

From the Editor

Many have prayed for Japan. This month Rita, who has been working here with WEC for over twenty years, shares some of the recent answers to those prayers in Ishiyama Church, where she serves as pastor.

Henrietta

News and Prayer Points

Praise God for Christmas event, as well as hundreds of Christmas and Bible story 'manga' that were given out. Pray God's word would not return to him empty!

Praise God that no snow fell before Christmas in Kinamoto, so over 20 people were able to attend the harp concert. Since then Elaine Kitamura has broken her wrist, so please pray she'd not need to shovel snow until after it heals.

Ben and Jessica Hallam leave Japan for Australia on January 10th, for a one year sabbatical from full time ministry. Thank God with us for their service here in many areas, and pray for their family to know God's direction back home and for after this year too.

Tristan and Madi Cutts will stay in Australia for most of this year. Pray for Tristan's jaw to heal from a recent break and God to help them through this trial.

Praise God that the Lims have been able to share about their ministry while visiting their sending churches in Korea. Pray for their safe return.



Spring Has Come

After a long cold winter who doesn't long for spring to come, and the first green leaves to appear? In some way Ishiyama church seems to have awakened after a long winter.

During a 2007 WEC Asia conference, God stirred people to commit to 40 days of prayer for Japan. One prayer point was for those who had fallen away from the church to return.

A little more than a year ago one former member, Mrs. E. found her way back to Ishiyama church. Jesus had impressed it on her heart to return. Having known heartache through an alcoholic father, Mrs. E. also prayed God would use her to bring healing to people. In the summer a desperate young man knocked on the church door to seek help. Whereas I was treading carefully to find out what the problem was, Mrs. E. went right ahead in asking where he lived and then with 2 cars, a motorbike and a bicycle we visited. That man was quite touched, because he hadn't talked to anyone in quite a while. From that day lunch has been delivered to his place. At meetings individuals have become eager to share their faith, and weekly prayer meetings have become a safe place to open up. People also pray for their families.

Last autumn, somebody broke into Mrs E's house at night, while her family were sleeping upstairs. Her purse was stolen, but her husband's business bag overlooked. (He is a government finance

worker.) When she shared that at church, there was the impression that God wanted to say something to her husband. Was he not in the danger of being spiritually robbed? When another friend had the same reaction, Mrs. E. with a trembling heart spoke to her husband from Revelation, where Jesus reprimands a church for becoming lukewarm. To her surprise her husband had decided that if that Bible verse would be given to him, he would go back to church. And from that day on Mr. E is attending church service.

Now Christmas lies behind us. This year the members with adult children tried to invite them to our Christmas celebration and some did come. They were so relaxed that they stayed even longer than the official programme. New Year service was down to a very small number, just 8 of us., seeking God's blessing for the new year. But one lady was accompanied by her husband – and that was the first time for him.

Spring is in the air! Experiencing signs of first love for Jesus again, is reason to hope and rejoice.

By Rita Feldt
(for full article see www.wec-japan.org)