



A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another:
just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.
By this all people will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.
John 13:34-35



祈enzler Japan Newsletter #1

Prayer-Update

Dear family and friends, **12-01-2023**

We wish you a blessed new year! The temperatures here in Kitami rarely move above -5°C at the moment, and at night we regularly have -15°C to -20°C, but we are thankful that so far we have been mostly spared the snow.

Many thanks to all who have prayed for the numerous evangelistic Christmas events held at our church. We were told by several participants that they were very moved by our testimony and by the songs we sang.

Student Meetings

God also made it happen that we could have two Christmas parties with students at our home. The first celebration took place quite spontaneously on December 22. We had **4 Japanese students** with us, whom we know from the monthly KGK meetings (2 Christians and 2 seekers). KGK is a student-run Christian organization focussed on discipleship and evangelism, and also represented here in Kitami. We had a delicious meal, told them about our life and calling, and played board games until midnight. They said they definitely wanted to come again.

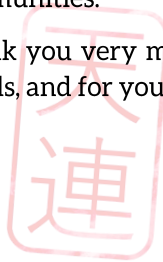
The second Christmas party was on December 25. We had **7 Christian international students and medical trainees** with us, and **one seeking young woman** whom we know from church. At the beginning it was a bit difficult to get this mixed group to get along and feel comfortable with each other, especially because half of them preferred to speak in Japanese, the other half in English.

But the **breakthrough** came when Karolina suggested that everyone would share something from the past year that they were grateful for. However, most of them told before difficulties and challenges. So we decided to divide into small groups and pray for each other. This changed the dynamic dramatically and many of the guests opened up even more. We also had the opportunity to share some of our personal experiences with God.

We feel that during these meetings Jesus started to make a difference and gather a group of disciples that he wants to use to reach and bless this city. At the beginning of December we hardly knew any young people or students in this city, but now we have a **whole group** that is eager to spur each other on to discipleship and evangelism.

Please pray that God will lead us the **next steps** and we will find a way to meet regularly. Pray that the students will be **filled with enthusiasm for God** and hope for His great works, and that they will spread this fire in their communities.

Thank you very much for your support in prayer, your emails, and for your faithful financial support!



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