



THE MANSELLS

YOUR VOICE IN JAPAN SINCE 1983



Dear Praying Friends,

August 2006

Greetings from Teshio, Hokkaido, Japan. We are thankful that after two months of almost daily hot/humid weather which is very unusual for this area, we have returned to a nice warmth with less humidity. We hope this finds you well and keeping cool if you are in one of the hot spots of the United States.

As we continue to introduce you to our believers and seekers **we want to also thank you for your prayers on their behalf.** They are constantly amazed that Christians in the United States who have never met them would also remember to pray for them. You are an encouragement to them. Why is the fact that you pray for them such a surprise? Japanese are taught to bow their head with eyes closed, stand before their god shelf in the home or go to a shrine. Going to the shrine or temple only takes place on special holidays usually. When they go for a specific holiday they pray for whatever relates to that holiday...i.e. On New Year's Eve for good luck for the new year. Pay a fee, receive a fortune on a paper; if you don't like it, hang it on a tree in the temple yard where the 'gods' can recycle it for someone else. Do you get the idea—they rarely pray for others although they use the term "I will pray for you" in their conversation. So keep praying and we will keep passing on the fact that you DO pray and thank you for taking the time to try and learn the names of the people we are in contact with as we introduce them.

One of the prayer requests in last month's letter was for **Mr. Ishii.** We praise God that shortly after that letter was sent out he did pray and ask God to save him from his sins. Then we had about two weeks of study with him. He seemed enthusiastic and eager to learn. Out of the blue, this past week, we received a very short terse email: "I cannot continue the Christian life. I will quit lessons." We talked to Mr. Ishii, a geologist, in our car for about 45 minutes. He talked about how science and "religion" are opposite and that he would lose his job if he continued as a Christian; that his wife said that he wasn't a Christian until he was baptized; that he only prayed because of Stephen and Tim being there; that he could not be a Bible Christian because he did not have Christians all around and in his family like we did; etc. Take your pick. He is swallowing Satan's lies and pulling back. He did say that he would bring his wife to Sunday morning services when she is feeling up to it but did not want to be counted as a Christian before the believers. If he comes, he at least will be under the preaching of the Word and God can use that. He talked about not coming to the English class because I "preach" there too. We will see if he shows up tomorrow. God is in control and we will patiently wait for Him to work and be ready to be used. Thank you for your continued prayers

We also asked for prayer for **Tim Turner concerning his knee surgery.** He returned to Teshio on Friday. We are praying that the doctors (one coming from a city 3 ½ hours away to work with the one in Wakkanai—an hour from us) will be able to find a date and time free for both of them so that this needed surgery can be accomplished in short order. The sooner it is done, the longer time Tim will have in rehabilitation before returning to the States the middle of November. He is also eager to continue his Japanese language study in greater depth while he is here. The Lord may be working on this young man's life to call him to Japan for full time Christian work. We know that God can continue to use this time to that end.

You received a prayer letter from **Joshua and Alicia Appel concerning God's plans for their lives.** Although the Lord closed the door to the Chillicothe work, they are again in communication with another church seeking an associate pastor/youth pastor in Pennsylvania. So we ask your continued prayers for them.

We have not mentioned Vicki's father very often in our letters but would like to also bring him before you this month to ask for prayer for both him and Vicki's mother. **Vicki's father, Pastor Arthur Coats,** has leukemia (CMML). It was completely diagnosed about two and a half years ago. Until recently, blood transfusion and low grade chemotherapy medication helped him have a fairly good grade of 'health' and daily living. That time period has seemed to come to an end and he has very little strength, cannot do much of anything, as well as several other side effects which are worsening. We ask you to pray for both Art and **Virginia Coats** as they go through possibly his last days on this earth—that Virginia would be strengthened as she stands by Art through the sometimes agonizing effects on his body and that the Lord in His mercy would take Brother Coats to his reward and new body in heaven soon!

Continue to pray for the church considering being our home church. They trust to be able to make a decision by the quarterly business meeting in October. Thank you.

Serving Christ Together,

Ken and Vicki Mansell

Just A Prayer At Night – your evening is our daytime

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