



Ethel Wilson

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*"Being enriched in every thing to all bountifunness,
which causeth through us thanksgiving to God" II Corinthians 9:11*

There are so many things to be thankful for from 2013, and many things to look forward to in 2014. I am so thankful to the Lord for His strength and grace through the trial of cancer, for His continued financial provision (including a rise in the yen rate from about 85 yen to the dollar a year ago to almost 105 presently), and most of all that I am still able to continue to serve Him here in Japan.

Fall-Winter Blessings

Thanksgiving—Praise the Lord for the wonderful time of fellowship we had together at our Thanksgiving Banquet. Following the devotional time, 9 souls were saved or received assurance of their salvation. Two of those saved were Japanese ladies who have been witnessed to several times over the years.

Christmas—When our Christmas Cantata was presented on December 22, a teenage girl trusted Christ as Savior. One of my English students and his mother (both of whom used to attend church regularly) were able to attend. Please pray that they will begin to come once again.

Then on Christmas day, we had our Christmas Banquet. Two souls were saved that day. Among the many Japanese in attendance were 12 of my English students, five of the moms, a friend of one of those moms along with her two children, and two friends of one of my Junior High students. During



YBC Choir and Drama Team with Pastor and Mrs. Navato

the devotional time, one of our bi-lingual teens and I had the wonderful opportunity to speak with the children in a location separate from the adult group, reviewing the Christmas story and re-emphasizing the need for each one of us to understand our own sinfulness and to accept the gift of salvation as our own. Some of these precious souls (both Japanese and non-Japanese) were hearing the gospel for the first time, while some were hearing it once again. Please pray that God will continue to work in hearts of the hearers that they may understand their need for salvation.

Another recent blessing was being able to fill in part time as the teacher for our pre-primary Sunday school class. On December 15, as I taught the Christmas story, I especially focused on Jesus coming **as our Savior**. Praise the Lord, in Children's Church the following hour, 3 of the children prayed to trust Christ as Savior, and 2 more re-confirmed their salvation.

Health Update

I have once again been given an all-clear from my cancer follow-ups. My next follow-up appointment will be in early March. Again, I am so thankful for the Lord's healing, for His timing of the discovery of the cancer, and for the numerous ways in which it was advantageous to undergo treatment and follow-up here in Japan rather than in the U.S. I am still praying for there to be eternal benefits from the opportunities I had to share my faith (no matter how briefly) while I was in the hospital.

Challenges

The year 2013 was not without its challenges. Our Japanese ministry has entered a re-building stage, due to job transfers, family situations, and, very sadly, to some people deciding to leave our church. My assistant teacher (Etsuko Dallas) and I have not been able to have a Japanese children's Sunday school class for several months because no children have come. We have, however, been able to alternate filling in for the regular pre-primary

teacher who had a baby in November. We have also been the primary pianists and the only interpreters for the past several months. Our Sundays are quite interesting as we juggle these responsibilities.

Please pray with us for the re-building of our Japanese ministry during 2014. Please pray that each of us serving with this ministry will be faithful to do exactly what God would have us do, that hearts will be softened and opened, that recent new believers will grow in their faith, and that many new Japanese friends will join us this year.

Prayer Requests

1. For continued good health
2. For salvation of souls, growth of Christians, and changes in lives
3. For new individuals and families to replace those who have been transferred to new military assignments
4. For safety traveling to the U.S. in February to spend some time with my brother as he hits a milestone birthday (also visiting my home church and a taking a few days for personal rejuvenation)
5. For our Faith Promise Missions Revival, March 5-9
6. For our BIMl Field Conference, March 10-14
7. For continued adequate support and favorable yen rate

Arigato!!

Again, let me say **thank you** (or, in Japanese, *arigato*) for your faithful prayer support, your expressions of concern (cards, emails, etc.), and your regular financial support as well as special gifts and love offerings. Thank you for your care for the ministry here, and for the souls of the Japanese, the U.S. military, and the other foreigners here in Yokosuka, Japan. I look forward to continuing to represent you here in Japan in this new year of 2014.

By His Grace,

