



UPDATE FROM JAPAN

Osaka Bible Seminary — Jesus for Japan



Paul and Rickie Clark

... our email to you ...

No.90 December 2018-January 2019

WOW! Where to begin? We are finally to the end of an extremely busy time over the past few months and hope now to be able to relax a bit and tell you what has been happening over the last several weeks. First of all we want to wish God's best for you for 2019. In Japan we are still receiving greetings for the New Year when we see someone for the first time in 2019. It is customary to give the New Year's greeting until January 15th. The end of December is a very busy time for our Japanese people. It is their custom to clean their houses thoroughly and often to participate in "forget the old year" parties (*bonenkai*) in order to welcome in the New Year with a new slate. It's like cleaning house, both inside and outside. Not a bad idea!

Our December International Night Turkey Dinner was attended by 46 people with nine countries represented! One of our traditional games is so much fun for everyone! Everyone tries to unwrap a multi-wrapped gift. They first have to put on an apron, hat and gloves, then as the first person attempts to unwrap the gift, a single die is passed from one person to the next and if anyone throws a six, they trade places with the "gift un-wrapper!" It is hilarious to watch them change, as one interruption follows another! Christmas time is such an opportunity to tell the Good News of why God sent His son to little planet earth!



Playing the traditional game!



Building towers using Spaghetti & marshmallows

Now we have just had our January International Night with 37 in attendance, which was a wonderful time of fellowship and study in the Word. We almost always have new guests along with our regulars. People travel up to 2 hours to participate in this fellowship of believers! This outreach is an evangelistic and discipling ministry.



"What must I do to be saved?"



OBS Staff and Students

Our OBS staff and students also took opportunity to get together during December for fellowship. This too was a time to remember and forget 2018 and look forward to a new year of service in God's Kingdom.

Yu Yamada, our KCS student who is now a junior at Lincoln Christian University was home for the holidays and we got together for dinner. He is a Teacher's Assistant and continues to love LCU! He is also maintaining his high grades and leadership opportunities.



Yu Yamada and Mom Ikumi



KCS All School Choir singing in Zulu language

Our Kansai Christian School Christmas program and potluck was another special event. There were many visitors with prospective students attending. Currently we are at our highest ever enrollment of 51 students! We still have a waiting list of first graders who wish to enter KCS. Please pray for the non-Christian families who desire their children to enter KCS, and for the non-Christian parents of present students to understand WHY KCS is such a wonderful place for their children. It is be-



Never been to a Potluck with so much food!

cause of Jesus that we continue this ministry!

Our staff families are growing, too! This set of twins was born to our Dean and his wife, a graduate of KCS—their second set of twins! Another of our teachers will deliver her son very soon. When the first set of twins (4 1/2 years old) heard of the other staff family's expecting a little boy, they said, "Huh? Only one?"



The second set of twins!

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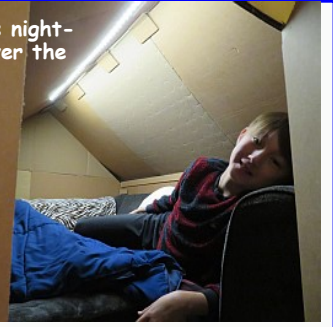
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We just spent two weeks in the U.S., mainly to go to our granddaughter Michaela's wedding in Havre de Grace, MD, but we were also able to spend time with our three "Stateside" children and families. We landed in Southern California and spent three days with Jonathan and family. This was our first time to spend Christmas with Sean who is almost 10 years old, so it was a special time. One of the fun things Jonathan did was to make Sean a "fort" in the living room since Sean gave up his bed for us.



Sean's night-fort over the sofa



We then flew from LAX through Philadelphia and on to Baltimore the day before the wedding. Sam Richardson, the groom, and Michaela met at Milligan College in Michaela's freshman year. Three generations of Sam's family are alumni of Milligan and we have much in common, especially our Christian heritage. Sam received his Master's degree in December and Michaela graduated last spring. The two accounting majors were married in a 19th Century Vintage Bank Building (now a Wedding Chapel) on the first anniversary of their engage-



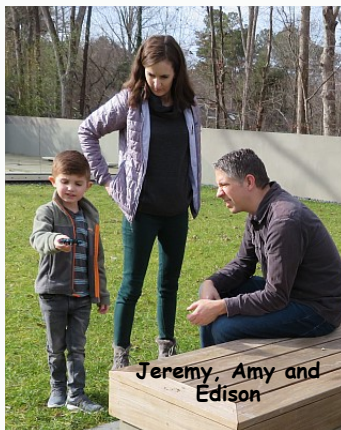
Chris & Jocelyn with Elijah, Johanna, Ami and Benjamin



The bride and her parents



Sam & Michaela



Jeremy, Amy and Edison

The following day we flew to Raleigh, NC, to be with Jeremy, Amy and Edison for a couple days. Edison is now five and we enjoyed our visit very much. Jeremy took us various places until I began feeling not so good. I had the flu for about 24 hours but managed to eat at a wonderful Japanese restaurant at the end of our time there. It was the best *katsudon* (pork cutlet over rice with an egg and onion sauce) that we have ever eaten!

We then flew through Chicago and on to Columbia, MO, to be with Jocelyn and Chris and family in their home. They had driven home the day before we arrived and were ready for our visit. When we arrived there, though, Rickie had caught the bug and was also miserable for the next 24 hours. After that we just enjoyed resting with no deadlines ahead of us! On the two-week trip, we flew on 10 different flights, including a 2 1/2 hour flight delay out of Dallas/Ft. Worth which caused us to not make our connection from Tokyo to Osaka and arrived a day late.

This fall has been extremely busy with many deadlines, especially for our KCS accreditation paperwork. All the staff and the board had parts of our school's description to write, and, thanks to Principal Bob, it was sent in on time (some 60+ pages and over 100 attachments)!

Johanna Wolfe, Chris and Jocelyn's 17-year-old daughter, flew in the evening after we returned at noon. She will be with us for a little over five months and we are enjoying it very much. Johanna will be helping at KCS two days a week and will study Japanese at our local community center two days a week. She will also be tutoring one of our KCS students and would like to teach other students as well. She really enjoyed meeting the KCS students who come to International Nights.



MONGOLIA: It is the time of year when we consider the financial support we give from the Lord's generosity (a senior missionary's privilege) to our Centurions Ministry. We have raised \$20,000 of a \$45,000 goal for our Centurions Ministry's Cadet Recreation and Development Center, and it is a good opportunity for one-time donations by congregations, mission teams, and individuals.



Tuya

Also, particularly, we have a key Centurions Ministry worker who needs personal support in order to stay on staff. A one-time gift of \$500-\$600 would give her \$40-\$50 per month support for a year. Tuya is a real evangelist and has several "generations" of disciples under her—those she has won to the Lord, who have disciplined others and on down the line! A person who leads another to Christ usually continues discipling their disciples every week!



Property near cadet academies which is for sale