

HCC Office <office@honoluluchristian.org>

From: raine <raine@fpu.ac.jp>
To: christian.jpn.gp@
Date: 21 Nov '05 22:28
Subject: Thanks giving

Dear friends,

Hope all things are well with you. I can't believe that it is already the 4th week of November. The months really fly by and the weather here is definitely screaming, "it's going to get really cold!" But whenever I think about the many friends scattered across Japan and in many parts of the world, I am warmed all over by the love and fellowship I enjoy. That is something I thank God for whenever I remember you individually or as a group.

Despite the colder temperatures and a feeling of being unprepared for the coming winter, there are so many things to share with you. First, this coming Sunday (the 27th), one of our returnees, Satsuki will be getting baptised. She returned earlier this year and has been coming to our church off and on for English fellowship. The christian ministry, JCL (Japan Christian Link), true to it's name linked our church with Satsuki upon her return. We are so blessed to see how she slowly began to understand the reality of God's love for her. Pray for Satsuki to be a blessing and a witness to her friends, family and workplace colleagues. Another important event is our monthly pizza party. This week we will have a former leader of a juvenile delinquent gang come and speak about how Christ changed his life around. There will be many people coming to hear about how Christ can take anyone and give them love, forgiveness, purpose and strength to live their lives out in Him. Please pray for the students who come, families who have brought their children to our parties in the past and new folks. We want to have another "problem" of not having enough space and joyfully serve delicious pizza, mingle with the people and look for opportunities to turn the conversations to the gospel. A third event is our annual Thanksgiving party on Sunday. Pray for good fellowship and open hearts as our speaker turns our hearts to Christ in thanksgiving, and for the preparation of the food. This is my "hatsu" (first) time to make pumpkin pie for the eating audience. My trial pie came out okay but making pie is not my cup of tea so I do so only by faith (and people will have to eat it in faith).

A few more thankful events--(recent past and upcoming):

KGK meetings at Fukui University, Fukui Kosen and Fukui Prefectural University. Pray for the leader/area rep, Oshima-san as he balances his schedule between the three prefectures under his care (Toyama, Ishikawa and Fukui), his family and meetings in other venues/conferences. The students also need your prayers. Many are willing but often they are not too committed. This is understandable for the not-yet-believers, but it is often the christian students who do not call or come to the meetings. We are planning a Christmas get together on the 13th of December which is a weeknight and this year, it will be closer to Fukui Kosen to encourage the small but growing band of young men who meet at that school. Pray that many people will come despite their school schedule and the distance. In the past the Kosen students have come out to the Christmas parties despite the distance so it is time the ones living closer to Fukui city to make the same sacrifice.

In the beginning of the month I went away for a women's retreat sponsored by the Navigators. It was far from the maddening schedule I have here and it really WAS a retreat. I thank God for the continuing work of the Navigators who have branched out in many ways. It is always encouraging to get together with women with the same heart for discipleship and outreach.

Early next year (January 6-8th) there will be a planning a seminar for missionaries and Japanese focused on mobilizing lay Christians for evangelism and church planting up in Gotemba. I have yet to make a commitment to this but am very interested in starting the year off with people with a heart to mobilize church planting and to see some of my friends who have attended past tentmakers' retreats. For those of you here in Japan interested in attending, you can contact Charlie Williams (charliejpn@yahoo.com) or ask me to forward the retreat information (I am still not really good at putting attachments onto emails).

Lastly, please pray for opportunities and the wisdom to know when to boldly share the gospel with people around me. Some students who come to my mind are: Ayumi A., Tomomi M., Koyuki M., Jue, Y., and Akari O., A few of my colleagues: Madoka K., Sayo K., and Kin-ka K. And lastly, to be an encouragement to many of my christian friends here in Japan--Sally, Bob, Howard, Scott/Taeko, the Sugimoto's (in Shizuoka), some of the young women in our church (or other Japanese Christians in the Hokuriku area)--Jing Li, Yoshie, Sachiyo, Satsuki, Miki, Ritsuko, Hiroko (2 of them), Mutsumi, Yum, Tomoco and Mayumi. And finally, some of my foreign friends who are not yet believers--Maya, Rachel and Karen (currently visiting from France). These may be faceless lists, but to me they represent a wide scope of people who I consider dear to me. . .and this is just the SHORT list. If I listed everyone on my heart (you will undoubtedly be included), you will probably get bored. . .but praise God He does not.

Mentally enjoying the list of people and praising God for surrounding me with a great "cloud of witnesses" in His name,

raime