



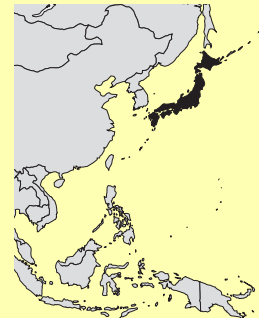
# RCA Missionary Update

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 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

## CONTACT

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*"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." —Isaiah 55:9, KJV*

Greetings from Japan!

April 2007

This is the time of the year when many changes occur in Japan as the school year ends in March and the new school year begins in April. Graduates begin working in April and company workers are transferred at this time of year.

Although we see promises of spring with the piles of snow diminishing, it still continues to snow. It is usually May before we have cherry blossoms here.

Tomorrow is graduation at the preschool. I have just returned from the supermarket, where one of my students came running up to me and we named the things in my basket in English. I taught his mother in high school and she remarked that the preschool children can learn pronunciation so quickly and naturally. It is amazing how quickly they learn. They have grown so much in a year.



Cornelia with preschoolers

Last Friday there were two special worship services. The first was for all the four- and five-year-olds who will be advancing into the next class. The second was for the children who will be graduating and going on to elementary school. Almost all the mothers came and some fathers and grandparents. It was a real opportunity to witness to the families of the 166 children in the church preschool. Please pray that the seeds that were planted will bear fruit.

April 1 will be a special Sunday school service to celebrate each child's advancement to the next level. The following Sunday will be Easter. Please pray for the Sunday school students and their families. It is hard for them to make the choice to come to Sunday school when there are so many other

activities. Pray for the Sunday school staff and Nopporo Church.

Please pray for guidance for me as I seek to work with the youth. One of the members of the youth gathering made confession of faith at Christmas, which was a real time of thanksgiving and rejoicing. Pray for Yui as she leaves home and goes to college. She was a core member of the youth gathering, as she always invited her friends.



Meeting with a farm group

I attended three farm group meetings and enjoyed the fellowship with the farm people. Each begins with worship. It is always a special time for me as I grew up on a farm.

Pray for me as I seek to relate to the 32 church preschools in the Hokkaido district. Most of them are struggling to attract children, as the number of children is decreasing so there is much competition.

I continue to have contact with former students and just recently had dinner with a former student and her little girl. She shared with me how she struggles to live as a Christian. Her husband allows her to attend church but does not want her to take the children. The children are



Yui (center) with friends at a youth gathering



Members of the youth group making pizza

allowed to go on special occasions such as Christmas and Easter. Pray for the Japanese Christians who seek to be faithful here where there are so few Christians.

Thank you for sharing in the work here through your prayers and support.

In Christ,

Cornelia Roghair