



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

CONTACT

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"The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." —Nahum 1:7 (KJV)

Greetings from Japan!

January 2010

The last Christmas celebration for 2009 was held yesterday for the youth with a time of worship followed by lunch, fellowship, skits, and games. Many of the youth who attended, I taught in the preschool Sunday school class so it was wonderful to see how they have grown.



Christmas worship

Christmas Eve I spent making tree shaped cookies to go with the cards a former student helped me make. On Christmas morning, I got up early and walked to the train station with my 120 cookies and cards, being careful not to slip on the ice. I caught the 8:17 train, the 9:31 bus, and arrived a little before 10:00 at the Christian Nursing Home. I went from room to room with one of the caregivers and visited each of the residents. This is the 26th time I have visited during the Christmas season and I look forward to it every year.

In the evening I attended the candle light service and potluck supper at the Nopporo church. One hundred thirty-seven gathered. I walked in the door at the same time as a young lady who greeted me and kindly said her name as I did not recognize her. She had been a Sunday school student 25 years ago and works for a confectionary that is run by a former student of mine at the high school. A former Sunday school student sat behind me with her three year old who was so excited about Christmas. Her grandfather, whom I taught with at the high school, patiently answered her questions. It was a wonderful time of fellowship. I gave out more than 60 Advent calendars this year and many of the children that I gave them to came to celebrate Christmas.



Preschool Christmas pageant



Christmas pageant



Activity time

The Christmas pageants acted out by the preschool children were beautiful. They practice so hard and learn their parts so well. Their little singing voices are so beautiful and their little faces beam with joy! I was able to celebrate with three different preschools and had the opportunity to get to know the parents better.

It's been cold and we have snow but the bad weather is to arrive tomorrow and may interfere with the celebration of the New Year, which is the main celebration in Japanese society. The churches in the nearby city of Sapporo have a joint service that I plan to attend if the weather permits. As everyone is busy with family it is a quiet time for me and sometimes a bit lonely. However, I try to use the time to catch up on things including correspondence. Years ago all the stores closed but that is no longer the case.

It hardly seems possible that 2009 is nearly over, but I am very thankful for the many blessings including the opportunity to visit all but one of my supporting churches during the short three-month home assignment. I am thankful for the prayers and ask for your continued prayers as I continue to serve. May God richly bless each of you in the New Year as you seek to follow His will.

In Christ.

Cornelia Roghair

To access extensive information about Cornelia, or to make a financial gift for this ministry, simply go to www.rca.org/roghair.

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