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JAPAN

December 2011/January 2012

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Taking a day trip on a ferry ride back in October with the CEC staff and some other missionaries

is often so new and foreign to them that it can be difficult to grasp. Please pray with us that we can effectively share the story of Jesus with our friends, contacts, and students during this special time of year! We have many friends who are genuinely seeking the truth, so we are praying that their hearts would be open to hear the Christmas message!

On a different note, I have been in Japan for over one year now! It's difficult to say whether the time has passed quickly or slowly, because even though time seems to go by so fast, I also feel as if I've been in Japan for a long time! God has blessed me in many, many ways since coming here. Thanks to the way He has been working in my life since long before I anticipated coming to Japan, I already spoke some Japanese when coming, and I have been able to continue to improve my Japanese since then. Being able to speak the language, even if it's to a limited degree, has been a huge asset for me! I've also been blessed with many, many friends here, both Japanese and foreign. The friendships I have built have provided me with much encouragement, as well as giving me opportunities to encourage and speak into the lives of others. I pray that I will continue to not just enjoy my time with my friends, but to use my time and relationships wisely, as God would have me do. We have, as always, been busy at the Center these past months! We have taught classes, gone on trips, learned about the city we live in, hosted a Fall Baking Day, celebrated Thanksgiving with our missionary family, and have had the privilege of visiting many of the churches in our conference. We have recently been attending a different church every week in order to encourage the pastors and their congregations, and to see the way each church worships. It has been a lot of fun, and I have been able to meet many wonderful people. I am thankful to be a partner of the Japan Baptist Conference, which was born out of NAB missions, and I look forward to seeing what God will do through these churches in the coming weeks and months, especially now, during the Christmas season! Thank you, as always, for your prayers and support! Know that you are making a difference here in Japan!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! The Christmas season is in full swing in Japan, as I'm sure it is in North America, as well. However, many Japanese people only know Christmas as a holiday for going out on a date, or about Santa and his reindeer, or a time to eat fried chicken and Christmas cake with family (they are shocked that Americans don't do this!). Some Japanese people even think that Christmas is Santa's birthday! Those of us at the Christian Education Center are praying that we will be able to share Jesus with the people we come in contact with. Many Japanese people have never heard the true Christmas story, and even if they have, it

*"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord."
Luke 2:10-11*

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A day trip with the CEC staff, the Stollers, and some friends

Praise & Prayer

With love in Christ, Amber Carpenter

Requests

Praise: for the upcoming Christmas season and opportunities to share the Gospel

Praise: for new attendees to events at our Center, and for new connections with the local Mie University

Praise: for a wonderful Thanksgiving with the missionary family and for good times with friends

Praise: that I was able to take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test and do my best! Results will come out in February. Whether I pass or not, I plan to continue to intentionally study Japanese!

Prayer: for our Christmas events, that they would be guided by God and clearly convey the message of Jesus

Prayer: for our non-Christian friends who are actively seeking truth... especially during the Christmas season