

Peace of Christmas Greetings!

Dear Friends,

Rochelle and I want to say a special greeting to you and your family at this festive holiday season! How blessed we are to know the Savior of the World, and to share the joy of what that means with people around us wherever we are. What will you do this Christmas to share the good news and the love of Jesus with those who need Him so desperately?

We are so thankful that you are a partner with us in reaching the Japanese people with the gospel. This summer and fall many of you have given extra gifts to enable us to continue serving the Lord here, and we are very grateful for that. We appreciate so very much all of you who keep lifting us up to the Father, that He might live and work through us as His ambassadors in Japan.

This month I want to give you an update and ask you to join us in prayer for the Peace of Christmas project.

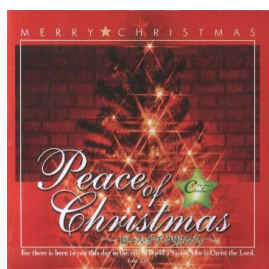
Let me encourage all of you who use the internet to check out the participants English site, and keep checking it throughout December, using the information there to guide your prayers. That address is:
www.japanccc.org/english/cip/ecipinfo.html

The Peace of Christmas project has been one of the most multifaceted plans I have ever been a part of! We are attempting to build momentum for many people to get involved in Christian Christmas events, using a combination of arts, music, distribution and personal evangelism, with a strong internet and follow up effort that we are praying will result in the planting of a new cell church in downtown Tokyo. This is our goal.



Many of you we visited with this summer heard part of the story of how this happened. My friend and Campus Crusade for Christ Associate staff member Makoto Fujimura leads the International Arts Movement, a Christian ministry to artists in New York City and Tokyo. Last fall, Makoto was invited to display his art on the theme of Christmas at the Takashimaya Department Store, the premiere art display space in all of Japan, during December 2003. Makoto chose the theme "Christmas in Peace." Other galleries and artist friends of his were excited about this idea and formed a group called Christmas in Peace. They have planned another gallery showing of Makoto's art and a joint display on the topic at the Sato Art Museum involving 150 artists from all over Japan, along with several Christian artists from New York. This will give them artist-to-artist opportunity for discussing the gospel and Christmas. They went further and planned a charity concert,

involving a popular gospel singer named Kosaka Chu, and Makoto and other artists.



As I and other staff discussed these plans, we felt that God had opened up these opportunities so that many people in Tokyo could hear the gospel. So a second group was formed that came to be called "The Peace of Christmas." I have worked mostly with this group. We are planning to distribute 100,000 new Peace of Christmas CDs, containing Christmas music, the art and message of Makoto Fujimura, the whole Jesus film in Japanese, and the gospel stories of Christmas in Matthew and Luke. We expect 60 or more short-term project workers to come from abroad and work alongside local volunteers to hand out these CDs and share the Gospel with interested people. We are promoting a second concert, a Mother Teresa film showing, and a Peace Prayer event. Through a website, flyers, and the CDs, we will inform many people about these programs and other Christian Christmas events in the Tokyo area. We thank the Lord for the partnership of Japan YWAM and the Southern Baptists in carrying out these outreaches.

An important part of our strategy is to connect those who attend a concert or visit an art exhibit with chances to join groups to learn more about the gospel. My boss Kazu Kurihara and other missionaries are making plans for various kinds of follow-up groups, including English Bible reading, personal counseling, black gospel workshop singing, arts discussions with Makoto, and luncheon meetings. We hope to develop an online community of interested people through the website too. We pray that God will bless these efforts and that many cell groups would start which might lead to the planting of a new church. All those involved are very excited about this!

The public websites for these efforts are:

www.christmasinpeace.net (the New York artists) and

www.peaceofchristmas.net (the Tokyo events site)

Pray with us that many people encounter the peace and the love of our Savior through the Peace of Christmas project!

Pray that people will be able to find out about many Christian Christmas events and choose to go after seeing the information online or in a flyer.

Pray that small groups would form from interested people. Pray for wisdom how to make these groups open and attractive, especially to those who work in downtown Tokyo.

Pray that many artists would be challenged to consider the claims of Christ, and that their life and art would be transformed through the gospel.

Many thanks again for being part of all we are doing, and helping touch Japan for Jesus! We love you,

Steve and Rochelle, Andy, Ben, Melissa and Joshua