

Prayer for Christmas

Christmas is approaching, so without further ado we want to allow you to pray for our Christmas events!

- The **Kitamuras** have been invited to present the meaning of Christmas to the elderly and children in their neighbourhood association, who have no understanding of Christianity. Elaine ask, 'Please pray that we will know what to present, and how to present it.'
- Two of our **gospel choirs** will perform a Christmas festival on the 5th at Kyoto's town hall; pray for the fullness of God's blessing there.
- **KGK students** have Christmas events in Kyoto (5th), Kobe & Osaka (14th). Pray that they will have the courage to invite their friends and for God to work mightily.
- Junior-high school students in **Yokaichi** have a Christmas event on 13th, and the church's young adults have one on 25th in headquarters.
- Pray for Chungkyu Lee's message at **Uzamasa church** 20th Dec; and that the Lees may be able to bring people to that meeting as well.
- **Rakusai** Kids Christmas service is on the 13th, and the church service and party is on the 20th. On 23rd the church are singing carols at the local care center & Candlelight service .
- It has become a tradition for **Rita Feldt** to invite her neighbours to her house for Christmas parties. Please pray that she'd find just the right tract to give as gifts, and that it will be appreciated and read.
- **Kaori Church** will be putting 3000 church leaflets in letter boxes inviting people to their children's meeting on 13th and candlelight service on 24th.
- Pray for Sewon Choi as she preaches at **Kusatsu Church's** Candle Service on 24th.

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Hanging onto God's promises

At a Sunday morning service, we can have 3 adults one week and 10 the next. As I went to 'Asiacon' my feelings regarding our church were mixed. Some weeks we are greatly encouraged, then the next everything seems to be collapsing around us. We have rejoiced that we have had 8 new workers in WEC Japan in the last 14 months, yet we have also seen a church plant close and have lost 3 workers. Japan can seem a hard place to remain in.

That is why our bi-annual gathering of WEC workers from each Asian field was so special. This year's purpose was *'Believing God for Change, Renewal and Harvest'*. Some days the program started at 7:00am(!) in your assigned prayer triplet, sharing, reflecting and praying together. For the rest of the day we worshipped together, and looked at issues like vision strategy, prophetic ministry, contextualised church, emerging worship and church planting principles. The evenings centred on prayer for our represented countries and the wider world.

The greatest joy was meeting fellow workers. We represented 22 ethnic groups, with different

experiences. It was so amazingly fascinating to just listen to stories of what God is doing. I appreciated again how we are so blessed to be part of a really international group.

The hard part was the inevitable question, "How long have you been working in Japan with WEC?" Most others seemed to have been in their countries for 5-7 years. My answer of "16 years" was each time met with, "Wow, 16 years!" and looks of respect. Yet for me, each time was a stab of pain, hearing the painful voice echoing in my mind, "What can you show for all those years?"

I learned again that it doesn't matter if I have anything to show, I need to remember that the promises God gave me 16 years ago are still His promises. Even after 45 years in the desert, Caleb was passionate about God's promises. His passion was based on thankfulness to God, the promises God had given and the belief that God could overcome all obstacles. In Japan, our basic need remains to hear the voice of God, and to see God's divine power to change the situations around us.

by Edi Wilson