

Nippon NEWSFLASH



Merry Christmas Friends and Family!

Thank you once again for your prayers and financial support! God has blessed me with the opportunity to be home with my family and to visit some friends from New York in the past few weeks. Also, my siblings and I had a lot of fun organizing and hosting a 25th anniversary party for our parents on December 6th.

During this Christmas season, I am reminded of a song sung by *This Hope*, called "Do you know Him better." The song asks the question, "Am I walkin', talkin', captivated with the Reason?" It encourages us to reflect on the year and think about how we have grown in our love for God, our joy in Him and our knowledge of Him. At the school in Japan, we live near the top of a mountain and there are many roads all over with abandoned or summer homes. So in other words, it is a very quiet, peaceful and beautiful place to walk and get alone with the Lord. I really enjoyed the days that I could take a nice walk and talk with the Lord there. However, now that I am home it is just as important to stay in the Word daily and continue to spend those intimate moments with the Lord, but it is harder to find that time and place now.

God has been challenging me with giving Him the first fruits of my time whether it is easy to find that place and time or more difficult. I need to continually ask myself, "Am I giving God the best of my time when I am awake and alert, or am I giving Him the leftovers when maybe I am tired or just trying to squeeze Him in?" God deserves the first fruits of our money, our talents and our time. Is God getting the first fruits of your time or just the leftovers?

In Christ,

Karina Thrush

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death." Romans 8:1-2

Upcoming Events:

January 16-18: Missions Conference at Word of Life New York

End of January: Travel to Indiana for the winter term

Beginning of March: Travel back to Japan for the spring term

Prayer & Praises:

Praise the Anniversary party went very well.

Pray for our students as they work over their break and prepare for the winter term in Indiana.

Pray that I would delight myself in the Word of God daily.

