

~~ The MANSSELLS ~~

Your Voice in Japan Since 1983



Dear Praying Friends,

March 2016



Acts 16:9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.
Acts 16:13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

The famous "Macedonian Call" from verse 9 is often used in mission conferences to appeal to God's people for the need to send missionaries to foreign countries. This is a correct use of the verse. However, the reality of what Paul and his band of missionaries found when they crossed the Aegean sea from Asia to Europe was a bit different. Unlike the vision that God sent, there was no man waiting for them at the dock when they arrived. They had to travel inland to Philippi before they finally found a group of women having a prayer meeting down by a river. Yes, God had called them to that area to preach the gospel. Yes, God had prepared the way and lead them there. Yes, God did a mighty work through Paul and those who went with him in establishing local churches through out Greece and then to Europe and eventually to America. The image of people waiting at the airport to get saved as the rookie missionary lands in a foreign country, is an unrealistic image. The reality is that the people of those countries are not anxiously awaiting the missionary to arrive. The reality is that they are steeped in and bound by the lies of Satan in the multitude of religions and philosophies through out the world. The reality is that it takes years of study, training, prayer and work to effectually communicate the gospel to a foreign people who have little or no knowledge of the truth of the Bible. However, God still calls, leads and empowers men of God to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature! Let us be faithful to be sending and going to all the world with the wonderful message of salvation.

Graduations- Japanese school year runs from April to March of the next year. Many times we are in the States this time of year so it was a blessing for Ken to be able to attend four different school graduations. He teaches in all of these schools once a week and some of the students come to private lessons here at the church. It is an opportunity to greet parents and students alike as well as talk to principals and other teachers for a short time before the event starts. We never know what one little word here and one little word there might do to open a door in the future for witnessing to individuals.

Going-March is also the month for job transfers of which there are many types in Japan. It is both a good thing and a hard thing. Many times we have made progress in the beginning stages of teaching the Gospel and then that person is transferred. This is one of the reasons we have stayed put all these years. We are here to expose, educate, and enlighten the Japanese to the fact that they are in need of a Saviour as well as teach them what true biblical Christianity is. Due to the transfer system we have opportunities to begin that process, to continue the process that someone else has already started, and to see it's fruition by someone's salvation. Some plant, some water, some reap! Many times we get quite close to the individuals we are trying to reach through weekly study. So those transfers are quite difficult. We are thankful that we can rest assured that God will carry on His way and will in their lives even after they are gone. The other hard part is when we find out they are moving to an area of no biblical witness of which there are many in Japan. We continue to pray for more workers and are thankful for those on deputation to get to Japan as well as the opportunity to train the Marks family for ministry in Japan.

Events-Two opportunities stand out for this month-town held and personal. **Teshio held a town activity** that included a noon buffet, a 'tower' game to see how high you could make a tower with 'shijimi' shell fish shells; activities for the children and an opportunity just to be amongst the town people. God had His timing in being able to meet a man attending the event who works as a translator for the prime minister of Japan!! Whenever the prime minister is involved with Russian or English affairs, this man goes along as his interpreter. Witness was given, a tract accepted and we will see what the Lord has in mind for this man. **The personal event included a 42nd anniversary overnight stay** in Asahikawa after Ken had his 6 month check up on his kidney stones. Very much enjoyed by us both and thankful that tests affirmed that there is still no change in position or size of the stones that remain and his number levels are passable for this situation.

Prayer Requests:

1. Physical, Emotional and Spiritual strength from day to day.
2. Christian wives' whose husbands and families need to be saved.
3. Weekly Adult English and Bible studies. (Monday and Tuesday evenings)
4. Weekly Bible study (growth and strengthening in his Christian life) with Dr. Urayama
5. Japanese language and culture study with the Marks

Serving Christ Together, Ken & Dicki Mansell

Just A Prayer At Night – Your evening is our daytime!

Field Address: Kaigan Dori, 2-19-1, Teshio, Hokkaido 098-3306 JAPAN; ph#011-81-1632-2462 (American # to our home in Japan: 1-520-303-1446:add 14 hrs EST)

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