



THE MANSELLS

YOUR VOICE IN JAPAN SINCE 1983



Dear Praying Friends,

June 2006

Greetings in the name of the Lord, from Teshio Japan!

With 'summer' almost half over before it ever starts over here we hope it does warm up some--not only for ourselves but the farmers who are trying to grow hay here. With all the rain we have had, which is unusual, everything green is growing but also need some sunshine to be able to cut that hay. We also pray that the continued storm of unbelief in this country will be broken by the rays of Sonshine and that we will be the faithful bearers of the Word!



*Lt-Rt Back: Mr. Katou, Mr. Sanada, Mr. Yasue
Lt-Rt Front: Mrs. Ishikawa, Mrs. Togashi,
Miss Aono, Tim Turner, & Mrs. Nishihata*

We ask your prayers especially this week for an annual BBQ we hold with our English class adults. This will be held (rain or shine) on the 30th of this month. We pray with one of our interns as he prayed last night... 'that every day conversation will be able to be turned into spiritual topics!' We especially want this one last opportunity with one of the men who just joined the English class since we returned from our visit to the States. Mr. Yasue did not know his job would transfer him quite so soon. We have had 5 adults in that class for several years now and just this spring added two more men! What a blessing that has been, especially to witness their eagerness to study not only general English but also take part in the Bible study afterwards. So we were

disappointed to hear that he would be leaving so soon. Ken has been slowing going through a special Bible study that we normally use on a 6 week study basis. It has given a well planned program for even slower study and each adult in that class has been paying very close attention to the study. There has also been great evidence at least visually that they are thinking very hard about the facts being laid before them towards their need for salvation. The point of self-examination is quickly approaching with this group so we covet your prayers that the eyes of their souls in understanding would be opened and the weights of their current beliefs, customs, culture and family would not continue to blind them or hold them back. Ken would like opportunity to talk to the one man one-on-one before he leaves as well to see if he can come to a point of salvation before he leaves. Then we would also like to find out where he is going and if there is a church where there could be continued contact. We know there are many faithful prayer warriors for our battle here and we ask that you remember the "Horonobe adult English class members", please.

Our two interns have also been here one month now (as of July 1st) and we asked them to each share a word about their first thoughts on their stay and internship. Tim Turner is 29 and currently will be a senior at Maranatha Baptist Bible College. Stephen Dearth is 17 and a member of a supporting church in Groton, Massachusetts.

Tim Turner: My experience here in Japan thus far has been exciting to say the least. I have had the opportunity to visit the schools and participate in the Mansells' English classes. I also have had some time to visit with other missionaries as well as the Japanese people. Some thoughts on my initial experience: before a person ventures into something that they have never done they typically have some level of expectation and that expectation can

somehow judge the experience. I remember seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time and looking over the edge of the lookout point just before descending down the Bright Angel Trail, I was somewhat disappointed.



Not in the grandeur of God's creation but in the anticipation of what to expect. My anticipation was greater than my expectation which in turn judged my experience. Visiting Japan has been a new experience for me: it is the first time that I have traveled outside the country. There was no way that I could fully prepare myself for the expectations of visiting another land to see how Christianity works in another society; to see how Christians live in another land; to see their spiritual battles. The experience has been far greater than any expectations. Being in Japan has initially taught me that I have put stock into my American society in that I mean putting a level of spiritual expectation on being where I am. That there is a spiritual expectation in society. But that I can't rest in these expectations or put stock in being an American or having that Christian society. One cannot ground Spiritual experiences on temporal expectations.

But my expectations are to come from above. Paul put it very well in Second Corinthians chapter 4 verse 17,18: For our light afflictions, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory....for the things which are not seen are eternal.



Stephen Dearth: It's hard to believe that Tim and I have already been in Japan for almost a month. Time has gone by so fast. It has been very exciting to experience the Mansell's ministry firsthand and to get to help out in the different ministries that they are involved in. While I have been here, I have really enjoyed helping out in the English classes that the Mansells teach, and being in the church services. One of the things that I enjoy about the church services is the singing. I am familiar with most of the songs that we sing, but to sing them in an entirely different language is quite interesting. I have really enjoyed studying the Japanese language here, and then having opportunities to use the things that I learn.

One thing that I have found awkward was praying in Japanese. It is a very unusual feeling to pray in a foreign language, but I am starting to get used to it.

Usually a person only gets to see and read about a missionary's work in the occasional prayer letter that missionary sends out, but to actually get a chance to come to the field and see their work firsthand has been very amazing. Coming to Japan and seeing the Mansell's ministry firsthand has made everything that I have read about in their prayer letters really come alive. It has given me a whole new perspective on what missionaries do. It has been very encouraging to me to see the burden that the Mansells have for the people of Teshio and how they work so hard to try to reach them. It is my hope that I will be a help and an encouragement to the Mansells during the remainder of my stay here.

Thank you for praying for us as well as our interns that the short time together will at least contribute to their heart for missions and, Lord willing, be used of God for future work as He carries. We also appreciate your prayers for us to be an encouragement to them; to have wisdom at what to teach and how much; and that they will be used by God in someone's life here for His glory! We hope to be able to continue to introduce you to our contacts, one at a time with each letter for awhile. We thought you might like to get to know them better as best as you can w/o meeting them. You are a part of the ministry of the Lord's work here in Teshio. We want you to feel a part of it and we hope this will help. And also remember, You are always welcome here for a visit! Our door is always open!

Serving Christ Together,

Ken and Vicki Mansell

Just A Prayer At Night – your evening is our daytime