

~~ The MANSSELLS ~~

Your Voice in Japan Since 1983



Dear Praying Friends,

January 2016

And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? Acts 3:12



God has been gracious to use us in many marvelous ways in preaching the gospel and helping people over the years. After Peter and John had seen the lame man rise up and walk, all the people began to praise God and look to Peter and John for more miracles. Peter reminds them that it is the living God who has done this miracle. It had nothing to do with any power or holiness on their part that accomplished anything. We proud people tend to look on people instead of God when wonders happen. Let us keep our eyes off of people as the source of our needs and very life. We must continually "Look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith". It is okay to thank people for being the conduit through which the Lord chooses to pour His blessing. As we thank each of you who pray for and support us here in Teshio, Hokkaido, Japan. But please make sure that both people and the Lord know that we understand that He and He alone is our provider, protector, guide, Saviour and our God.

In that vein of thought, **we continue our thanks to all who gave so generously** in love gifts over the Christmas season and both of our birthdays; to those that sent beautiful cards and messages within. It helps to have the extra love shown at a time when most people are gathered around their family. You are our family, especially when we have to be away from our own, so it means so very much. With your special love gifts that came in at that time, we were able to upgrade the church piano keyboard to a new model. It was on sale but they lowered the price some more when we were willing to buy the floor model. We trust the year of 2016, as the Lord tarries, is a blessing to each of you as you have been to us.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

January brought more winter weather on the outside (remember our area averages 15-20 feet of accumulated snow with the most falling in December-February) and below freezing weather continues. But that didn't stop us from keeping up with services and duties. Missionary work and language lessons continue with the Marks and we appreciate their tenacity to adapting to this culture and learning the difficult Japanese language. Ken's teaching in the schools and English teaching here at the building, resumed after winter vacation. Blizzards can hinder the work at times for sure but thankfully for the most part it has been uninterrupted.

One of the most encouraging things was Mr. Wada returning to two different Sunday evening services. He truly seems to be seeking but isn't yet ready to commit to steady Bible study or weekly attendance. He was introduced to Christianity when he was in grade school and became quite interested then but his parents shut that desire down. We know seeds that had been planted then can be watered and refreshed to open up the desire to learn more again. Please pray he will accept Ken's offer to take him through a six times "Christianity Explained" study.

During the winter vacation, **we were happy to have fellow missionaries from Shibetsu** (central Hokkaido), Brother and Mrs. Alan Minks, drive north and join us for a couple days of fellowship together. What a relaxing time it was with table games, ping pong, a couple of cold walks and, of course, wonderful foods prepared by the ladies. These opportunities are rare so it was very enjoyable to us all!

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.
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 & Vicki Mansell

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

p.s. If you are in need of an updated photo of us, please drop us a line and tell us what size you desire and in horizontal or vertical setting. We can send by mail or email, whichever you prefer.