

~~ The MANSSELLS ~~

Your Voice in Japan Since 1983



Dear Praying Friends,

December 2015



Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:14

As 2015 ends and 2016 begins, the proclamation the angels made to the shepherds near Bethlehem is still true today as it was 2016 years ago. Our purpose and task on earth is to glorify the one true and living God with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength. And to use the grace and love of the Lord Jesus Christ to act in peace and good will toward all people. That can only be done as we walk in the Spirit and righteousness of the truth of the Bible. May we strive to abound in that life by the LORD's grace and power this New Year.

A single man, about 44 yrs. old names **Mr. Wada**, is a new name to add to your prayer list please. He moved into Teshio this fall at the same time as Mr. Inagaki. Mr. Inagaki has befriended Mr. Wada who is unsaved and Mr. Wada has come to one service this month. That first time Ken was able to counsel and witness to him before the service and he came again to the Christmas program for which we praise God. He called to say he would be at our evening service on the 27th but he didn't make it. We pray that there will many more opportunities to help this man become a true seeker of the Word of God and we praise God for Mr. Inagaki's reaching out to him as well through work.

One of the women who has been coming to new adult English class/Bible study has also come to a couple services and told us this month that she has read the John/Romans portion that we gave her two times through! But she said, "There is so much I don't understand." This opens doors for us to communicate more with her. Pray this true desire to understand will lead to understanding and understanding to salvation for **Miss Motoba**.

Because we use **the Season of Christmas** for evangelism in various ways throughout the month, we have been extra busy. It accumulates in special activities and foods for our English class students, Bible study adults, opportunities to invite school students, of all levels, to the Christmas program as well as personal invitations to many throughout Teshio. Posters were put up in grocery stores as well as handed out. Vicki, and this year Heather as well, prepared cookies for part of the events and extra cakes for the tea time after the Christmas program.

It was wonderful to have extra people to prepare and present the program on the 23rd of this month. **Jonathan and Heather Marks** participated in special music with their guitar and flute. Vicki joined them for one number with her taishogoto. We printed out the words to the songs for the instrumentals so the people could read the words while they played. The **Marks children** also participated by learning one verse of Away in the Manger with hand motions in both English and Japanese. Even little 2 yr. old Abigail did all the hand motions. It was a great blessing to have **Mr. Inagaki** do the Christmas story via a flashcard lesson and **Mrs. Sonoda** read the Luke chapter of the birth of Jesus. It is always our prayer that the words of song and Word of God will be brought back to memory throughout the year and always claim the promise that God's Word does not return void. **Ken's message on the "Choice of Christmas"** certainly gave everyone personally something to think about.

God brought in 30 guests for the program! We had **children** from both private and school English classes; several of the **ladies** who have started English attend as well as a couple mothers of the students. The **new high school principal** came as well as **Mayor Asada** and **Mr. Wada**. Two teenage boys who started coming 5 years ago have been here every year since. The tea and dessert time always provides more opportunity to talk to various ones. A new Christmas pamphlet was sent home with each attendee along with their Christmas goodie package. While some of these people come and go, we thank the Lord for any opportunity to get the Gospel into their hands. We will post some photos of events from this month on the second page of this letter.

As we write this report of what God has done for us this month we trust you and yours have had a blessed time with your family and others throughout this season of Joy in remembering Christ's birth and in bringing in the New Year with hope and joy for the future it holds as the Lord carries no matter what we see happening around us in this world in need of Christ. **We are thankful for each one of you** and appreciate what Christ has done here because of you. Your prayers, your support, your love for our Savior and for the people across Japan who do not know Him are greatly appreciated.

Prayer Requests:

1. Physical, Emotional and Spiritual strength from day to day
2. Christian wives' husbands and families to be saved
3. Weekly Adult English and Bible studies times.

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4. Weekly Bible study (growth and strengthening in his Christian life) with Dr. Urayama
5. Health and safety through the winter months
6. Japanese language study with the Marks
7. Further opportunities with Mr. Wada
8. Counseling and encouragement phone session Ken has almost daily with Mr. Shimizu, one of our first Teshio believers who lives in southern Hokkaido.

*Serving Christ Together,
Ken & Dicki Mansell*

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

