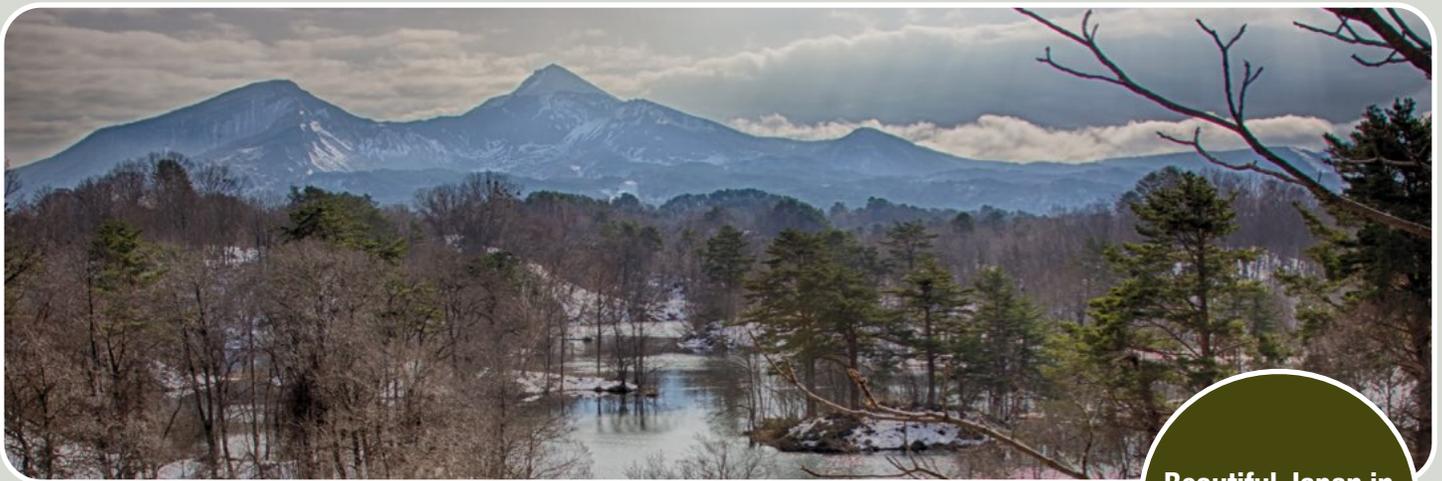


ADAIR UPDATE



Beautiful Japan in the winter

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM JAPAN!

The most natural time of the year for us to talk about Jesus

It seems like every year we write about the increasing interest in Christmas as a consumer holiday in Japan. Most people here associate the season with Santa or romance, and there is very little knowledge of it's significance regarding Jesus. This year, as in other years, we get to take baby steps in sharing with friends about Jesus coming into the world and about why his birthday is the most celebrated in history.

We get to share this with...

...Kids involved in a weekly park ministry in a tsunami-inundated area. Robert gave a kid-friendly talk, and we played games and sang songs with about 30 children and several parents.

...Kids connected to my friend's NPO. Robert gave a quiz about Christmas, I led a song, and the 3 of us got to spend the evening with around 30 kids and parents in the area we are intending to focus on next term.

...4 families connected to my (Roberta's) English class. They came over for a potluck

dinner at our home and brought their husbands! (that's a big deal in Japan.)

...About 50 kids in the community who were invited to a birthday party for Jesus. This yearly Christmas event includes decorating and eating cake for Jesus' birthday (and Robert dressed up in a crazy monkey costume again).

...Over 500 people from our community at a big concert involving the kids from our church's English classes (Robert led one of the choirs), the gospel choir in which I participate, and a dance team from the city's high school.

...Church family. Three young families in our church came over for a potluck on Saturday, we participated in a church Christmas party on Sunday, and some close friends came over Christmas Eve.

...Our mission family in this region who will come over for a celebration on the 30th.

Even though it has been busy, we have enjoyed celebrating Emmanuel (God with us) with our friends in Japan.



What is the most popular food for Japanese people on Christmas?

- A) Ramen noodles
- B) Sushi
- C) Teriyaki Pork
- D) Fried Chicken
- E) Fried pork cutlet

Answer on page 2



CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Sharing the season with our friends and community

I (Roberta) have shared in previous newsletters about volunteering on nearby islands that were effected by the 3.11 disaster and my friendship with a community leader. We see each other volunteering, at occasional play dates with several other first-time moms, and sometimes over meals.

An invitation and a prayer

Last Friday evening, this friend invited us as a family over to her parents' home for her birthday. I've mentioned before that the home is usually very private in Japan (we probably host 20 times more than we are hosted), so being included in this small family gathering was a real treat.

Before we began the meal, I was asked by her mom, a Shinto-Buddhist woman in her 60s, to pray. Surprised, I sputtered out a prayer of blessing on the meal and family. I was surprised again when my friend said she wanted to come to church on Sunday. Of course she has an open invitation, but I didn't specifically invite her. It was neat for me to know that she came because she was curious and wanted to come - not because she felt obligated.

She and her parents then came to our outreach on Wednesday. The location of the concert was a short walk from her apartment in the city we are praying about for our next term. They have gotten to meet several church people through volunteering together, and it was fun seeing interactions look so warm and natural. I was grateful that they could watch Robert leading his squirrely choir of 3- to 6-year olds, me sing in the gospel choir, and our pastor share

a clear and personal message of Christ's love and reason for coming to earth.

Other attendees

My neighborhood flower shop lady, her daughter, and granddaughters also came. For the past 3 years, I have often visited her shop for a cup of tea (and occasional help with my Japanese homework). Several other friends from my English class and group play dates also came. I don't know much they understood and received, but please pray with us that their hearts would turn to Christ.

The families of the 40 kids from the English program (including some dads!) also came. The gospel choir members (8 of 40 are believers) also brought friends and family. A dance team from a local high school also participated in the concert (one of which is a believer), which was possibly the first time they have ever been around a group of believers. We are grateful to be involved in these activities and see people that we've been getting to know over the last term get more connected with the church.

Hope for the upcoming year

We have about 8 months left in this term. During this time, we look forward to welcoming our second son (due March 2nd). We don't know what all is in store over the next several months, but we ask for your continued prayers for our family, our church family, and for the many people in our lives who don't yet know Christ.

We are grateful for your prayers and partnership. Love from Japan,
- R, R, & J (and another on the way)



Partner

To partner financially:
www.sim.org/giveusa then click "support a missionary" (#038207)
Or by mail: SIM USA
P.O. Box 7900
Charlotte, NC 28241-7900
Memo: R&R Adair Support #038207

Specific Prayer Points

- Seeds from various events and dinners in December to germinate and grow in the hearts of our friends, students, and community members
- Spiritual and physical health for us and our partners after a busy season
- A continued healthy pregnancy
- Relationships and God's leading in Shiogama (our potential next placement)
- Priorities: that we'd focus on loving Christ and others well

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