

April 30, 2003

Dear Friends,

Greetings again from Tokyo! Here we have gone through plum blossom, cherry blossom into camelia and dogwood season. Even the beginnings of azaleas peeking out as we head into May. Our family has been having a wonderful time getting to know Joshua David Clark through these last 2 and a half months, and he has started to get out and about a little bit, for walks and visits with friends.

Josh seems to be gaining weight better now; starting to look a bit chunky. He smiles and coos so sweetly, and the many gifts from friends have been fun for him and us to enjoy. He loves to sit and bang his hands on the little toys that sit over his "thinking" chair. You can catch up on him at his website, <http://www.geocities.jp/stcinjapan/newbaby.html>, where his dad has posted 6 or more pages of pictures! Crazy daddy!

Springtime gets us thinking about the start of school. As many of you know, we spent 12 years on campuses here in Japan, and the April and May first 2 months of school are very critical times for getting to know new freshmen and assimilating them into the campus ministry activities. Our campus staff are working on over 15 different universities, and the Tokyo campus team has recently regrouped to approach the area in a "Metro" style, meaning that they will work more broadly with students from various Tokyo universities. Do you know any other city in the world that has 105 4-year universities?!

I am very excited to share that in the last 6 months we accepted 6 new Japanese staff members, 2 men and 4 women. Actually they are among the 15 non-staff who attended the All East Asia Staff Conference with most of our staff in February. We are hopeful that others will also join us in the coming year or two. These new staff will be raising their support 100% and then attending our Great Commission Training Center. Key to this training is the trainer trainee relationship they will have over the 9 months of the training, like having a big brother show you how it is done. This will bring our total number of Japanese staff to 33. Please pray for the new staff!

Another exciting development is the purchase of land here in Tokyo for a campus office/student center. This property is located in an excellent area for students to get to easily, just a 4 minute walk from the station. Total expected cost for the purchase of land and a 3 story building to be built there is budgetted at 1.1 million dollars, of which the land purchase is 800,000 dollars. Currently God has blessed us with enough to purchase at this excellent location, so we are moving ahead with that and with raising funds for the building of the student center. Please join us in prayer for this project! The staff and students are very excited to see this long held dream come to reality for the Tokyo area!

I am still all involved in the Christmas in Peace project, seeking to network a variety of ministries for the outreach in arts and music downtown this December. I appreciate your prayers that God will lead people to us, and help us involve many Japanese in outreach with us.

Now at the same time we are starting to prepare for a summer break. Although our term continues until 2007, we are going to make a quick trip home to share Josh with family and friends. I expect we

will be in California from June 10 to July 9, then a week in Dallas, a week of US Staff Conference in Colorado, and then the PA/NJ area July 24 to Aug 24. I will put more details in the next newsletter, but we do hope to see many of you along the way. Please pray for us, as it is a big adventure taking a 4 month old!

Thank you so much for being part of our team through your prayers and giving! We are so very thankful for you!

In the love of Jesus,

Steve, Rochelle, Andy, Ben, Melissa and Josh