

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Christmas is a special time of year when Japanese people are interested in Christianity. JM workers become very busy, participating in evangelistic meetings, concerts and parties. Our teachers will be involved in over 100 meetings in various churches to reach those in local communities who desire to learn more about the meaning of Christmas. **Pray** that many will be reached through these outreach opportunities.
2. Japan Mission recently held a two-day English Camp in the mountains for English students. Many heard the Gospel as friendships were cultivated. **Pray** that these students would respond to the seeds that were sown in their hearts.
3. David and Sue Verwey plan to visit the West Coast of Canada and the USA to visit JM contacts and churches during April and May 2017. **Pray** for protection and that the Lord would give them the ability to communicate the vision of the work effectively.



"Call unto Me, and I will answer thee" Jer. 33:3

Nov / Dec 2016

FREEDOM FROM FEAR - PART II

"After enrolling my eldest daughter in Kansai Christian School (KCS), I started to make friends with the missionaries and teachers. I was impressed by their sincere belief. After some time, I prayed to accept Jesus as my Savior. Eventually, my three children also accepted the Lord. My husband attended church with us for a while, but was later convinced that the traditional Japanese way suited him better.



Shizu Imahori

"Fifteen years after I became a Christian, I found my thoughts wandering and my faith was severely tested. I became depressed, due in part to my mother undergoing treatment for cancer. At this time, when nothing seemed to help, a lady who practiced Spiritism phoned me and offered to pray for healing of my mother.

I had nothing to do with such people until then, but found myself going along with her suggestion, because she was very influential and was introduced to me by a close relative. I reasoned that I could just pray to Jesus while she prayed for my mother. To my surprise, she started to contact me weekly!

"As I became more involved, this lady urged me to embrace her beliefs by undergoing a religious cleansing ritual at a waterfall. She said it would help to purify our family of the evil that was causing my mother's illness. I recalled how, as a child, I visited this beautiful waterfall with my father and felt somewhat nostalgic. I found myself thinking that I could try it and then return to Christianity afterwards.

"It was bitterly cold as I adorned a white robe and entered the freezing water. I shivered uncontrollably and my body started to feel numb as the icy water beat down on my body. I did this several times and felt invigorated,

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In the past 20 years the world has gone from zero to over 1 billion internet users! We are keenly aware that in order to remain effective and relevant, we need to change with the times. We are in the process of updating our web and media content. Follow us now on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/japanmission.jm

Please view the video of the wonderful time we spent hosting many students from various churches at an English Camp, as well as other Japan Mission videos on YouTube at:

www.youtube.com/user/thejapanmission

SPECIAL THANKS

We want to thank each person who faithfully prayed and supported the work of Japan Mission during 2016. You have played an important role in helping us further the Lord's work. We praise the Lord for the many changed lives, the leading of the Holy Spirit, and His faithful protection and provision.

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but after a number of months I started to feel unwell. I went to the hospital and the doctor could not find anything wrong with me. My tonsils were swollen and very painful for a week. I became convinced that this was a spiritual attack of the enemy and knew that Jesus was the only answer. In the midst of my confusion and depression, I finally turned to the Lord and asked Him for help. I then heard a voice within me saying, 'My God is Jesus' and it became louder and louder.

"I decided to tell the lady who was praying for my mother that I was a Christian and wanted to rely on the Lord for healing. She became angry and told me that Jesus was kind and gentle, but that I needed better help for my family. She said that this kind of evil spirit would not come out by asking Jesus, and warned that only bad things would happen to my family if I returned to my Christian ways.

"Her angry reaction convinced me even more that I had been on the wrong path. I was not afraid and was able to cut ties with her by clearly telling her that I had decided to only rely on Jesus to rid me of this evil. I came to the realization that these teachings and my actions had grieved the Holy Spirit and was deeply convicted of my sin. I found myself feeling sorry for this lady and started to pray for her.

"I returned to church, confessed my sin and rededicated my life to the Lord. I was like the lost sheep that returned and was so thankful to the Lord for graciously receiving me back with open arms.

"Sometimes things happen which cause me to worry, but then I am quickly reminded that there is nothing to fear because Jesus protects and takes care of me. I recently dreamt that my house was surrounded by an enemy. I feared for my life, but then realized that I would go to heaven if I died. I woke up with a sense of peace and was reassured of His faithfulness.

"About one year ago, I was asked to serve as Principal of a public elementary school. I cannot openly share the Bible with the students, but I can pray. I asked the Lord to make this school like the Kingdom of Heaven itself. He answered my prayer by sending four Christian workers: a guardsman, two English teachers, and a pastor's wife who assists with the English classes! The prayer and fellowship we have had after school has been a wonderful source of encouragement.

"Please pray for me, as I have been placed in a position to influence many for Christ. I often share Christian principles with my students when addressing them during the assembly time and graduation. It is my hope that students and staff will ask questions and that I can then share a little about Jesus with them, as it says in 1 Peter 3:15: ***Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.***

"My desire is to be diligent in my work, as I relate and live out Christian principles in my life. At the end of my time as school Principal, I would like to openly tell people that it

was only through God's help that we were able to have such a wonderful school. I know that I cannot do any of these things in my own strength. **Pray** that God would grant me the wisdom and courage to be a faithful

servant. **Pray** that He will work circumstances out in such a way that I will have many opportunities to be a witness for Him. **Pray** that the children would experience and know God's love." □

NEW OUTREACH - KIDS CLUB

We are in the unique position to reach many Japanese people for the Lord because they have a desire to improve their English. Kids Club is a new outreach we started during Sept. 2016 for children, ages 2 to 5. Staff workers play with the children in English and teach them Bible stories, while most of the parents stay to participate in the program.

There is no Christian education available in our area for this age group. Mothers are often in need of support as they struggle with the task of raising children. We have had numerous requests for such a service from parents whose children attend the same kindergarten as Alex and Eri Verwey's 4-year-old son (William).

Our aim is to create a space where kids and their parents can encounter the love of God, and find Jesus as they develop a deeper relationship with the staff. This new outreach integrates well with other outreach programs, as some mothers place their children in Kids Club while attending one of our English classes. Others have signed up as an entire family to attend our English Camp – giving us various opportunities to cultivate these relationships and share the Gospel.

We are excited about this new outreach and feel that this will be one more way to sow the seed and convey the love of Christ to young families in the community. **Pray** that the children and parents would see Christ in us as we serve them. **Pray** that many would be responsive to the Gospel as the Christmas Season presents special opportunities to share the Good News.

JAPANORAMA - CHILDREN IN JAPAN

Japan is a great place to travel with children because the usual concerns that parents have about safety and hygiene are simply not an issue in ultra-safe and spotless Japan. It is quite common to see a small 6-year-old carrying a large schoolbag, walking alone for many kilometers to and from school. Volunteer guardians are often on duty near dangerous spots, such as railway crossings or large intersections to help usher these children safely to school. Contributing factors include a very low crime rate and the fact that most families in Japan make use of public transport because they do not own a car.