

One of our favorite times of year is the Christmas season! This month we are back in Missouri and our Christmas celebration will be a bit more normal, probably much like yours. We are anticipating worshipping with our home church. We are looking forward to gathering around the Bible at home to read of Christ's birth. The celebration we all look forward to is a pretty common one that will play itself out across our nation.

In Japan most people celebrate Christmas, but for most people it is a hollow commercial celebration. There won't be nativity scenes in homes. The Bible will not be opened on Christmas morning. Most people will not step into a church. Instead, most people will eat a Christmas cake, small gifts will be given to close friends and then there will be traditional Christmas food. KFC. Yes, you read that right. Kentucky Fried Chicken. Why is Jesus missing from Christmas in Japan? It is simply because most Japanese people haven't heard the gospel a single time in their life. How can they believe on whom they have not heard?

But God has a plan for Japanese people to hear the good news and believe. His plan for reaching Japanese people with the gospel is strikingly similar to what we celebrate during the Christmas season. During the Christmas season we celebrate the fact that God the Father sent God the Son into the world. Twice in the gospel of John, Jesus says Christmas is an example of missions:

*As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. 17:20
Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 20:21*

This Christmas season you will celebrate the fact that the Father sent the Son into the world for us and our salvation, but remember that it is an example for you. Like the Father sending the Son, Jesus has sent you on a mission to reach the world through your church. Don't just celebrate Christmas this season, but follow the example of Christ being sent to accomplish God's mission. You can take part in God's mission by increasing your commitment to your church's mission program.



Merry Christmas from the McCown Family



A traditional Japanese Christmas

Please pray with us for the following:

That God would provide ministry partners

That God would give grace to our Japanese Bible Study friends as they are returning to Japan for winter break

Churches we have presented at since our last newsletter:

Meadowview Baptist Church, Republic, MO

Villa Oaks Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN

Southside Baptist Church, Joplin, MO

We praise God for Maness Memorial Baptist Church in Cabool, MO deciding to partner with us to reach Japan with the gospel of Jesus!

Thank you for your prayers and donations since our last newsletter!

DONATE ONLINE
www.reachjapan.org

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