



## THE MANSELLS

### YOUR VOICE IN JAPAN SINCE 1983



Dear Praying Friends,

August 2007

**For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. Heb 6:10**



*Teaching a Bible story at class activity*

We are thankful to God for this promise that He will not forget your work and labor in ministering to us over these many years as we have preached Christ Jesus to the Japanese. God is much better at rewarding your faithfulness than we are in thanking you, but we want to thank you for your obedience to the Lord in continuing to pray for, support our ministry and stand fast in your local church ministries.

As we speak of our ministries here maybe a reminder for your prayer support would be helpful as to what we are involved in at this time. We have our usual services on Sunday morning and evening. Although we keep trying, we have not been able to get young people out for Sunday School. Pray for response from our children's English classes. On Monday

through Wednesday Ken spends mornings in 3 different area schools. On Monday afternoon and evening he is 25 minutes north in another small town holding English classes and one Bible study. On Tuesday afternoon and evening he is about 20 minutes south in Enbetsu where Mrs. Tokumaru lives holding English classes. On Wednesday afternoon he holds classes here in our home with 1-6<sup>th</sup> graders. Vicki has a ladies' class on Tuesday afternoon. There are currently two in that class. Thursdays and Fridays we keep open for physical projects. This has been when Ken does carpentry work for other missionaries who need work done on their buildings. He had been working with the Smiths in Nayoro for a couple years but they are in the States on furlough at this time so that work is pretty much done and on hold at the moment. He has had plenty to do in maintenance work here on our building during the summer months. We involve ourselves in as much in the community as possible.



*After an English class here*

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, our summer intern, Heather Swinson, returned to the USA to get ready for her senior year at Maranatha Baptist Bible College in Wisconsin. We appreciated the opportunity to be involved in her life for the summer and the opportunity to have her involved here in the work, too. Any intern becomes a part of our 'family'. We will continue to pray for her and that the Lord will allow her to come back in His timing to minister unto the Japanese people again. Here are her thoughts of the summer: "Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son, endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won." These are the words to a song I was privileged to sing in the last Sunday service I attended at Teshio Baptist church Mission. Although in Japanese (and beyond my understanding) I was able to sing it to God's glory, remembering the victory He gives us in Christ. I am grateful for the lessons I

learned this summer and the hospitality of the Mansells. I was blessed to be involved in many ministries, such as helping the Mansells around the house; supporting energetic English classes, and singing solos for services. I got a blessing from all the extra fun things we could do, too, such as visiting the beach and a nearby reindeer farm. Thank God for the victory that is already won and the faithfulness of the Mansells to preach a risen Savior in a dark land of dead tradition. Praise the Lord for faithful prayer support like yourselves! :) In Christ, Heather Swinson (II Cor. 4:18).

The previous mayor, Mr. Honda, said he would be busy through August with finishing responsibilities of that city office. With September upon us we pray that he will fulfill his promise that he would start a Bible study with us. Pray for Ken as he makes contact with him sometime in the next couple weeks.



*Mrs. Tokumaru & Akane her daughter w/Heather*

Mrs. Tokumaru has started two part time jobs with one keeping her away from Sunday morning services. She said she would like to come to the evening service and also on Saturday when she doesn't have to work have a Bible study with us. We have only been able to do that once this last month. We are striving for more. We praise God for her enthusiasm and now want to see it followed up with action.

All of our ladies are involved with unsaved families that fight their involvement in various ways including husbands who say no to baptism or fear of retribution, at least emotionally, by their families if they would become more involved. One of our ladies reads her Bible while soaking in the bath every night because she knows she won't be bothered there or have to face a mother-in-law who is the 'law' of the house to a great degree as well as a strong Buddhist. Another's husband thought for years their family would suffer persecution as the early 'Christians' did some 700 years ago here. While that idea has eased some, his wife still can't be open with her family. Recently though, Mrs. Kawabata, was encouraged at a week's counseling seminar (she is the high school nurse who ends up doing a lot of 'counseling' with the students) she thought a woman 'looked like she might be a Christian'. Mrs. Kawabata approached her and found out she was indeed a Christian. They were able to encourage each other throughout the week. We therefore are still praying for the commitment of baptism for these believers.



*Mrs. Sonoda & Mrs. Nagata*



We also asked you to pray for our believers as they went through the heavy satanic period of Obon during the middle of this month. We praise God that He answered those prayers and all our ladies were protected and many times did not have to even be near family practices. Also during the main summer festival in July the same types of prayers were answered. Included here is a picture of ONE of the 'god' floats that is carried around town during the Shinto shrine festival. Much pressure is put upon our believers by their families to participate in idolatrous activities and we are so thankful for their faithful testimony in rejecting these invitations.

Finally we would like to ask you to pray for our daughter and son-in-love, Joshua and Alicia Appel as they will be at an Independent Baptist Church in Georgia from the 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. (this month) They have been in correspondence with a pastor there for several weeks; he and his wife visited Joshua and Alicia 2 weeks ago in Ottawa, KS and asked them to come out to Georgia for this final step in determining God's will for them in consideration of becoming the assistant pastor. So far the door has stayed wide open. Pray for real wisdom and final assurance that this is INDEED God's plan for the Appels. Their job at Amazing Grace Baptist Camp ended this last week and they are ready to follow the Lord in whatever way He leads desiring to be in this type of position. Thank you for upholding our family members in prayer from time to time as special prayer needs arise.

***Thank you for your prayers for us and for those in our ministry. We need your intercessory prayer every day.***

Serving Christ Together,

*Ken and Vicki Mansell*

***Just A Prayer At Night – your evening is our daytime***