

CLARK FAMILY UPDATE

October 17, 2000

Dear Friend,

As I write this the leaves out here in the East Coast are turning into their beautiful colors. Seems like it will all happen very quickly because of the wet summer and quick temperature drop they have had here in New Jersey. Our place has several different kinds of trees, including one old large pine that seems to be dropping tons of pinecones and old needles! The squirrels bounce through the tree branches, and help the leaf dropping process along a little bit, I think. I hope you are enjoying a good fall season too.

PLANS

I want to share with you in this letter about our future plans. We are planning on returning to Japan in January for a 6 year term (though we will likely travel home to visit family during some of the summers). You see, during the next six years our two boys will be going through High School! (Can you believe it?! Those who have seen Andy towering over his mom already do!) Melissa is a convenient 4 years behind Ben in her grade in school, so that would make a good break time for us.

The ministry in Japan is eager for us to return, and the work I have been doing is a special niche, where my skills and experience seem to be well used. I am serving a staff in Japan made up of Japanese, Koreans, Americans and Singaporeans. In fact, we just received our first 4 full time missionaries from Hong Kong as well! Praise God for this growth!

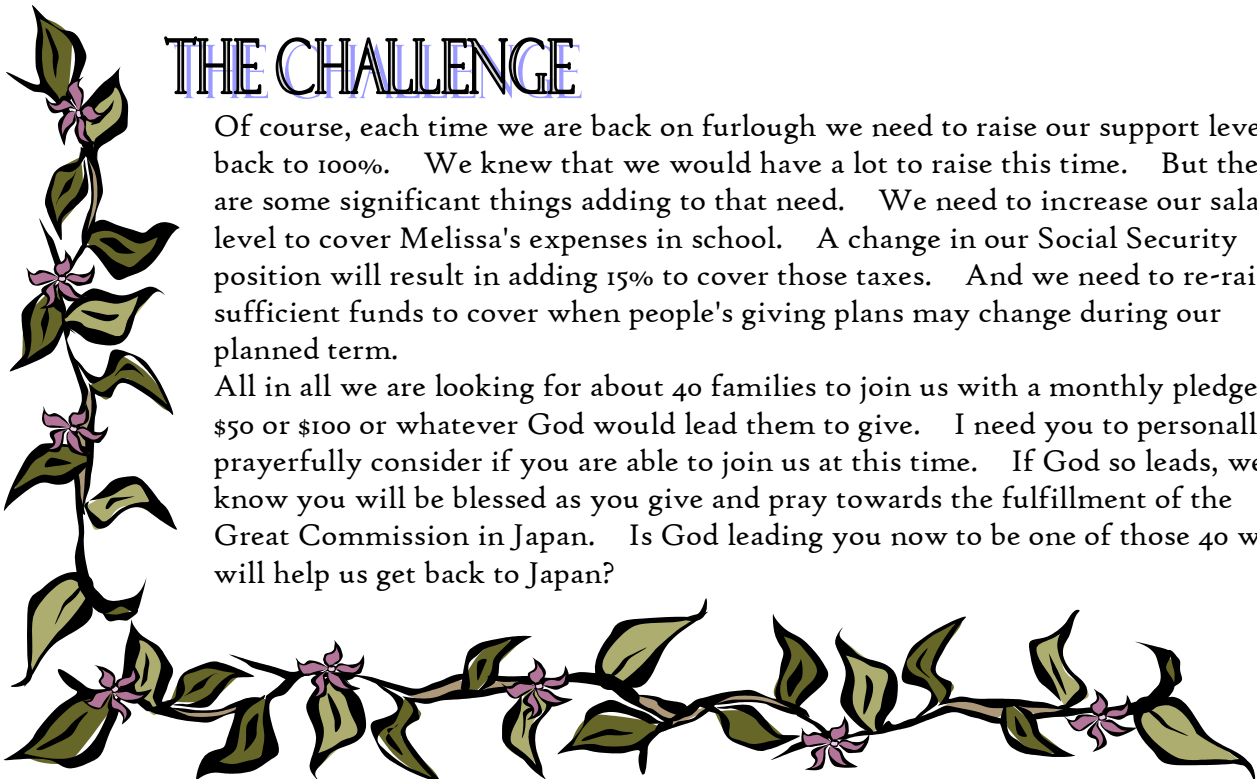
We also have 3 new Japanese staff going through training this fall, and 1 applicant accepted for next year already.

