

The official newsletter of the Mirabella family!



Merry Christmas!

Dear friends,

As this year draws to a close we want to wish you Merry Christmas and pray for God's blessings upon you in the New Year. We are thankful for each and every one of you who supports us through reading our newsletters, praying for us, and providing financial support. We are humbled by the blessings we have received.

We are looking forward to having our family together over the Christmas break and being able to spend time with extended family that we haven't seen over the last 4 years while we were in Japan. As an added blessing, we will be getting together with friends from Japan who are also currently back in the States, and will be gathering five of last year's CCSI graduates who are currently living here. We hope you, too, are able to spend time with your loved ones during this season.

HMA is a strange time for missionaries. People often ask, "How do you feel being home?" and we don't know how to answer that. Where is home? We feel like we come "home" to America from Japan. And then we feel like we return "home" to Japan when our time here is up. We moved to Japan in 2014 and have only been in the US for less than 2 years since then, so our life is really in Japan. But, even in Japan, we have lived in four different homes so far and will be searching for a fifth when we return. We will leave three of our kids in the US with only four of us going back to Japan this time, and Matthias and Leighton will only be there for a little over two years before graduating and returning to the US again for college. Perhaps, as missionaries, we are reminded more than most the words of Hebrews 13:14, that "here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come," or as the Living Bible puts it, "This world is not our home; we are looking forward to our everlasting home in heaven."



HMA Update:

We have had opportunities to visit many of our supporting churches over these last months. We are still filling in our schedule for February and March, but we know we will be doing a lot of travelling to Mississippi, Arkansas, Georgia, Tennessee and Texas during that time. Karen and I will also be able to get away for a short trip to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary in January! We anticipate returning to Japan mid-April, but haven't purchased our tickets yet.

Japan Update:

Despite being in the US, we continue to spend a lot of our time engaged with the ministry in Japan. In the past week I can count 12 video meetings we have had with folks in Japan (and I am probably missing some), as well as dozens of emails and messages going back and forth. We are by no means indispensable to the work going on there, but we really are tied into so many things that our absence is acutely felt. We are eager to return and jump back into our lives there. At the same time, there are challenges and difficulties that exist there that we wish were not waiting for us. Please pray, not only for us, but also for our partners and teammates who continue to work for the growth of Christ's kingdom in Japan.

As I said already, we are so grateful for the continual financial support that we receive. To everyone who has given over this past year – thank you, we could not serve without your generosity. If there is anyone who would like to begin giving by making a regular commitment, or a year-end gift, you can get the details you need on our website [here](#) or by going to our MTW page [here](#). We are grateful to report that our giving and our support account are in good shape, but with inflation our budget will be going up some in the new year, and the extra costs associated with HMA have caused some decrease in our reserves. Any additional support we receive would be a huge blessing.

If you have a chance, please write back and tell us how you are doing. We always enjoy hearing back from you.

With gratitude in Christ,
Tom
(For the Mirabellas)

