



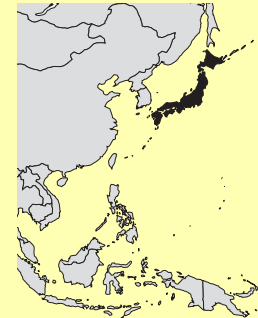
# RCA Missionary Update

from Cornelia Roghair

Cornelia Roghair felt called to be a missionary and a teacher while she was in high school. She earned a degree in elementary education from Black Hills State College in South Dakota and a master's degree in education from Azusa Pacific University in California. After teaching in Japan as an RCA volunteer for over ten years, Cornelia was appointed a career missionary in 1987. For twenty-one years, she taught English at San'ai High School. She now teaches pre-school and works with Sunday schools and youth groups. She also partners with Nopporo Christian School to develop ministries throughout Japan's northern island of Hokkaido.

## Japan facts:

- Population: 127,333,000
- Size: 377,835 square miles (slightly smaller than California)
- Major religions: 84 percent Shinto and Buddhist, 16 percent other (0.7 percent Christian)



## MINISTRY

Christian Education

## LOCATION

Ebetsu, Hokkaido, Japan

## PARTNERS

United Church of Christ in Japan  
Nopporo Christian School

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*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)*

*"He leadeth, me O blessed thought! O words with heav'nly comfort fraught! What-e'er I do, wher-e'er I be, Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me." —Joseph H. Gilmore*

Greetings from Japan!

October 2007

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,"  
Philippians 1:3 (KJV)

It is a hot day. It is 86 degrees downstairs where I am writing this but when I went upstairs it was 95 degrees. I decided it was a good day to make sun tea. After a warm June, July was cool and dry and we wondered if we were going to have summer this year, but it has arrived!

The new school year began in April and it is going great! I love teaching par-time at the Nopporo Preschool. There are 160 three, four and five-year-olds. They are adorable. I taught the story of creation in English in May. After we said what God had made each day as we put up the flannel graph pictures, we repeated, "Oh, beautiful. Thank you, God." A

couple of months later in July, we went on a field trip with the 70 five-year-olds. The head teacher and I were lining the children up so they so they could watch the dolphin show. Suddenly one of the little boys looked at me and said, "Oh, beautiful!" Later the teacher and I were talking and laughing about the incident and I said, "I'm sure glad I taught the children, "Oh, beautiful," but

I'm afraid he doesn't know what it means." "Oh, children are very honest," she replied, "and they look at things differently than we do." I was thankful for the little boy's love and kind words and even more thankful to our Heavenly Father who has given me this opportunity to work with these little ones. Our Heavenly Father too looks at us differently. May we all have thankful, joy filled hearts.



Preschool Summer Program

I have visited several preschools in rural areas. I was asked to fill in for pastors several times which is difficult for me as I am not a trained pastor, but God has given me the Sakae's who are both retired pastors. They help me with writing Japanese sermons, as well as listening to my joys and challenges, taking time to pray with me and including me in their family. Yesterday I was invited to help them celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with their three children and their families, other relatives and some of the church members of the church they served for more than 40 years. When this was planned back in January, they were retired and their schedules were quite flexible. However, the pastor of the second largest church in Hokkaido suddenly resigned in April and the Sakae's have been filling in. When I arrived with a cake I had made and asked their daughter if they minded if we had them cut it together, she said, "I'm sorry Dad is not here as a church member has passed away and he is conducting the funeral." The cake was put aside and the way God has used the Sakae's was celebrated through the testimonies of those attending. The cake was cut later when the family was together after 9:00 at night and I will see the pictures.

I have continued with the monthly youth gathering at the Nopporo Church. Five churches sponsored a junior and senior high school retreat; this is the first year I have been able to help. I attended the peace service at the Nopporo Preschool with almost all of the 160 preschool children, their parents and their older and younger siblings as well as graduates of the preschool and the members of the after school program. A professional singer gave her time which made the service very special. When the service ended at noon, I went right to the train station to catch a train for the youth retreat. The retreat was held at a rural church and while the youth were writing their evaluations of the retreat, I went to the church preschool. I met the new director and was asked by the teachers to share a Bible story with the children who were there for the summer break program. Having time with the preschool children was an added blessing I had not expected.



Nopporo youth and Sunday school children

Last Thursday and Friday I went to a farm group. The devotion time was led by one of the Nopporo Church members. A man from Ghana and a lady from Myanmar talked and helped with the translation. I also enjoyed time with the three preschool children and six youth who attended.

We have had several new children in Sunday School including a family of four children who also come to my house once a week to study English. After their English lesson they like to play, watch videos including "You Are Special" & Veggie Tales." They also sometimes help me pull weeds around my house. Last week the oldest who is a girl came early and made cookies. She said she had all of her summer homework done except for the assignment to talk to someone about their experiences during WWI. I told her about my father's experiences and she is using it for her report. After the cookies were baked three boys came and I taught the four children English.

I'm enjoying my work so very much. Thank you again for your prayers.

In Christ,

Cornelia Roghair

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*"As a camel kneels before his master to have him remove his burden at the end of the day, so kneel each knight and let the Master take your burden." —Corrie Ten Boom*

*"Each new day cast your burden on the Lord, and He will sustain you; He will never permit the righteous to be moved." Psalms 55:22 (RSV)*