



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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www.rca.org/roghair

2011 Yearly Report to Supporting Churches from Cornelia Roghair

In one sentence, what is your ministry's primary goal?

My primary goal is to share the Gospel through word and deed in the preschools, church, and neighborhood, while seeking to walk closer with the Lord daily.

Over the past year, how have you seen God working in your ministry? Please share both the progress and the setbacks with respect to your ministry goals. Please include your joys, challenges, and/or disappointments.

I am thankful for another year of working with the preschools. Teaching Bible stories and English to the children is a real joy. It is a blessing to get to know the teachers. Each preschool has some unique programs and I enjoy learning about each one and sharing ideas among the preschools.

This has been a great year at my "base" preschool Nopporo Christian School. I enjoy the classes and special events which I help with. We now have an American missionary child and I have been able to help her and her parents with language and other adjustments.

I enjoy my time at Asabu Preschool. The enrollment for next year is up which is a real blessing as the number of children in Japan is declining.

I continue to take the express bus an hour and a half north to teach each month at the Himawari (Sunflower) Preschool. I enjoy the sights along the way as the seasons change.

This year Hibarigaoka Preschool was added to the schools I teach at regularly. This preschool has about 70 children. I am enjoying getting to know the teachers and learning of their special programs.

I continue to teach Sunday school each week at Nopporo Church. Each month we celebrate birthdays and I make cupcakes for the birthday party.

I have been asked to teach a number of children English in my home. I use this as an opportunity to build relationships with them and their families. I celebrated Easter with each class and they are still eager to open the "eggs" and tell how each one is part of the Easter story. Some of them have come to Sunday school.

I had the privilege of spending time helping a retired missionary couple who remained in Japan and were both in the hospital. Rev. Barker went to be with the Lord on May 7. I continued to help his wife through surgery and adjustment to being alone after 57 years of marriage.

I enjoyed celebrating Easter with the residents in the Christian retirement home. I made cards and a heart-shaped cookie for each one. Two of the staff helped me visit each resident.

I attended the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Hokkaido Christian Center. Rev. & Mrs. Barker were described as the loving parents of the center. I learned much of the history of the center from Mrs. Barker as we spent time together during her hospitalization.

I continue to have contact with graduates of the high school in various ways. I recently attended the wedding of a former student. She is a Christian and it was a beautiful church wedding serving as a real witness to all who attended.

Share any physical or spiritual health issues that have impacted your ministry during this past year.

I was blessed with good health until December. I am currently in the U.S. doing various medical checks. I would appreciate your prayers.

Briefly discuss any goals, dreams, and/or changes you would anticipate in your ministry for the coming year.

I continue to try to reach my goal of visiting all of the 29 preschools in the district which are part of the United Church of Christ in Japan which the Reformed Church partners with. Having grown up in a rural area myself, I really enjoy visiting the rural preschools, and they are very eager to have me come and teach. I hope to be able to do more of this.

Share any specific project related needs and other ways supporting churches might be able to assist you.

The importance of your prayers cannot be overemphasized. Please pray.

The value of the dollar continues to decrease. Please prayerfully consider whether you can help meet the need for increased financial support.

Please tell us about ongoing as well as special prayer needs you may have at this time.

- Please pray for the children who attend the Christian preschools and for their parents. Pray that they might respond to the good news of the Gospel.
- Please pray for the Christian teachers in the preschools. Pray that they will be given strength to be true to following God's leading.
- Please pray for the Sunday school children and their parents. Pray that they will be able to resist the things which pull them away from worship.
- Please pray for the graduates of the Christian schools and preschools. Pray that the seed that has been sown in their hearts will take root.
- Please pray for the Christians in Japan where there are so few Christians and it is easy to get discouraged.
- Please pray for those who have lost family members in the March 11th earthquake and tidal wave. Pray for those trying to deal with the nuclear accident which resulted and all those who are affected.
- Please give thanks for the privilege I have to share Bible stories with the children.
- Please pray that I will continue to have joy in working with the little children and that I will be able to be an encouragement to the other teachers and young parents.
- Please pray for my health.

In one sentence, please thank all those who pray and support you and your RCA ministry.

Thank you for your vital part in missions through your prayers and support.



Please visit www.rca.org/roghair for more information about me, prayer items for my ministry, and donation information.

To order prayer cards for me and my ministry, please contact Nancy Ellens at (800) 968-3943 or nellens@rca.org.