

*There's that too'' December 24, 2024*

*I was walking Mimi in the snow when the lady who walks to the shrine everyday started our conversation with, "All this snow is such a bother!"*

*I had just been in awe of its beauty! I said, "It's so beautiful!" Her response, "There's that too but it's such a bother!" Dissatisfied sigh. I carried on up the road and another neighbor was out walking his dog. "I'm your new neighbor! My name is Odagiri. My dog is Max and he is 17". I introduced myself and Mimi and said I was from the church. "Oh it always looks so nice and inviting! Can I bring my family sometime?!"*

*I have been awed by how God uses everything! I think about and pray for people who have come over the years -sometimes with new jobs and new schools they are unable to continue coming for awhile but I believe God has begun his good and faithful work in them. And through the many events this Christmas he has been answering my prayers and amazingly reconnected several of the people I had been praying for as well as connecting us to a heap more! I'm stuck because I want to tell you all the cool little details of how I see God working but there are too many stories to tell!*

*We made history the last few days with the amount of snow dumped on us. It is a lot of work but it is gorgeous! And Martin has a new 2nd hand snowblower. He spent 7 hours yesterday. He is alive and well with his new kidney which is doing great and able to do the snow. Everyday is full with people to share Jesus with. It is a lot of work but we get a lot of joy seeing God little by little reveal himself to them! We had the joy of seeing Miss Shima get baptized this last Sunday. We rejoiced with the angels!!*

*Continued January 2, 2025*

*So heaps more of gorgeous snow has dumped on us. It's still beautiful. It's still a lot of work. More people have come and I have bumped into Mrs. Odagiri on Mimi's walk. "We want to go to classes at the church", she reiterated her husband's desire to come. We want to keep rejoicing for the many opportunities we are given to share Jesus. We need wisdom to navigate well our time and how we do things in order to share well and not be "snowed" under. We are ever grateful for your prayers and support of us on this journey! May God richly bless you and enable you as you rely on him in 2025!*

*Martin and Ruth Mae*



*GIVING THANKS TO GOD:*

1)for the awe inspiring beauty of his creation which quite regularly brings us joy.

2)for the connections and reconnections that happened throughout the Christmas/New year season-that God forgets no one!

3)that Miss Shima clearly professed faith and was baptized on the 22nd.

4)for a friend who wanted to do December with us and the blessing that was to everyone

5)for other visits of family and friends

6)for the many amazing daily miracles-people who got well in time to come, kids who remembered their Christmas play lines and behaved reasonably well, for always enough food and other logistics coming together

7)for the chance to meet both Mr and Mrs Odagiri while walking Mimi



Reconnecting with a student who is now married and has a baby



Grandma to left returned with husband. We connected over talk re. goats



Church ladies connecting over wreath making

*ASKING GOD TO:*

1) give wisdom on how to follow up on these connections

2)grow Shima`s faith

3)give a solid start to a Junior high ministry that unofficially started with the practicing of doing a dance for Christmas

4)particularly work in Mrs S`s heart to be willing to follow through with baptism

5)protect us during this season-Friday I fell on the ice and then an hour later my car was rear ended. The next day a friend fell on the ice and had to have 10 stitches



Christmas Outreach Worship- 30 member kids nativity play. Total of 80 some in attendance





Total of 4 Christmas cooking classes. Lots of trials (yummy) and many opportunities to talk about Jesus



Martin did a stained glass workshop- first in many years. Maybe its time to start regular classes again. Lots of time to get to know people and share.



Miss Shima professed faith and was baptised, surrounded by her new faith family.

