

LITERATURE

Japan Mission continues to make Christian literature available throughout Japan and many parts of Asia. Bibles continue to be made available to China, North Korea, Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos. We recently took delivery of 2,000 Bibles to distribute in Japan during the Christmas season.

Japan Mission continues to publish the *Fountain of Joy* leaflet, which is an attractive, full-color, 4-page tract that always contains a testimony of salvation. About 20,000 copies of this tract is distributed monthly among the churches and to many non-Christians.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would move hearts as they read the testimonies and God's Word. **Pray** that the Lord would continue to give us wisdom and provide the necessary personnel and resources to continue this vital work.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Christmas is a special time of year when Japanese people are especially open to Christianity. Japan Mission workers become very busy, participating in evangelistic meetings, concerts and parties. Workers will be involved in over 100 gatherings, to help churches reach those in their community, who desire to learn more about the meaning of Christmas.

Pray for wisdom and strength, and that the Lord would transform the hearts of many through these evangelistic opportunities.

SPECIAL THANKS

We want to thank each person who faithfully prayed and supported the work of Japan Mission during 2023. You have played an important role in helping us further God's work.

We praise the Lord for the many seeds sown, the transformed hearts and His faithful provision. Thank you for continuing to partner with us as we reach out to the lost!



JAPAN MISSION

CALLED TO SERVE

Nov / Dec 2023

A RENEWED HEART

Lindie Kleinhans was born into a Christian family in Bloemfontein, South Africa, in December 1989. Her father was a deacon in their church and their family was involved in many church activities. Lindie learned at an early age of God's love and how Jesus had paid the price for her sins.

"As I got older, I found myself going through the motions of being a Christian, but not having a genuine relationship with the Lord. I was surrounded by a loving family who cared deeply for me. I wanted to live up to their expectations and not disappoint them.

"However, I also wanted to enjoy my life and be carefree. The Christian life seemed so strict and full of rules. I found myself going along with those around me, while living my life as I wanted to. Eventually, it was as though I had put up a wall in my heart when it came to matters such as reading the Bible and confessing my sins to God. During Bible study I tried to act as though I was paying attention, but my thoughts were far away.

"When I was 18 and in my final year of high school, I was rushed to the doctor after fainting at school. The doctor listened to my heart and suggested that I see a specialist. The heart specialist found that I had a hole in my heart!



Lindie Kleinhans

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"We were then faced with some very difficult decisions. The doctor warned that if I did not have surgery, I would risk having a stroke or heart attack.

"He was surprised that I had never had a stroke or heart attack, and spoke of God's love and protection on my life. My doctor was a Christian and his whole life screamed of the love of Jesus. It angered me to hear how he and my parents spoke of God's love and faithfulness when God had given me a broken heart.

"Open-heart surgery to close the hole in my heart was my best chance at living a normal life, but it was dangerous and I would end up with steel threads in my sternum for the rest of my life.

"Another procedure that was less invasive involved inserting a balloon to close the hole in my heart with a catheter.

"We agreed to opt for this second procedure to protect me from the trauma of open-heart surgery.

"The doctor recommended that I postpone the surgery for a few months until I finished high school. Everywhere I went, I was required to wear a heart monitor to make sure my heart was doing alright.

"I hated God. How could He do this to me? Where is the

love that I always heard about? I refused to pray and when we went to church, I closed my heart to anything that was being taught.

"I soon became weaker and had to have the surgery earlier than planned. On April 8th, 2008, they pushed me into the operating room.

"The surgery was unsuccessful, because the hole in my heart was larger than the doctor first anticipated and the balloon that he tried to insert into the hole in my heart was pushed out by the blood flow.

"After I woke up, the doctor told us that I needed open-heart surgery as soon as possible. It was then that I was overcome by the sudden realization that I could die on the operating table. I knew that I was not going to heaven like the rest of my family if I died. I felt an urgent need to sort out my life before the operation. Fear filled my heart as I faced the stark realization that I was lost and angry at God.

"The words of the doctor filled my thoughts as I pondered God's love and protection. The doctor did say that God protected me for the past 18 years from any strokes or heart attacks.

"I slowly came to the realization that God did love and care for me. He surrounded me with so many blessings that I had taken

for granted, including a loving Christian family.

"I then asked my parents to pray with me. As my father prayed, I asked God to forgive me for my sins and to be the King of my heart.

"I then felt the chains of bondage break and the weight that was upon me grew so much lighter. The fear of the surgery vanished and I was ready to face the impossible. That night God gave me a sense of peace and assurance that He had a special plan for my life.

"On April 10, 2008, I was pushed into the operating theater. I lost a lot of blood during the surgery and only regained consciousness a day and a half later. When I woke up, I had a lot of fluid around my lungs that needed to be removed, so they placed a drain between my ribs. My life was saved and God carried me through the surgery.

"As I slowly recovered, I sensed

that God was with me. I then promised Him that as soon as I recovered, I would plant a flag in honor of what He did for me.

"On December 22, 2008, together with my family, we walked up to the top of a big hill to plant a flag and thank God for all that He had done for me.

"I started to read my Bible with a new perspective and learned what it meant to have a personal relationship with God. I started to get involved in reaching out to my community through the church and visited juvenile detention centers.

"God used me in unique ways because of my surgery. I could relate to the pain and struggles that some were facing, and was able to witness to them of God's faithfulness and encourage them to put their faith in Jesus.

"God had to renew my heart before He could send me to serve the broken-hearted." □

MINISTRY IN JAPAN

Lindie Kleinhans joined Japan Mission from South Africa in Sep. 2018 as an English Evangelism Teacher. She served together with a vital team of missionaries who sacrificed much to reach the unsaved throughout the pandemic. When it was not possible for her to go out to minister in the churches due to COVID, she continued to stay in regular contact with her students via the internet.

After 3 years, in 2023, she was finally able to return to her home country for a short time to visit friends, family and supporters.

Pray that the Lord would bless, protect and strengthen Lindie as she continues to reach many with the Gospel in Japan.