



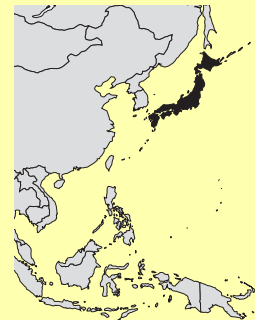
RCA Missionary Update

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 preschool and works with Sunday schools and youth groups. She also partners with Noppero 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
Noppero Christian School

CONTACT

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"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:6 (KJV)

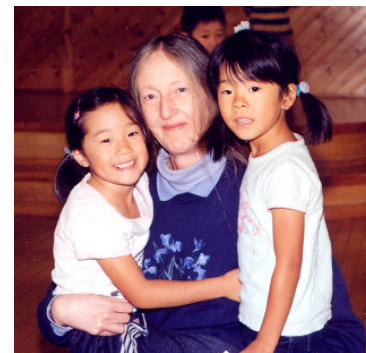
Greetings from Japan!

December 2007

It is a cold winter evening. The ground is covered with snow and more is forecast for tonight. I'm busy this last week in November trying to get Advent calendars to children to help them look forward to celebrating the Savior's birth. The children at the preschool are practicing songs and parts for the Christmas pageant. It is such a blessing to share the excitement with the little ones.

Fall leaves were beautiful this year and I was asked to fill in twice for a teacher in a city two and a half hours north of here by express train. I enjoyed the scenery along the way. As I had classes until noon at the preschool, I was fortunate I could catch an express train and arrive just two minutes late for my 3:20 class. A darling little first grade girl met me at the door and went running in announcing, "She's here." The day finally ended at 9:40 after teaching eight classes and traveling two and a half hours by train. I was happy to spend the night in a center and only have three classes the next day. Since I was quite far north already, I took the opportunity to go another hour and a half north and visit the preschool there. I shared a Bible story and a picture book with the children. They eagerly showed me their salmon eggs, which were in a special tank and will hatch next spring.

One of the special activities at the preschool this fall was an apple picking outing. The mothers go with the children. Since one mother could not go because her older son was sick, I was asked to be Matsuri's mother for the day. What a privilege! Matsuri is one of those vibrant, enthusiastic little ones. We



At the preschool



Matsuri by her picture of the apple picking outing.

enjoyed picking apples high up in the trees. We enjoyed our lunch together in the park and we practiced English while she waited for the bus to go home. "Blue sky! White clouds! Green grass! Oh, beautiful! Thank you, God!"

I had the privilege of traveling to help a special friend celebrate her 102 birthday. This is the 10th birthday I have helped her celebrate.



Celebrating 102 years

One of the worship lessons at the preschool was on Moses. The 160 children listened quietly as the teacher told how God cared for the people sending food and providing water even though the people complained. Suddenly one little girl spoke up and said, "God sure is nice, isn't he?" The teacher stopped her talk and replied, "He sure is!" I was thankful for being reminded of God's love and mercy by this little child.

Please pray for the Nopporo Church. There are many challenges at present. Please also pray for me as I feel called to help out part-time at the high school where I previously taught for twenty-one and a half years. This has not been an easy decision and I appreciate your prayers.

As we celebrate the Savior's birth and begin a New Year may it be with joy filled, thankful hearts.

In Christ,

Cornelia Roghair