

Multi-Language Productions (MLP)

MLP Japan News



Greetings

From Shiwasu to Salvation

December is often perceived as a hectic time in Japan, commonly referred to as "師走 Shiwasu," indicating how busy it is.

For Christians, however, December is a time of reflection on the birth of our Savior, a light shining brightly in the world's darkness. The four weeks leading up to Christmas Day are known as Advent. Following that, Christmas time extends for twelve days. In this special season, let us reflect on the promise of Jesus' salvation with both repentance and joy.

Kaori Egawa

MLP Japan Media Consultant

Evangelism Activity

Joy Club: Nurturing Young Spirits in Bilingual Christian Learning

On Sunday, December 10th, a bilingual Bible class for elementary school students, Joy Club, will be held at the MLP Japan Office / Egawa Residence. The theme of the day will be Advent. We will sing hymns in both Japanese and English, and after listening to the story, we'll be crafting "Advent Wreaths" using real tree branches. If you are interested, please contact us through phone or e-mail below. The event starts at 11:30 AM on December 10th (Sunday), with a capacity of 8 people.
090-5807-9880
kaoriegawa224@gmail.com

Pre-evangelism Report

A Fruitful Year with OJC

The Oyako Joy Club (OJC) held picture book reading sessions on November 27th and December 4th at the Hiyoko-kai of the Higashikurume City Central Library. In November's session, one child participated, and in December's session, eight children joined. We are grateful to the Lord for the blessings of meaningful we have had throughout this year. Oyako Joy Club will continue its reading activities for children aged 0-3 years, focusing mainly on the area around Higashikurume. The next volunteer session at the Hiyoko-kai will be on January 22 (Mon), 2024 from 11:00 AM.



SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory,
John 1:14

PUBLISHED BY KAORI EGAWA - MLP JAPAN MEDIA CONSULTANT

〒203-0053 1-3-39 HON-CHO, HIGASHIKURUME-SHI, TOKYO PHONE: 042-472-3454

SUPPORTED BY STAR CROSS, A JAPANESE WRITING & TRANSLATION COMPANY

Christian Magazine Summery-*Forward in Christ*

Opening doors in Advent and beyond

The Advent calendar is a unique way of counting the days until Christmas. It's a tradition where children open one small door each day on a thick paper card, revealing hidden Christmas images or characters behind it. I have cherished this tradition since childhood and have raised my children with similar experiences. The simple act of opening a door each day on the Advent calendar symbolizes life's journey. The image of Jesus Christ that appears on December 25th holds the greatest significance. Our lives are like the Advent calendar, opening new doors daily. However, the day will come when we open the final door marked 'The End.' This represents either our death or the second coming of Jesus. The Bible describes this as the moment when the door between time and eternity is opened. When Jesus opens this door, a new life in a new heaven and new earth awaits believers. This became possible through Jesus' sacrifice for us. The deeper message behind the Advent calendar reminds us of the importance of knowing God's love and embracing our salvation.



Summary of *Forward In Christ (FIC)* article of December 2023 issue
James Pope | FIC Editor

A season of miracles

"A 'miracle' originally means an event where natural laws are broken by the power of God. The term 'miracle' is often heard in everyday life. For example, when an unlikely sports team wins, we refer to it as a 'miraculous victory.' However, events like the sea parting in two in Moses' time, Jesus turning water into wine, or Jesus resurrecting Lazarus from the dead, fit perfectly into this definition as genuine miracles. Particularly at Christmas, we celebrate the miraculous birth of Jesus. This refers to the birth of Jesus, the son of Mary, as prophesied by Isaiah and recorded by Luke. Mary was visited by an angel who told her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and you will bear the Son of God,' and she conceived a child while still a virgin through God's supernatural intervention. The Apostle John wrote, **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory"** (John 1:1,14). The true joy of Christmas lies in the peace brought by Jesus' birth and God's promise of salvation. God became human, suffered, died, and was resurrected, welcoming us as part of God's family. This miracle is at the core of the Christmas celebration and its greatest reason. Merry Christmas!"

Summary of *Forward Forward In Christ (FIC)* article of December 2023 issue
Mark G. Schroeder | WELS President

Hymn of the Season

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice (CW 34 vv.1,2,4)

In Dulci Jubilo



- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art! | 2 Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Thro' thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto thee!
Draw me unto thee! | 4 Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav'nly ground,
Where the angels singing
With all his saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing
In heav'nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there!
Oh, that we were there! |
|--|--|---|