

Dear Praying Friends,

December 2014

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, to pass, which the Lord hath

The shepherds, upon hearing decided to go and seek this wise men after they saw the star two years searching for the been prophesied about. We

Trust your Christmas was blessed
And the year 2015 filled with God's Grace!

that this Christmas season brings to proclaim the truth that Christ the Saviour was born, lived, died and rose again for all men. When we make known this truth, by God's grace, men and women will seek Him. When they truly seek Him, Jesus Christ will save them and give them eternal life. May we be faithful throughout the coming year to herald this truth to ***each person God brings across the path of our lives. Wise men still seek Him.***

Beings you have heard from us every month throughout the year we are using this as our seasonal greeting as well as our praise letter for the month of December. We enjoy keeping in touch with each and every one of you and trust you can let us continue to know how you are doing this coming year so we can carefully pray for you as well! December was spent in preparation for the evangelistic outreach we hold each year on the 23rd (a national holiday). While we are making friends, cultivating current friendships and experiences all throughout the year, we do it not only the purpose of witnessing at that time, but also in hopes that when the time comes they will accept an invitation to attend this event where the Gospel is presented through various themes of Christmas. Ken has been going through The “something” of Christmas—this year being the Search for Christmas—dwelling on the shepherds (the message given them and their faith shown in looking for the infant Christ) and the wise men (their faith shown in the journey taken and the gifts given when they found the Christ child) and who can and should search for Christ today. We did this through visual placards, songs, and a testimonial dvd called “The Search” from a Japanese Baptist pastor in southern Japan who was going to follow his father’s footsteps and become a special Buddhist priest. Through his search of the scriptures to prove that the Bible was **wrong**, the Holy Spirit worked in his heart to salvation at the age of ten.

We had around 40 here with us (including us, Mrs. Sonoda and Miss Tsuzuki). This included the mayor of Teshio, two mothers of English class students and their children, one family (who attended church 3 weeks ago for the first time), two adult ladies who began the Horonobe English class and Bible study) and the rest were grade school children, one junior high and one high school age student. We know that God has promised His Word will not return void. So whether, we know immediately of what they might be thinking or never know this side of heaven, we will keep working at getting the Gospel into their minds and hearts through this event as well as other services and events throughout the year. We especially pray for **Miss Tsuzuki** to accept the knowledge of the Word that she has understood and proclaimed to be true. Also for **Mayor Asada** (aw-saw-daw) who has heard several of these messages when he attended Christmas programs for the last four years. We continue to try and get together with a couple various ones and families since we have come to know them, seeking to further develop both friendship and the opportunity for deeper spiritual conversations. Thank you for praying for us to this end.

Mrs. Sonoda continues to try and faithfully come on Sunday morning even when she doesn’t feel all that well any more on any given day. She has added high blood pressure to her challenges and they have not found the reason for it yet. Nor have they decided to put her on medication as they want to monitor the situation a while longer. Her mother is also back in the hospital and will be given a heart pace maker on the 7th of January. We are thankful that she led her mother to the Lord in salvation quite a few years ago now but her father (and her husband) still needs to be saved. Thank you for joining with us in prayers for them all.

With winter vacation in full force now and the Japanese families doing their get-togethers and special activities over the new years’ time, we will not have as much contact with various ones, but we look forward to seeing what God will do in the new year and all throughout 2015! Maybe it will also be the year of Christ’s return! Our hearts are always torn betwixt two—‘even so come Lord Jesus’ and yet, there are so many we desire to reach with the Gospel.

Winter has arrived in all its glory! Television news the other day said that Hokkaido has at least half of the snow fall for a whole winter already on the ground! We had to postpone and/or cancel our English classes twice in the last two weeks. We praise God that on the day of the Christmas program it was all calm. Winter may be long this year but we praise God

for safety He provides on winter roads and the opportunity to tell the Gospel and that our sins can be made whiter than snow!

~~Program Scenes~~



Above-Ken next to Mayor Asada
Bottom left- Mr. Fukushima
Bottom right-two ladies from English class

