



Merry Christmas!

We are so blessed to be able to spend a whole holiday season here in the States and with family! It has already been very special to spend time with Rochelle's parents for their 50th wedding anniversary, Dad's 75th birthday, and Thanksgiving. Now we are starting to enjoy the Christmas season too! We do have a similar Christmas season in Japan, because the commercial Japanese really deck the halls to sell everything up until December 25th, then they roll up the red and green to make way for traditional Shinto New Year's decorations. So December is a very busy month as the church plans many outreaches to show the real meaning of the season to their friends and neighbors.

Our children have been doing well in their school here, Erial Christian School, which subsidized their tuition. PTL! They are also very happy with their friends here where we are staying at Cedar Lane Missionary Homes, since there are 13 missionary families here from different countries.

◆ Update on our Support and Return

Of course, everyone is asking when will we return and how our support is coming. We want to let you know that we have decided to stay through the school year (June) to keep working on our support. We are working on \$3200 per month of additional monthly support. This is a lot more than we have had to raise on other furloughs, but necessary because we have lost significant support, the yen has stayed low relative to the dollar, and we are planning on a longer term, so we need to make sure we are fully covered month by month.

We are thankful that some of the churches in this area are considering adding us to their missions budgets. Please pray for that, and that we will be able to develop more relationships with families who will join us too. We will likely also do some traveling during the spring.

While our family would like to return to Japan soon, it looks like we will be here a while more. Please pray for God to guard our hearts from discouragement, for opportunities to be involved in local ministry, for good quiet times with the Lord, and for good ideas and contacts for support. Pray for the ministry in Japan, as they do not have a replacement for me, but I continue to do some of my work by email and computer files.

◆ Christmas Evangelism

This Christmas we are very excited about a special opportunity for the Jesus film on TV in Japan. As I write, a contract is to be signed shortly that will involve 28 regional TV stations, covering most of the country, to show the Jesus film in Japanese during the couple of days before Christmas. We will advertise the film showing in major magazines, on billboards, and along two major train lines in Tokyo. JCCC is working on follow up plans by phone, mail and internet (a special Japanese Jesus film related website). Several major churches in Tokyo will also host special events related to this. Please be in prayer with us for God to draw millions of Japanese to watch the film, and that their lives may be changed and many motivated to contact us to learn more about Jesus.

HAVE A BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON ENJOYING THE LORD!

With love,

*Steve and Rochelle,
Andy, Ben and Melissa*

