

Dear Friends and Family,

Greetings from flowery Japan in the springtime! We are enjoying the nice weather and beautiful blossoms. It's hard to believe that another school year for our boys is about to finish. Then we will be flying all over America to see many of you during June and July. We are looking forward to a good visit and hope to get caught up on your lives as well as share what God has been doing in our lives too.

#### HOME ENGLISH BIBLE STUDY

I (Rochelle) have been wanting to write to you for a long time about the ladies in my two English Bible study groups. After our last trip home in the summer of 1997, God opened the way for these two groups to begin. One I started with 2 ladies I met from Melissa's "yochien" (pre-school). Mrs. Terashima and Mrs. Yamashita came to my home to study the Bible. We used the textbook, "Who Is God?" which is a study of Genesis 1 -3, finishing with introducing God the Savior, Jesus, from John 1. It is an excellent study and very good for Japanese who believe in as many as 10,000 gods in the Shinto religion. Gradually our group grew and now we have 8 ladies coming regularly. Recently, one of the ladies, Mrs. Noya, prayed and asked Christ to be her Savior!! She started bringing her 4-year-old daughter to Sunday School at our church in February, and sometimes they would stay for church. After one of the church services when the members had divided into small groups for prayer, the newcomers met with Steve and our Pastor. So Mrs. Noya met with them and then Steve went through the 4 Spiritual Laws booklet with her and she believed in Christ! We were so thrilled! Since then I have met twice with her to do follow up Bible Study, and she has continued to attend Sunday School and Church, and has even brought her husband and smaller son with her too. Please pray that Mr. Noya would also believe in Christ and that God would lead them both to be baptized and become faithful followers of Christ.

In this group at my home, we are now using a text called, "People Who Met Jesus." Please pray for Mrs. Yamakawa (who also sometimes attends the English Worship service we lead once a month at our church), Mrs. Ishikawa, Mrs. Nakatani, and Mrs. Shimada, as well as those mentioned above. Mrs. Ogino is a strong Christian lady who lives in my neighborhood and also attends the study. She is a big help to me when the Japanese gets too difficult for me and the English is too difficult for them!

#### CHURCH ENGLISH BIBLE STUDY

I am also teaching a class that meets at my church twice a month. This class was started with the help of Mrs. Arita who is one of our church's members. Her daughter, who is the same age as Melissa, was attending a "yochien" near our church. Mrs. Arita asked me to teach an English class to some of the yochien mothers. I agreed, if I could teach half English conversation and half English Bible. Presently, 10 ladies are attending the class and only Mrs. Arita and my Pastor's wife are Christians. Please pray especially for Mrs. Ishiguro (who also attends our English Worship service with her husband), Mrs. Mizuki, Mrs. Sekiba, Mrs. Tanaka, and Mrs. Sasaki. We are going to meet on May 11 and May 25, and then we will resume classes in September. Please pray that God's Word would really touch the hearts of these ladies and that they would see their own sinfulness and need for a Savior.

#### FRIENDS FROM "YOCHIEN"

Melissa graduated from her “yochien” on March 17. Since then I have started home schooling her and then she will start 1st grade at CAJ in September. While she was in “yochien” I had opportunities to meet with many ladies in the neighborhood. But now I don’t see them as often. Melissa has 2 friends whom she still plays with occasionally and I really want to tell the mothers about Jesus, but they have not seemed very open. Please pray for Mrs. Goto and Mrs. Yoshikawa that God would soften their hearts and give me a good chance to share the Gospel with them. Also pray that I would be sensitive to the Spirit’s leading to know which other moms to try to continue a relationship with and to find those who are seeking the Lord.

Thank you SO MUCH for interceding with us on behalf of these lost souls who need the Lord so much. Unless God builds the house, they labor in vain who build it. We really need God to work and to be glorified in us and through us. We pray that you also would be encouraged in our Lord and that His love would shine through you to reach out to those around you. God bless you richly!

In His love,

Rochelle & Steve Clark  
Andy, Ben and Melissa