

Nov. 11, 2001

Dear Friend,

It has been a very full last few weeks here in Japan for our family and ministry.

After a long battle with a muscular degenerative disease, Rochelle's father went to be with the Lord on October 18th. Rochelle had gone home to visit her father in September, which was a good last time with him, for we didn't know how long he would last. Then he fell into a coma, and as we knew his time would soon come, we made plans to leave on October 20th. Our two boys did not want to miss their classes and sports activities, so Rochelle, Steve and Melissa went back for the funeral. In God's providence two cousins from England, where Rochelle's dad is from, were visiting at the same time. They were a tremendous blessing to us. We felt they represented the English side of the family at dad's funeral, which was very meaningful to us. Rochelle's sister was there taking time off from her veterinary work to be with her mom. She brought her 7 dogs, so we had 7 dogs and 7 people packed into Mom's house.

It was so very encouraging to know dad had confessed that he had received Christ and trusted in him. We were also encouraged by the many friends and acquaintances that came to the viewing and funeral. I, Steve, got to lead a short service at the gravesite for the first time. I shared from John 11, "I am the resurrection and the life!" for the family gathered there. Now mom is alone in the house, so we are concerned for her and would appreciate your prayers for her too.



It has taken us some time to settle back home again after our trips to the states, but we are making progress and are anticipating many opportunities to share Christ with people during the Christmas season and throughout next year. Steve has been quite involved in preparations for

upcoming Jesus film related outreaches. These projects include showing the Jesus film in some major theaters in Tokyo, and preparing for and recruiting teams to come to Japan for the World Cup outreaches we call "Goal 2002". Steve also attended a conference in southern California at the Jesus film offices for the Jesus film leaders from various countries in East Asia.. We were all challenged to finish the work of sharing the gospel with every person in Japan, as well as with the need to help reach the people in China and North Korea. We believe God is going to open larger doors for the gospel in Japan than ever before, and yet it

seems that there are greater barriers than there have ever been here! We so appreciate your prayers for God to go before us and open doors for opportunities to share the gospel and to partner with more believers to reach the harvest fields of Japan!

Even as I (Steve) write this, I am participating in the annual CPI Conference (Church Planters Institute and CPI Net <http://jcpi.net>) which has gathered over 400 missionaries and pastors, including 100 Japanese, from all over Japan to seek God's grace and work in our lives and to



network with, encourage and learn how to minister together for the sake of Japan and the Gospel! I have had many opportunities to introduce the Jesus Film materials to many missionaries and pastors here and I have enjoyed my personal time with God too.

Other upcoming outreaches include a Gospel Choir Contest on Dec 1 that will draw many gospel choirs around Japan together. Japanese people love Black Gospel music and so it has become an effective evangelistic tool. Our local church is participating again this year in the Sayama City Citizen's Christmas Concert also on Dec 1. We will also have our English Worship Christmas program on Dec 9th, and Christmas gatherings for

Rochelle's 3 English Bible classes. Please pray that God will use the Jesus Film and Jesus Film for Children videos packaged as Christmas presents mightily in the hearts of those who receive them!

The day after Christmas we will have our annual JCCC staff conference, so please pray for the Lord's direction and blessing over the staff team (all 151 of us including all the children and part timers!) as we gather.

As we come to the end of the year, we want to especially ask you to prayerfully consider joining us in the meeting of some of our special needs. Our boys are visiting the orthodontist regularly to get braces for their teeth and these are costing us about 2.5 times the average price in America! Our trips to America this fall and attending the JCCC staff conference up in Karuizawa also are quite big expenses for us. Any help you could give us in addition to your regular pledge would indeed help us to continue to minister here in Japan. We couldn't do without you! Thank you very much for whatever God leads you to give. We are so blessed by your prayers and partnership in the Gospel here in Japan! God bless you! We love and appreciate you so much!

Blessings,
Steve, Rochelle, Andy, Ben and Melissa