

~~ The MANSSELLS ~~

Your Voice in Japan Since 1983



Dear Praying Friends,

February 2016



***And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive,
neither to observe, being Romans. Acts 16:21***

In the day this was written, the Roman government controlled Philippi, this area of Greece. Under Roman law, many religions were sanctioned including Judaism. However, Christianity was not. The crowd made this statement to condemn Paul and Silas for preaching Jesus Christ. Paul and Silas were imprisoned for being active Christians. But God delivered them in a miraculous way! Today, in many countries of the world, governments dictate which religions can and cannot be followed. Let us use the freedom we have to proclaim the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us be willing to suffer for being a Christian even if governments are against it. May we be bold, gracious and faithful.

A work defined—Even after 32 ½ years of ministry, one might wonder what our ministry includes. As Ken got off the phone with **Mr. Shimizu**, who was relocated with his job as a teacher, Vicki said, **“Our work definitely has many levels.”** There is, of course, the church and the services and outreaches involved with that. But beyond that and all it includes, there is so much more. In our rural area we can be involved in many things that bring us into contact with people. First of all, people who are local. Then those that have been temporarily in our area (usually 3-6 years) and then transferred but need to be in contact, such as Mr. Shimizu. Finally the types of ministry is multi-layered. One on one study, conversations, and God-given opportunities. There is also phone counseling sometimes once in a while or with this gentleman, often due to various situations in his job. Teaching in the schools brings opportunities to show forth Christ in word and deed to children and teachers that never might come about if Ken wasn't in the schools. We are here both for the saved and unsaved that come into Teshio for small time periods. Vicki, being in the three town ladies 'circles' brings contacts with ladies that she rarely sees outside of the appointed times. We are sometimes amazed how we can know so many people in Teshio but rarely see them outside of the group we are involved in together. But the society here is built around 'circles' of responsibility and care that include only those involved in those circles.

A witnessing opportunity--Here is one example of how involvement will sometimes suddenly open a door. Vicki was at pottery taking care of some things with several ladies there. Eventually there was just herself and one other lady. **Mrs. Kurokawa** studied the Bible with us several years ago now but didn't want to go any further when the particular type of study came to an end. Vicki sees her off and on at pottery and the ladies choral group activities. Mrs. Kurokawa is about 76 years old. Out of the blue she said, “I have started reading the Bible again almost every day. After all, it stares me right in face all the time because I have three of them right on my shelf by my table...” This opened up some conversation and her need yet for salvation. Then it came—one of the main walls we have to find a way over with many here—“..but I don't even have a desire to ask God to know more about having salvation.” Vicki had told her that she can ask God to give her a need to know more and then she replied with that answer. The mental stage of a great percentage of people in this country are content to 'be Japanese' which includes all the gods and customs that relate to religion in this country. They see no need to add or subtract for they cannot/do not want to be anything outside of what they feel 'is Japanese'.

A watering work—We had asked you to pray for more opportunities to study with Mr. Wada. We didn't get that opportunity because **Mr. Wada had to move**, this month, back down south and is seeking a job there. Our thoughts were thus—he had told us about how his parents had quenched the desire to know more about Christ when he was a grade schooler. This desire was refreshed while here. While we would have joyfully carried on with study that hopefully lead to salvation for Mr. Wada, God has a plan that must have meant he was here to have the buried desire, to know about Christ resurrected, so that he is ready for the next step that God has through others down south. Others planted, we watered, and others will water more and get the harvest. Our work is no greater or lesser than others along the way.

A welcoming work—three times this last year Teshio Baptist Bible Church was 'here' when Christians were temporarily in the area. **Believers from southern Japan were in Hokkaido**, in our area, for anywhere from a couple weeks to a couple months. As soon as they arrived, they researched and found the church here and called to find out more about our services. They desired spiritual feeding and refreshing while here. Because we have stuck and stayed, they had that desire filled for

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)

Home Church: Bethel Baptist Church, 11040 E. Escalante Road, Tucson, AZ 85730 ph:520-722-0818 **Support:** CMC, PO Box 219228, Houston, TX 77218-9228

Email: mansell@worldtell.com **Web Page:** www.worldtell.com **Web Blog:** www.mansellmusings.blogspot.com

~~ The MANSSELLS ~~

Your Voice in Japan Since 1983

that short time. We are blessed because we now have others from down south that know about the work and can tell others about it and also pray for us here. And all said, they would be back again if they were up in the area again. Praise God for you, our prayer warriors and supporters, who have also stuck and stayed with us, encouraging us to keep the work no matter how many or few.

A willing work—as you know, we are also currently teaching the next generation. Our prayer and desire, in God's timing, to train the next generation for work here in Hokkaido began with the **Marks family** in July, 2015. This training includes daily living, language, and helps via our experiences both now and in the past. Please pray for ourselves to continue to pass the baton of ministry and living with much love, care, wisdom and patience and for the Marks family to be able to absorb the instruction and teaching in the same manor so that as Jesus tarries, there will be a new area in Hokkaido that will have a biblical strong witness to reach the lost. We praise God for the Marks' willingness to first of all be here in Japan and to be instructed for further efficiency and careful ministry that God will open up for them.

Not a waning work—we are not training to be replaced but to have the work of the Lord in Hokkaido broadened. We pray daily for more opportunities to reach our local people. We love these people and care that they are going to hell and don't even know it unless they are taught. Teshio Baptist Bible Church will carry on, willingly, and faithfully as long as the Lord allows us physically and mentally to reach, teach and send others! Our strength is not dependent on us but on God and we rely on His way, His will and His power and the power of your prayers and support behind us.

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.
4. Weekly Bible study (growth and strengthening in his Christian life) with Dr. Urayama
5. Japanese language study with the Marks
6. Counseling and encouragement phone session Ken has almost daily with Mr. Shimizu.

Serving Christ Together, Ken & Dicki Mansell

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