

883-1 Mii, Tsukui-gun, Tsukui-machi, Kanagawa, JAPAN 220-0201
elkins@down-to-the-crossroads.com
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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I was sure that I had got a letter written in December, but it was brought to my attention that this was not the case, and here we are in March. I apologize for the lateness in writing.

Pastor Carlton (as we call him here) has written in his letter about Mother's health, so I won't dwell on that issue here. We are happy at how much and how fast she has been recovering, though. Those who were informed of this, we are thankful for your prayers.

We have had a few new visitors this year, and a Chinese lady who has been attending regularly for several months now. The tracts that we handed out for the Christmas Evangelistic meeting brought several visitors, but the other literature has not brought anyone in yet. Still, I remember when I was at the mission in Uchikoshi, I passed out hand-made tracts/newspapers to every house in the housing project every week for several years. I had very little response at all, but one day, I was talking to an elderly man in the neighborhood, and he mentioned how he looked forward to getting the paper every week. He said, "Let me show you something," and got a binder out of his house. It was all of the papers back from Issue 1, all of them full of underlines and notes. He had been reading them, to be sure. And while he did not come to believe while I was there, that seed was planted there with no mistake. We have no way of knowing when and how the seed will sprout.

Still, it remains that almost everyone who has come to our church in the past came because of seeing our name in the phone book. All of the Japanese members who joined the church over the past few years came this way, including my wife, Ikuko. So, this year, we took out a larger ad in the phone book. One recent Sunday, we had three new visitors. Two came after seeing our ad. We are also preparing a Web site for the church, and plan to put up small ads in town with our name and URL. The site will carry the basic Gospel message, Baptist teachings, and the like, but will have to be fixed content for the time being, since nobody has time to update and maintain a site regularly. We (Ikuko and myself) are lucky to get 5 hours of sleep a night. Thank you again for your continuing prayers and support.

In His Love,

Nathan, Ikuko, Joe, Ray, and Kanon Elkins