

Dear Friend,

Feb. 17, 2005

Our hearts are filled with thankfulness for you and our team of people who pray for and support us. The really generous response at Christmas time to our special gifts appeal will help us make it through until our short summer visit to the US in the middle of this year! Thank you so much! It has really been a full time here recently as you will see in this letter.

For the second year in a row I have produced a Christmas CD for evangelistic distribution. This CD, called Christmas in Hope, includes audio Christmas songs and computer viewable content such as the Jesus video and audio drama and it was distributed to about 200,000 Japanese! This has clearly been the most positively received evangelistic piece we have.



Japanese are much more open to "Christian" things at Christmas, because they recognize there is some connection, and many attend "charity concerts" and Christmas programs including candle services at churches during this time. To make good use of this openness we have produced a CD in an attractive slip cover, so that the disks can be handed out quickly (no bulky plastic cases) on the streets, as well as used as gifts at the church programs.

In 2003, we invited several teams from outside Japan to help distribute in downtown Tokyo. We were amazed by the enthusiastic response of the crowd, with people even turning around to get CDs for their friends who missed them when they first walked by. Put on a Santa hat and these CDs just fly out of the hands!

This past Christmas, we focused on challenging the local churches to get involved in distribution, letting more local groups and missions know about this new CD. Even though we had fewer foreign workers involved, we again distributed about 200,000 CDs, just as last year! To put it in perspective, churches around Japan also obtained our CDs for a "cost only" donation of \$1 a CD, and last year 20,000 were obtained this way, but this year the number grew to 40,000! This means that many more of the CDs were used as gifts to friends and local contacts by the churches around Japan. We pray that their personal follow up has helped lead many more into the kingdom of God! We received hundreds of responses asking for additional CDs or free Jesus videos as well as several good questions showing interest in the gospel through our follow up website at www.cihope.net.

While all this was going on, our family has been pursuing a favorite interest: watching Andy and Ben play the Big Man through their basketball season. Andy in Varsity and Ben in Jr. Varsity have both been playing post and putting up those buckets close to the basket. Crowd favorites as they toss those balls in, they have really developed their skills, and it is really fun for mom and dad to watch - yelling and making all kinds of noise!



Our league here consists of our school, the Christian Academy in Japan (www.caj.or.jp), and the American School in Japan (an international school), St. Mary's (a Catholic school), and 3 US base schools, Yokota (AF), Zama (Army) and Kinnick (Navy). These schools are scattered around Tokyo and even Yokohama or Mt. Fuji which sometimes means a 2 hour or more trip to get to the games! They have 10 leagues games, playing each school twice, and they also play various local Japanese high school teams, 8 games, and a couple of games against school team alumni, when many alumni come home around the Christmas break. Then there is a final tournament, which for this year will send Ben to one of the bases locally for the whole day, and Andy to Okinawa for a multi-day competition at the Far East Tournament, that brings a couple of leagues together. (Last year Andy got to travel to Korea for Far East). Enjoy the pictures! There are more on our website, www.steveclark.us .

We love and appreciate you!

Steve and Rochelle,
Andy, Ben, Melissa and Joshua