find a couple needed items for the second floor four bedroom apartment. The main thing was to tear out the kitchen area old sink/counter, which was not of much use, and fix up and install a second hand counter the Lord provided that just fit into the area available! It is now in place. That along with various other odds and ends that take time and effort were helped a great deal by fellow missionaries from Nayoro, the Smith Family, coming for 2 ½ days. While here they helped us move furniture and do deep cleaning to the whole area including all the windows (double paned) and washing/drying all the curtains and sheers. What a blessing that was to us.

We are going to attach **a trifold information pamphlet about our internship program here in northern Japan.** There seems to be some possible confusion as to why the Marks are coming here to work with us. This pamphlet will do the explaining. It is in PDF format also. We have been having summer **college age interns since 1991** but have never quit praying that we could help a family through their beginning years here in Japan before moving on to their permanent area of ministry. One of the young lady summer interns did come back and train with us for a year and a half before she went to southern Japan and is still serving in Japan. We are stickers and stayers here in this difficult country, not just because God helped us through the beginning bumps and changes but also because God used a veteran missionary and his wife who guided and guarded as we learned. **We look forward to the privilege of having this long time prayer answered--**to be able to help the Marks work through culture shock, get a handle on the language, learning how to live and learning how to love the place and people even amongst all those challenges without becoming casualties in their first term. We are thankful for their willingness and we are thankful for our prayer warriors backing us up in needed prayer for wisdom, patience, and joy through this training period. At the end of two or three years, as God tarries, we ask Him to show the Marks where He will have them work full time and will help them move to that area. Although there will still be many things to learn and new people to reach, possibly new 'local' phrases and ideas to conquer, it won't be the same beginning level of being just like a baby—learning to walk, to talk, how to eat, how to grow steadily and not let circumstances and challenges run them over.

Prayer Requests—

1. Certificate of Eligibility paperwork has been submitted right after we wrote March's prayer letter. Please continue to pray that this needed **paperwork comes through quickly** so the Marks can apply for their visas in the time left.
2. Praise for the items being followed through in the requests on the contracts, much of the labor being provided by Ken.
3. Continued **preparation by the Marks**, a large yard sale to get rid of unnecessary items on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, and their final meetings right up until the week before they come.
4. Some support and set-up funds still needed for them.
5. **Vicki's trip to Georgia, 05/28-06/24** to help the Marks pack and assist in the travel to Japan. She will also visit Joshua and Alicia Appel who live in the area where the Marks are.
6. **Appels (our daughter's family)** are presently seeking God's will for going into a full time pastoral ministry.
7. **New contacts** that Ken has already made in the new school year and follow up.
8. For **Miss Nakamura (high school English teacher)** to keep coming to English Bible study and for others to join her.

*Serving Christ Together, Ken & Vicki Mansell* **Just A Prayer At Night** – Your evening is our daytime!

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