Jesus 4 Greater Asia

UPDATE FROM JAPAN

Osaka Bible Seminary — Jesus for Japan

. . . our email to you . . .

Paul and Rickie Clark

No. 52, September 2014

THE FALL OF THE YEAR AGAIN! The regularity of seasons (Fall, Winter, Spring & Summer) is a wonderful reminder that God is a God of order and not of confusion! *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven"* (Ecclesiastes 3:1). *"He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end"* (3:11). In our ministries in Asia, we can easily see that, even though material possessions can satisfy for a time, people are still searching for meaning in life. God has set eternity in the hearts of men, and that is why we remain in Japan: to tell them they can have an eternal relationship with God, Who has been here all along, if they give their lives fully to Him.

RICKIE'S LADIES' BIBLE CLASS: Rickie's "challenge" (summer homework!) to the ladies in her Bible class during summer break in August was to read through the Proverbs and compare them with similar Japanese proverbs.

Rickie's Bible class

They did a good job of that, but one proverb was surprising to them! *"For though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again, but the wicked are brought down by calamity"* (Proverbs 24:16). This proverb is most often called a Japanese proverb, "Fall down seven times, stand up eight." It is often used in martial arts, and was also used by reporters who marveled at the determination of the Japanese people after the devastating earthquake and tsunami in north-eastern Japan. When Rickie explained to the ladies that this proverb was in the Bible and was attributed to King Solomon many years before it "became a Japanese proverb," they were amazed!

OBS's Bro.Taguchi speaking

OBS staff announcing 2015 convention in Kobe

ALL JAPAN CHRISTIAN CONVENTION: This year's gathering of believers was held in beautiful Hayama, near Yokohama, which has a beautiful view of Mt. Fuji—except in summer! We imagined that we could see the mountain, anyway! The messages were clear and Biblical, the fellowship was great, and the facilities were very nice. On the way there, we visited Manami, a young lady who has attended our International Nights for about 4 years. She has just started a job ministering to handicapped people in group homes near Shizuoka and was very happy to see familiar faces!

Manami in Shizuoka

After the convention we visited Leone Cole, who, with her husband Harold, arrived in Japan as missionaries in 1937. Leone is now 99 years old and in a nursing home, but her mind is still sharp and she and her son David and daughter-in-law Rika were very happy to see us. God used Harold Cole in 1946 to ask my father, Martin B. Clark, to consider coming to Japan to re-establish Osaka Bible Seminary. The rest is history. My parents were here for 40 years, Rickie and I have begun our 30th year here, and our daughter and son-in-law Jennifer and Chad Huddleston have now been here 16 years. Our grandchildren are the 4th generation of our family being in Japan and we would hope and trust some of them will continue the work here after us.

Leone Cole

HEALTH UPDATE: Recent health checks show my hip replacement and Brachytherapy surgeries have been successful! My back surgery is scheduled for November 18th, but I wish it were sooner! We are very grateful for our National Health insurance and the great medical services in Japan!

www.jesus4greaterasia.com

Personal Support:
Osaka Bible Seminary
PO Box 1697
Columbia, MO 65205

Home Address:
2-35 Suikoen-cho
Hirakata-shi, Osaka
573-0095 JAPAN

OBS Support:
Osaka Bible Seminary
PO Box 696
San Jose, CA 95106

ON A SHORT VACATION after the convention and our visit with Leone Cole, we continued our drive on up to Ishinomaki, where Chad and Jennifer minister in the area where the devastating tsunami hit after the earthquake on March 11, 2011. We spent three busy days with them taking part in a summer festival, visiting Nozomi Project, and participating in their Lord's Day service with the believers and non-believers there, before returning by car ferry from Sendai to Nagoya and then on home.

Congregation in their home

"Beauty from Brokedness"

We spent a couple hours at the Nozomi Project, sponsored by their team. This ministry was established to give hope (Nozomi means Hope) to many women who lost loved ones in the tsunami by giving them jobs creating jewelry from shards of ceramics found after the tsunami. They create beautiful necklaces and other jewelry which have been extremely popular in U.S. sales. ***Please visit their website and see the testimonies of the ladies and samples of what they create: <nozomiproject.com>.*** Several of these ladies have made commitments to Christ and have been baptized. An idea for Christmas shopping!

Nozomi ladies hard at work

Opening Day Chapel at KCS
Paul shared a KCS Board greeting from Eph 1:18-20

SCHOOL BEGINS AGAIN: Kansai Christian School, one of our ministries, began again on September 4th. However, as Chairman of the Board, there were board meetings and board business continuing into the summer, and Rickie, as Executive Assistant, seemed to be busy all summer preparing for the new school year. KCS began with 42 full-time students and 2 part-time students (home-schoolers), which is a high number for us. Last year we added about ten new students during the year, so if that happens again this year, our numbers will be higher than ever before. Please pray for the board and the staff, and that the students will grow in their knowledge of the Lord as well as in academics.

OSAKA BIBLE SEMINARY's second term (September to December) begins next week. The Japanese school year begins in April and finishes in March, so we have already had the first term this school year. One of our students, Togami-san, will bring the message at Nakaburi this Lord's Day, and others have served in various ways on their summer break. We continue to be excited about the growth this year and trust the trend will continue.

Togami-san on right with Mrs. Ibuki & Shiori

SEPTEMBER INTERNATIONAL NIGHT: We had both a fun and meaningful time at our monthly "home party" this month. We made homemade ice cream to celebrate my 75th birthday, played fun games, had great conversations, and then sang praises to our Lord and spent a meaningful time around the Word. There were two newcomers and one of them, a non-Christian, attended Nakaburi church the following day! Our purpose in having these parties is to reach people by providing a "non-threatening" environment. We began these parties nearly 15 years ago. It is hard work but well worth it!

Happy 75th Birthday!

The winners!
Who can build the best newspaper tower?

The losers!

SHORT VISITS WITH FAMILY: It's always special to be with family when we are normally hours or days separated from them. We enjoyed parts of two days in August when Jonathan, Yuki and Sean were with her parents on the island of Shikoku. We also had a short time in Ishinomaki with just our Huddleston family. It is special to Skype with our families in North Carolina and Missouri, too!

Sean & Grandpa having fun!

Clarks and Hirais at dinner

The Huddleston gang!