



## From the Editor

Happy Christmas!

May you have a special time remembering Jesus' birth. Why not write back to us with your prayer news too, so we can have fellowship across the miles?

Next year is WECs 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and next month we have a special project to tell you about!

*Henrietta*

## News and Prayer Points

Izumi Christian House (Yamashina) have a Christmas candle service on Dec 24<sup>th</sup>, and are doing Santa ministry on 22<sup>nd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup>. Pray for God's blessings!

Ritto church are planning a special Christmas lunch on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Megumi church in Hikone's candle service is on the 24<sup>th</sup>; pray that new people would respond to the invitations in their letterboxes and God would bring the people of his choice to both events!

Dean and Lillian Kim have just started early morning worship and a cafe in Moriyama Church. Pray for this outreach opportunity.

In 2013 we aim to send out over 100 Japanese on short term overseas mission teams, to celebrate WEC's centenary. Pray for missionaries and local church people to join teams, and that the gospel would come alive to people through this project.



**Sharing Good News in the Community: Santa Ministry!**

Santa Ministry in Japan is celebrating Christmas with non-Christian friends in the streets. We started it two years ago, while we were praying for new church planting opportunities after moving to a new area. We thought about dressing up as Santa, and giving gifts and tracts to our neighbor's children. We did it on Christmas Eve, without warning them beforehand. It worked very well. People were so happy. It built relationships between them and us and gave them the opportunity to think about the real meaning of Christmas.

The following year we decided to expand it. Our sending church wanted to take part so sent some Korean snacks, and a former short term team also sent some gifts. We visited around 25 friends' houses and also handed out over 30 gift sets to refugee children from the north of Japan. (Actually a writer we know donated her books for them!) We also went around our city as a family wearing our Santa costumes. Many people took photos, and our kids enjoyed it so much even though they were nervous to do it at first.

Afterwards, we heard one family had watched the Children's Jesus DVD together, and talked about Jesus. Another lady really appreciated it and joined our Bible study.

This way of celebrating Christmas with non-Christians is an evangelistic activity that Japanese can happily accept, and it enables us to build relationships and get involved in our community. It is a contextualized way to share the gospel in one sense, since Japanese local festivals always happen on the street in a visible way, inviting people to take part, bestowing blessing to houses and children. I dream sometimes that we might have a Christmas festival in our area in the future. I think the Santa ministry might be a seed.

If you can pray for it this year, it would be wonderful. You may pray that church members would carry on this vision, sharing the gospel and blessings to their neighbours. You may pray God's blessing on every house we visit, and for opportunities for us to pray with the parents for their children.

Chungkyu and Unmee Lee, ICH.