

CLARK UPDATE JUNE 2006

DA VINCI CODE & WORLD CUP INTERNET EVANGELISM



Dear Friend,

The Da Vinci Code is a major topic of interest here in Japan as it is elsewhere in the world, and many have bought the book or seen the movie.

In Japan 40 to 60% are reported in surveys to believe that a lot of the book is likely true. A major TV special highlighting the ideas of the book as fact also contributed to this major confusion. We have produced a booklet and related websites to communicate the realities of history and reliability of Scripture. Our two sites, www.davincijp.com and www.davincistoryjp.com

are up. We are receiving some responses, including at least 2 Japanese who have prayed to receive Christ through the gospel message on the website. Please pray with me that God will touch lives through the internet evangelism.

I (Steve) am also working with my fellow staff, Weng Kong Loh, on outreach efforts for the World Cup soccer games in June. We are preparing evangelistic CDs and websites to help expose Japanese students and adults to Christ while the fans are going crazy. Our CD includes *The Prize*, a 26 minute video that contains the testimonies of several famous soccer players. We are also starting to implement an online followup response system with volunteers responding to internet user's emails.

I have also set up 4 Laws Central, as I call it. All the versions of the Japanese 4 Spiritual Laws in one place:

www.yotsunohousoku.com

Please take a look and bookmark it for sharing with Japanese friends!



FAMILY NEWS

The first day of May here the thermometer jumped almost 18 degrees in a day - we were all sweating! May was very changeable all month long. Back to rain and cool today. Summer is trying to break in but it has been cool.

I (Steve) had a great time at CCC's Asia National Leadership Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, May 9-14. There was excellent Bible teaching on the Life of Jesus showing his purpose of making disciples who can make disciples. I had lots of conversations with co-workers from around Asia about how to better care for our staff and develop our ministries.

Once I got back I was deeply involved in finalizing the Da Vinci Code booklet that we made for our campus staff and other short-termers to use to spark evangelistic conversations.

ANDY COMES BACK

Our family is glad to all be back home together. We are enjoying having Andy home for the summer. He will be working on a maintenance job at our school here, Christian Academy of Japan. They have several student workers doing maintenance projects for 4 to 5 weeks during the summer break.

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

Steve and Rochelle Clark

We are sending prayer request updates by email more frequently than by prayer letter. Please send us a note to let us know that we may add you to our email list: stcinjapan@aol.com



Andy is enjoying visiting his friends. He went to the soccer tournament that his team won last year and cheered on this year's team with many of his former classmates. We also got to see one of the games.

ROCHELLE AND JOSH

Rochelle decided to join the school's PTA executive committee for next year. Please pray for strength and wisdom and good relationships to develop through that.



Josh and Rochelle in his pre-school classroom

Rochelle is adjusting to having Josh in Japanese preschool now. There is a lot to manage! He needed a uniform, indoor shoes, outdoor shoes, lunch box, many bags, gym clothes, hankies, tissues, cloth bibs, etc.! Of course, all the correspondence is in Japanese. But the teachers, other mothers and classmates have been very welcoming and friendly. Josh is enjoying his pre-school, we think, and he is learning some Japanese. One of his friends' mothers has asked Rochelle to start an English class for kids Josh's age. Pray for her decision about that. Only so much time!



Melissa and church friends at our house

IN OUR NEW HOME

We are loving our new home! Thank you so much for praying for us and for the extra gifts that helped us move. After getting ourselves mostly organized, we had an open house for folks from our church. It was fun and we hope to do it again. We will try to maintain the relationships with our old church but seek to reach local people here too.

CAMPUS MOVEMENT

We were so delighted to hear an update from Fumi Mori, one friend from our church who joined CCC staff and has almost completed her new staff training. She shared how spiritual multiplication is happening in Japan! She told us about 2 college girls who joined the CCC summer camp 2 years ago. They were so excited by the training they received at camp that they returned to their campus and started praying and sharing the gospel with others. Now there is a group of 20 students meeting there, most of whom

they have personally led to the Lord. They are asking God to help them start movements on other nearby campuses! Fumi is working at Hitotsubashi Univ. where God is giving her chances to share the Gospel with interested students.

NEW INTEREST IN JESUS

There was a **Gallup Poll** done by Gallup Japan in 2001 which has been recently released. This was one of the broadest surveys ever done, and one of the most significant ones ever according to George Gallup himself! This survey shows that 6 % of adult Japanese (age 20 to 79) claim to follow Christianity! A parallel survey section of teens (age 13-19) showed that 7% of them claim to follow Christianity! Similar surveys through the last few years by other organizations have shown 6 to 10 % of Japanese positively open to Christianity, so there definitely seems to be a new openness to Jesus. Praise God - then pray for the church in Japan, which is struggling to connect with these interested people - still less than 1 % of Japanese are in church on Sunday morning.

Thanks so much for your prayers and kindness and faithful gifts for us! We love you!

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