



Steve and Rochelle Clark

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CLARK UPDATE FEB 2006

PRAISE TO GOD & THANKS TO YOU!

Dear Friend,

Rochelle and I greet you in this new year 2006, with thanks and joy in the Living Lord Jesus. He is the author and perfecter of our faith, as Hebrews 12:2 teaches us. So each one of us is a work in progress - not completed yet! The Master never gives up but keeps chiselling away to make us His beautiful work of art. May this year be a time of great growth and expectation in Christ for you and your family!

We also want to express our sincere thanks for the very generous response so many have made to provide for our needs for this coming year. We praise God for His provision through your gracious giving and commitments made to date. Our home church was very helpful in so many ways while I was there during the fall. Thank you so much to all of you who so generously support and through your prayers empower our ministry here in Japan!

CHRISTMAS IN JOY

God did great things through the distribution of last year's Christmas in Joy evangelistic CD. Even though it was a challenge for me to produce it because of my many trips to the US, God worked out all the details and 265,000 CDs were distributed all around Japan! Special project workers from the US, Singapore, Korea and Hong Kong helped us distribute these CDs often dressed as Santa to draw attention. One large target area for distribution was an area in downtown Tokyo, where our JCCC director, Kazu Kurihara, is trying to help plant a "cell church" for businessmen in partnership with another mission. Over 60,000 CDs were distributed in this area especially during the lunch break hour. Another major focus for distribution was the city of Hiratsuka because our community staff are helping pastors there to reach their whole city for Christ. The Hiratsuka team distributed



Various Elves distributing Christmas CDs



about 50,000 CDs which would reach about 1/2 of all the households of that town.

These CDs are very attractive to the Japanese because of their image of Christmas and because of the great original music included, yet these CDs also contain the Jesus film/audio and the 4 Spiritual Laws gospel presentation. Some of our distributors also have opportunities to share the gospel personally, by asking the recipients about their understanding of the true meaning of Christmas. For

Check out our homepage
for updated pictures and resources
www.steveclark.us

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Moriyama with students distributing

example, Takeshi and Yukako Moriyama, new campus staff members, were distributing the CDs when they noticed 2 young women sitting at tables outside of a store. When they asked them if they understood the true meaning of Christmas, one of the women opened up and gave them time to share the message printed on an insert inside the CD. After hearing the message, she decided to receive Christ right there! Praise God!

Most of these CDs are handed out with a flyer inviting people to an evangelistic church or campus program. Thus, anyone who attends an event will be followed up by that church or campus staff. We were excited to have Bobby Lewis from New York City, whose music is featured on the CD, as a special guest at our Tokyo campus evangelistic Christmas parties, and several students trusted Christ as their Savior there.

There is more news and pictures about this at our website www.steveclark.us, so check it out!

NARNIA PROJECT

My next big project as part of my coverage coordinator job is to promote the Narnia movie and help churches use it for outreach to the Japanese around them. Have you seen the Disney movie *Narnia*? It is a very faithful rendition of the C. S. Lewis' children's book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. This story includes an allegorical picture of the death and resurrection of Jesus, portrayed in the character of Aslan the lion. The fantastic visual magic of *Lord of the Rings* and *Star Wars* is also evident in this film.

The Japanese distributors have made a savvy decision to release the movie 3 months after the stateside release. It will open here on March 4, 2006. They hope that the news that this is a major studio hit worldwide will encourage Japanese to go see a movie based on a book that is hardly known here. They are in the midst of their big promotion now. They have asked Christian leaders to help promote the film and they held a preview showing for us recently. Many of us in attendance are looking at how to motivate the churches to use the film for evangelism. The concern for us is that ordinary Japanese will go see the movie, like the story, go away satisfied and never guess that this is a story about Christ! But with a little training and encouragement, Christians could use the movie by taking their friends to see the film and

then discussing its meaning, thus sharing the gospel. Last year, churches were able to use the film *The Passion of the Christ* to reach out to those who might not go to church, and we hope this Narnia movie will provide the same opportunity.

I and another staff member, Weng Kong Loh, are preparing websites and materials to help promote the use of the film for evangelism among churches. We are also preparing sites on the internet where we can share the gospel, answer questions, and let people express their thoughts about the film as we did for the *Passion* movie too. Pray for us as we try to apply lessons learned in the last effort here. Also, pray that the people who see the movie will be touched by Jesus' amazing sacrifice and love for them as portrayed by Aslan the Lion. May God use this film to do an amazing work in the hearts of many millions of Japanese.

You can follow along at www.narniajapan.com and www.japanccc.org to see more of what we are doing.

Rochelle and I thank you so much for your prayers for us, our children, and for the Japanese people. You mean so much to us and you enable us to serve the Lord here. God bless you!

*With Jesus' joy,
Steve, Rochelle, Andy, Ben,
Melissa and Josh*