



~~ The MANSELLS ~~

Your Voice in Japan Since 1983



Dear Praying Friends

January 2026

*Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way,
because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Psalm 37:7.*

It can be hard to “wait on the Lord” as we are often commanded to do in the Bible. One key to obeying the command to wait is to “rest in the Lord”. Rest requires a safe and comfortable state of mind. Rest implies trust and confidence in the Lord despite the circumstances around us. **So, practice the wisdom of “rest”** when obeying the Lord’s words to “wait upon the Lord”.

January was unique because Vicki was gone for the whole month and Ken joined her for one week when our granddaughter, Alyssia Appel married Timothy Alexander. First of our grandchildren to get married!! Certainly, we aren’t that old yet? An extra blessing was that it had been 9 years since our family members had all been together, especially including great-grandma, Virginia Coats. We were sorry that one of our daughters-in-law couldn’t be with us due to health challenges but certainly understood. The wedding was a great blessing in every way and fellowship sweet and fast with family only being together for 2 days.

Ken kept the ministry and house going without Vicki for the month and the Lord kept him well. Studies continued with our missionary interns, the Saltzmans, and Jadon covered the services the one Sunday that Ken was gone and Aly played piano in Vicki’s place. That is great practice for them and a blessing to us.

Vicki came down with a sinus infection and bronchitis during the last week of her stay in the states. That was challenging but the Lord calmed her cough and system during the long flight home. We drove straight from the airport, an hour away from home to the Teshio local hospital for Vicki to see the doctor to get medications that would include antibiotics. Thankfully, the medication began to work right away and now 10 days later, she is feeling normal again. Let’s take the opportunity to explain a couple things concerning health care: foreign residents of Japan are required to be in the social medicine system of the country. Overall, this is a blessing and help in every way. This insurance system has monthly premiums based off what you earn for a salary and how many are in your family. A difference from insurances in the states is that there is no ‘deductible’ required on top of that. By the time you reach age 70-74 (like us) out-of-pocket pay is only 20-30% depending on your income. Age 75 and above is only 10%. When we see a doctor, it is in a ‘clinic’ or a hospital because normally, the doctors don’t have “doctor’s offices”. The first or more floors are various doctor’s offices and then upper floors of the same place have inpatient care including surgeries and such. Our small-town hospital has two doctors: one is an internal medicine doctor and the other has to do with muscles and bones, surgery-related visits. When we leave after an appointment or inpatient stay, all the bills are figured out immediately, the total is given, we pay that total after showing them our insurance card and the ‘instance’ is thus completed. No sudden other bills show up. We know exactly what we have to pay and leave with our receipt that it is paid in full. After seeing our local doctor if further care or surgeries are needed, then we take a letter of information and need to a higher-level care hospital (in our case, it’s usually been the university hospital about 3 ½ hrs away) to be seen and further treatment received but all done in the exact same way. An ambulance is part of the local fire department service, thus free of charge as needed. We hope this explanation helps you understand why we can minister going forward still at our age even with health issues that have to be taken care of and then watched over and why, when we can avoid it, we don’t visit a doctor while stateside. Finally, a general health related request by a doctor will usually not be turned down by social medicine insurance. Cosmetic surgeries for just beauty reasons, orthodontic work-teeth straightening- (unless surgery is required), experimental/non-approved treatments are not covered. So overall, we have been blessed in the care and help we have received.

With that trip and one short trip for the Saltzmans out of the way, mid-February, we should be able to settle down into a regular system of training and outreaches in the community. The Saltzmans have worked hard at making friends with a few different ones to hopefully, open discussions eventually to spiritual matters and it is helping them have opportunities of using the Japanese they are learning. We teach them ministry related subjects as well as culture and living that is important to have Japanese open their minds to getting to know them. Japan has faced some sad instances, especially down south, where foreigners just visiting Japan are not trying to obey the customs or requirements of even posted signs. This has made some wary of foreigners or even caused distress and disorder. We are thankful that our testimony for Christ’s sake can continue and the Saltzmans see the need for being aware of even unspoken rules and deeper relationship related issues that may need to be adjusted in one’s thinking for living with wisdom in Japan.

Prayer Requests:

1. *Continue to pray for the salvation of the husbands of: Mrs. Sonoda, Mrs. Kuwata, Mrs. Kawabata*
2. *For the internship to continue to help the Saltzmans be ready to carry on a ministry of their own*
3. *For teaching and mentoring those that are in church fellowship with us currently.*
4. *For continued safety through the winter months.*

Serving Christ Together, Ken & Vicki Mansell

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

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