God is graciously helping us grow.

THE CHALLENGE

Of course, each time we are back on furlough we need to raise our support level back to 100%. We knew that we would have a lot to raise this time. But there are some significant things adding to that need. We need to increase our salary level to cover Melissa's expenses in school. A change in our Social Security position will result in adding 15% to cover those taxes. And we need to re-raise sufficient funds to cover when people's giving plans may change during our planned term.

All in all we are looking for about 40 families to join us with a monthly pledge of \$50 or \$100 or whatever God would lead them to give. I need you to personally prayerfully consider if you are able to join us at this time. If God so leads, we know you will be blessed as you give and pray towards the fulfillment of the Great Commission in Japan. Is God leading you now to be one of those 40 who will help us get back to Japan?



Our family is certainly eager to return to Japan, and the staff in Japan are eager for us to return and pick up where we left off (no one is actually replacing me in the national office while I am away)! You may be a vital part in building up the ministry of all the staff in Japan through sending us back to serve in their leadership.

Regardless of whether or not you can give, we want to again express our deep appreciation for your prayers. As Paul wrote in Philippians 1:18b-20, "Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance." He understood that God is at work through your prayers touching our lives through the work of God's Holy Spirit.

OUR REQUEST

Please take a moment to decide, to pray through what the Lord would have you do and let us know on the enclosed reply card how you desire to continue to be involved with us, regarding praying and giving. We appreciate your help very much, and are looking forward to hearing from you! Please add any comments or prayer requests to the card so we may know how to pray for you too.

I want to ask your prayers for a major project in Tokyo coming up, the Chuo Line Project. I would really love to be in Tokyo myself working with my boss, Kazu, on this, but for now I want to recruit your prayers for this effort!

Negotiations with a chain of 24 regional TV stations in Japan are in the delicate final stages for a showing of the Jesus Film on those stations Dec 22 or 23 or 24.

>>>PLEASE PRAY THAT THE CONTRACT WILL BE COMPLETED POSITIVELY AND A DEFINITE DATE SET SOON!

This is a bought time showing, i.e., that funds were raised to pay to put this on these stations, however, they are still a little sensitive that this is "religious" broadcasting. So it is unlikely that they will agree to show the closing of the film that has the gospel presentation. Instead, we are hoping to include a screen at the end of the film indicating that more information may be had from an internet site and possibly a phone/address, but even these are sensitive spots, seen as religious recruiting, which the TV stations may refuse.

>>>Please pray that God will give us favor, and His ways may be found for the follow up!

The chain of stations covers the majority of the population of Japan, i.e., most people in Japan could tune in and see this broadcast. So we need to have the date set very soon so we may notify churches all over Japan about the broadcast so they can also promote it, use it in their evangelistic plans, etc.

>>>Pray that God would give churches excellent ideas for using this showing to help draw people to Christ and involvement in local churches!

The project has been called the Chuo Line Project because some pastors in Tokyo have begun cooperating with us to prepare events along the Chuo Line, one of Tokyo's major train lines. Funds have been raised to buy the always expensive train banner advertisements for parts of December before the showing. These ads will promote the events along the line, the showing of the film, and offer the Jesus video for sale (Japanese are more likely to get a video if they

purchase it, than accept a free video because of their sense of obligation) at a special price.

>>>Pray that all the dates may be set in time and that effective advertising may be designed for use in the Chuo Line of Tokyo, touching millions of Tokyoites with the name of Jesus, and motivating them to attend events, watch the TV and purchase the video!

Additionally, we have been told that another mission group, Life Ministries, is willing to provide funds at the same time to cover the Seibu Ikebukuro Line (which happens to be the line we live near in Japan) and do similar advertising work.

>>>Pray for the cooperation and involvement of more churches along the Seibu Ikebukuro line!

Also:

>>>Please pray for effective advertising in TV guide magazines in the regions of the showings.

>>>Please pray that many millions of Japanese will tune in to watch "Jesus" this Christmas.

>>>Pray that the churches and the web site/ contact address will be able to effectively serve the follow up needs of those interested to know more about Christ.

>>>Pray that God would be glorified and many many Japanese come to trust Christ, and desire to learn more about Christ through these showings and events!

God bless you! Thank you so very much for helping to change Japan for Christ through your prayers!

In His love,
Steve Clark
Japan CCC