# Jesus for the Japanese

Making Jesus known in Japan and inviting Japanese people to love and serve Him as Lord

**Happy New Year!** Our heartfelt thanks to those who wrote and sent gifts for Christmas. May God bless you all, and be with you in a special way for 2014. If we have not got back to you personally yet to thank you for your cards and gifts, please know that we are very grateful for all your love and support.

There were some good opportunities to share about our Saviour this season:

# **Cooking Outreach**

A little before Christmas we invited all our English students for a special cooking event held in our home. Shireen's mum (who is staying with us for a few weeks) demonstrated some Chinese dishes, and there was time for some singing and a Gospel message. Please pray for God to be at work in our students and for more of these events to take place in the future.



## **Cookies and Tracts**



**Christmas Tracts at Obihiro Station** 

Our children certainly give us access to various communities in our area, such as Childcare, the local doctors and Timmy's support medical services. We were able to give out many bags of home-made Christmas cookies with a gentle Christmas tract attached. We were also able to do a little Christmas tract distribution in front of Obihiro Station. Please pray for the work of God's spirit in peoples hearts.

### **YMCA Children's English Classes**

Shortly before Christmas we were surprised by an invitation to help take the last week of after-school children's English conversation classes at the local YMCA Kindergarten. The teacher responsible is Christian, and she was keen if in the context of talking about Christmas, we could also talk about the real meaning of Christmas and share the Gospel.



**Christmas games at English Classes** 

We shared the classes with Bea (our OMF colleague in Otofuke) and as well as hearing about Jesus in the classes, each child also took home a special 'manga' (illustrated magazine) Christmas story.

Actually an unexpected benefit of taking these classes is that we have been offered use of the YMCA premises for our regular evening English classes. This will help our home situation (trying to get the kids in bed before students arrive) and may also bring in new students.

Please pray the new arrangements will go well and that we'd be faithful in sharing during the Bible Time at the end of each lesson.

#### **Other News**

Greg was 'Santa' again at the local children's play centre. We hope activities like this will

help build inroads into the community, especially for when we eventually are able to start our own children's English outreach classes.

You will recall how concerned we were just prior to coming to Japan, as to whether suitable medical and rehabilitation services could be found for Timmy. Just looking back at the excellent people and facilities to which we have been guided, we can only give thanks to God for His faithfulness. Please pray on for Timmy's development: approaching age 2, he can now *almost* walk!



Obihiro Rehabilitation Centre
One of the excellent facilities here for Timmy

Eleanor Grace was **dedicated** during a simple service at the Obihiro Central church.



**Dedication of Eleanor Grace** 

## For your Prayers -

In addition to the prayer points mentioned above, we'd be grateful for your prayers for the following:

#### New Year's Cello Concert

OMF missionary **Celia Olson** is coming with her husband **Keith** and Accompanist Shino San to give **evangelistic cello concerts** in Otofuke (Saturday Jan 18th) and at the Central Church (Sunday Jan 19th). We've prepared 3000 colour fliers to give away, pray for organisation and energy for letter-boxing these, and for a good response to these and the advertisements we have placed in free newspapers. Pray blessings on Celia and the team and for people to be won for Christ!





Jamie with Shireen's Mother, Margaret

## James, Timothy and Eleanor

Thank you always for praying for our children. We'd appreciate healing for a seemingly endless series of small illnesses and that our children would be in robust health. Also that God would encourage them and that they would not be too disappointed when Shireen's mum returns to Australia in mid-January.

## **Winter English Classes**

Winter evangelistic English classes start from January the 16th. Please pray for good attendances, both for the 'mothers with small children's' class in our home and the evening class at the YMCA. Pray that we might get some more mothers & children, and for Christians to attend the classes too, to help with sharing the Gospel.

Thanks you for your wonderful prayers through 2013 and thank you for journeying with us now through the New Year! In His Love.

Love, Greg, Shireen, James, Timothy & Eleanor!