

# ~~ The MANSSELLS ~~

Your Voice in Japan Since 1983



Dear Praying Friends,

July 2015



**And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 2 Tim. 2:2**

Paul wrote this to Timothy as a young preacher whom he had trained. He was encouraging Timothy to pass on to the next generation the teaching, example and training he had given him while accompanying Paul on his missionary journeys. Similarly, like we were helped greatly by the training and mentorship of missionary Larry Hagen thirty two years ago, we now have the privilege and responsibility to pass that example and knowledge on to another generation. In

late June, Jonathan and Heather Marks and their four young children arrived here in Teshio to begin a two year missionary internship training for doing missionary work in Japan. Please pray with us as we seek to commit unto these faithful young missionaries the things we have both learned from our "Paul" and the lessons the Lord has taught us over the years. Every detail of living, communication, customs and ministry must be translated into a Japanese context. It can be very tiring and challenging to the new missionary to make these changes. They are working hard at it with a good attitude. The goal is to equip them so that they can not only begin a local church somewhere in Japan in the next several years, but that they too can "teach others also" in the years to come. Thank you for praying for the mentor and the students.

**Patient Focus**—we had **three main goals** this month and two of them are basically completed. First was to **finish** getting the upstairs 4 bedroom flat **furnished** for the needs of the Marks. This has taken some extra trips to larger cities and also some online ordering. We are so thankful for the internet ordering from this rural area where choices are null or few. Where we can, we have used items but sometimes it has had to be new as well. Praise God for provision for these needs and again so thankful for the apartment they are in. **Secondly**, we wanted to go around and **introduce the Marks** to those that work and live around them. This is one of the customs when you move into a new area. Heather made banana bread into mini loaves and they had gift towels to hand to each place they went as well as Jonathan's business card. This is just an introductory step that we trust opens doors later for witnessing to these people. **Thirdly, the language study has begun.** There are three 'alphabets' and is an ongoing learning experience no matter how long you live in this country. The first alphabet allows the Marks to be able to sing along in the songbooks. They should get up to speed soon as they have finished this alphabet and started the second one, a variation of the first. Finally, they will begin kanji learning—the Chinese characters adapted into the Japanese language. This is a major learning process and takes several years to get it all worked through and then even the Japanese say they don't know all the combinations. Vicki has also been teaching Japanese cooking to Heather as the time and schedule allows. Both Jonathan and Heather are eager learners and we know God will use these steps in their lives for growth and for ministry. Their ministry does not start after they finish this training but has already begun!! They have already been brave and ventured to the park to play and meet children and their parents!

**Patient Friendship**—we have shared over the years how it just takes endurance and repetition in reaching the Japanese. This begins with just being a friend, starting a conversation, helping out whenever possible. There is a neighbor kitty-corner from us that we have tried to start conversations with over the last 10-15 years without any response. **Mr. Sasaki** has usually answered Ken's greetings with just a simple grunt or hello. While Ken was working in the workshop after some equipment had been parked in front of our house, he looked up and saw Mr. Sasaki looking around the corner of a carport post so immediately went out and greeted him. God used curiosity to allow this first open conversation time with Mr. Sasaki and he and Ken talked for around 30 minutes!! It even included the question—so why do you have the cross sign on your building! What an open door! **Praise God and may this opportunity be repeated again!**

Another opportunity arrived on a Sunday afternoon. Ken had just sat down on the deck to rest a bit after lunch. **Mr. Yokoyama** had talked to Ken a couple times when Ken was finishing the inside walls and ceiling of a neighbor's garage last summer. He is a town councilman, works in a business that we used to help finish the remodeling of the deck/carport/roof project here. Ken invited him up to the deck to visit. Two and a half hours later, Mr. Yokoyama took his leave! Many subjects were covered including spiritual ones woven throughout! God is good all the time, but what a blessing to have these extra points of contact this month to encourage us along our lifelong ministry here in Teshio.

**Patient Fellowship**—while diligently working at reaching our locals and those that come through with their jobs, God has allowed us to be here for others who are just traveling through. We have lost count of opportunities both to the saved and unsaved as they found us or we found them in town. **An elderly gentleman, Mr. Haseda**, from southern Japan traveling around Hokkaido during the extreme hot months came to our Sunday morning service! He said he checks phone books each

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weekend as he travels to see if there happens to be a biblical church where he plans on staying on Saturday night so he can go to church!! He stayed for lunch and it was such a blessing to us, and he said to him as well, to fellowship with **Mr. Haseda**. We may never see him again on this earth but we know it will be one more person we will know in heaven!!

## Praise and Prayer Requests-

1. Special opportunities in July-Praise
2. More goals completed and new people met-Praise
3. Another 4 months herpes free eye for Vicki-Praise
4. Spiritual, Physical and Emotional strength
5. Old contacts to be more open to the Gospel
6. New contacts being made
7. Health of Mrs. Sonoda, her mom, and a couple other of our believers who are in the 'care for aging parents' mode
8. Our neighbors and Marks' new neighbors, Mr. Yokoyama

*Serving Christ Together,  
Ken & Dicki Mansell*

**Just A Prayer At Night** - Your evening is our daytime!



Participating in a birthday pizza party for Nathan, 8 yrs!



Mr Haseda, Ken and Jonathan visiting on the deck

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