

Updates from Ray and Shelley Kwan - please add us to your safe senders list. Thank you!

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Updates from Ray and Shelley Kwan



**"Missionaries
are very human
folks, just doing
what they are
asked. Simply a
bunch of
nobodies trying
to exalt
Somebody."**

- Jim Elliot, *missionary
to the Huaorani people
in Ecuador*



Osaka, Japan

Highlights

Konnichiwa!

Dear Family and Friends,

Hello from sunny California! The Lord is gracious and

we have been **HOME FOR CHRISTMAS (Dec. 11-29 for Ray and until Jan. 6 for Shelley)**! We enjoyed seeing many of you but realize we may not be able to catch up with everyone in person. Here's what we have been up to in Japan though:

JAPAN BIBLE ACADEMY

This quarter, Ray officially became a part of Japan Bible Academy (JBA), a growing ministry led by Pastor Daisuke Okada, which offers Bible training classes at local churches. In November, he and two Hatta Nishi church members went to Tokyo for JBA's first annual Proclaim conference. It was exciting to meet people from all over Japan, including some old friends. Ray looks forward to assisting the Academy more in the future.

STUDY BUDDIES

Although Shelley is no longer attending language school, Ray has been reviewing some of the material he is learning with her in the evenings. We hope that this will help Ray remember what he learned and allow Shelley to continue learning at home. Please continue to pray that our Japanese ability will grow so that we can be more useful tools for God's kingdom.

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

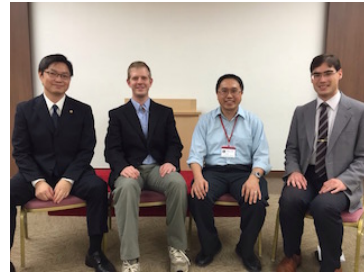
A couple weeks ago, Ryo, Ray's Chinese classmate who has been a faithful participant at Hatta Nishi church (and currently in the baptism class), moved to our town! She will start attending a local 4-year college in March. We pray for a deeper relationship with her.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

It's been almost a year and a half since we've been to L.A. and Sacramento, and we are having a good time seeing family and friends and introducing Masanobu! Please pray that Christ would be honored in our



At Kansai International Airport.



The staff of Japan Bible Academy.



At the Proclaim Conference in Tokyo.



Ray's classmate recently

interactions with people, that we would encourage and support Shelley's family in caregiving for her mom who has dementia, and for safe travels and good health.

May we remember the Lord's goodness to us all as we celebrate Christ's birth, death, and resurrection throughout the new year!

By His grace,

Ray, Shelley, and Masanobu Kwan

WOULD YOU CONSIDER FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP?

Thank you for making it possible for us to serve the Lord in Japan! Would you please prayerfully consider partnering with us financially on a regular basis?

For those interested in giving online or using a credit card, here's an easy way for you to do that on the IBC website:

<http://www.ibcbible.org/missions/kwan-missions/>

Thank you for your consideration!

Book Review: *Ten Who Changed the World*

By Daniel A. Akin

Review by Ray

When trying to understand the Bible, it is always helpful to study it on an academic level (e.g. study its context, grammar, etc.). Likewise, we get a better understanding of God's Word when it is applied in the lives of His people. This book does a little bit of both.

About the Author

moved to our town to begin college in March.



With Ray's family in Sacramento.



With Shelley's family in Southern California.

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PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. Japanese Learning:

That we would continue to develop our language skills through school and personal interactions.

2. Church: That the members of Hattai Nishi Christ Church and other churches in Japan would persevere in faith, be rooted in love, and grow in their

Dr. Daniel L. Akin is the president of Southeastern Baptist Seminary and has written a book on some of the most well known missionaries in evangelical history. I actually had the privilege of hearing Dr. Akin speak during a retreat when I was a part of the college ministry of Grace Community Church. I knew he had written a commentary on the Epistles of John for the New American Commentary but I had no idea at the time how significant he was. I have now come to appreciate his contributions to Christianity through his teaching.

The Ten Missionaries

In each chapter of this book, Dr. Akin takes a missionary (or missionary couple so yes, the title is a bit of a misnomer), appends a biblical passage to the missionary, explains the passage, and then writes about how the missionary is an illustration of that particular passage. To save you the research, I will name the ten groups of missionaries, when they lived, where they served, and what passage they exemplify.

The bulk of the missionaries included in the book were missionaries to China. These include Bill Wallace (1908-1951, Phil 1:21), Lottie Moon (1840-1912, Rom 12:1), Eric Liddell (1902-1945, Heb 12:1-3), John and Betty Stam (1907-1934, 1906-1934, Ps 67), and James Fraser (1886-1938, Rev 5:8-10). The remaining missionaries are William Carey (1761-1834, India, Matt 28:16-20), Adoniram and Ann Judson (1788-1850, 1789-1826, Burma, Rom 8:28-39), Jim Elliot (1927-1956, Ecuador, Ps 96), George Leile (1750-1820, Jamaica, Gal 6:11-18), and David Brainerd (1718-1747, Delaware Indians of New Jersey, 2 Tim 1:8-12).

Concluding Thoughts

If you want to know any more about these dear saints

knowledge of Christ

3. Family: That we would honor the Lord in our marriage, parenthood, and family relationships.



Friends from IBC visited us in Japan in October.



With Denise, our matchmaker, friend, and dental hygienist.



One of many dinners with friends in Los Angeles.

you're going to have to read the book (though some of you might just look them up on Wikipedia). Also, you might have noticed that some of them lived very brief lives. I personally found some of those stories the most compelling. The bottom line is that I highly recommend this book to everyone. It's a very quick and easy read and you get both Bible and biography when you read it. I don't know if this book will lead you to go to the nations or further confirm your conviction to stay where you are but I do know that reading this book will lead you to deepen your love for God and the lost.

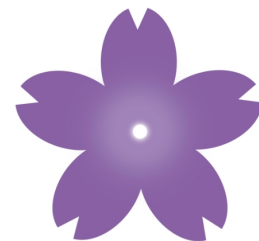


Open House with friends in San Jose.

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- Make checks payable to **IBC**. Write "IBC Missions - Japan - Kwans" in the memo line and send to:

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