

# Merry Christmas And A Happy New Year!

*A day goes by, A new day comes, but Christ's promises are everlasting.*

**Life seems** to fly by and suddenly, I am 57. I never thought that I would be blessed to be a missionary, a husband, a father, relatively healthy, etc. etc. Its good to report Rutsuko and I have been doing well and although we miss the girls it's good to see Jessica and Marikah sharing a room in college and doing well. Likewise, Kachel is doing well in med school and enjoying living with the Knapp family. Although so far away from us it is so nice that they are all in the same area and often get together. They're never a phone call away unless they're writing papers and helping to lead culture events at Calvin. And Kachel is helping with the youth at her church.

Here in Japan we have been enjoying the ministry opportunities God has given to us. I didn't think construction would be one of them but while working outside making a parking lot wall I have enjoyed saying Hi to everyone walking by. It has been a long year and a half process and many times half a day is spent talking to the neighbors and new acquaintances. It is really exciting to see some of them occasionally come to church. I am constantly reminded that as we love the Lord, He works at all times and in all circumstances. Trials become opportunities, sorrows turn to Joy, patience given and we hope in Christ, even death is swallowed up in Victory. *Hallelujah Amen!*

It seems like yesterday but it's been almost a year since I said, "Thank you, mom. I love You. Thank you". I don't know why I decided to call but 5 minutes before our church service started here in Japan I just felt I had to call to see how mom was doing. Over the speaker phone I heard Dad say, "Jeannette, it's Mark", mom strengthened herself to say... Hi, Mark. It was the last thing she said to me. It was her time. The "Plus Time" God had given mom by a special experimental medicine was over, that next morning at home mom went to Heaven, January 21, 2024. I can still hear the love in her feeble voice. It was the last thing I heard her say to me and I look forward to hearing it again when it's my turn to go to Heaven. As Saint Augustine pointed out we sometimes think it might be nice to know that final day, however, "the last day is hidden so that everyday should be regarded" as special, important, filled with expectation as we live each new day with each other in the hope and love of Jesus Christ.

Last year, April 9th 2023, mom and dad shared a testimony at church where mom said her prayer was that God would make her a blessing to someone today. That should be our hope and joy each moment of the day! That each day we will be a blessing to someone. It is exciting to see how God will use us all to glorify His name when we love and forgive one another. We are so thankful for family, friends, and our brothers and sisters in Christ and want to encourage you to pray with us that we will be a blessing to others each day. That we can make the most of every situation and circumstance of every moment of every day. For when we make much of Jesus in our lives God will make us a blessing to someone today.

for *God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, 2 Corinthians 9:8  
having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*



I am so thankful for my mom and all the care and love through the years. All the many blessings that mom and dad engrained in me while I was growing up, all the support as a missionary, and all the love for our girls during the many years. And I also want to thank you for all your prayers and support throughout the years. May you find Christ at all times and in all circumstances and may you continue to be a blessing to someone today. Thank You!

*Mark and Rutsuko Bedow*



# Bedow Missions International

Church Special Events

Church Services, Baptism, and Parking

Family ~ Preschool ~ Evangelism



Kids Easter Saturday VBS



Kids Summer Saturday VBS



Rolling Sushi with Chef Hori



Wednesday Bible Study



A visit to Egypt with Professional Guide Mrs. Tanaka



Making Christmas Cards



Youth Time and Card making



1st Service



Lunch and Fellowship



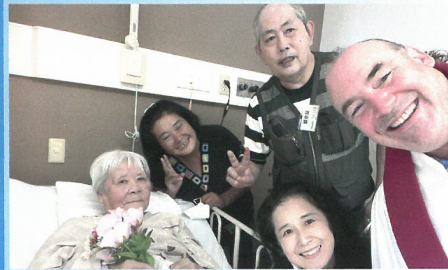
When everyone brings somebody



Second Service



Wednesday Bible Study



Ms. Nagao was Baptized on her 90th Birthday



Parking Lot to be - raising the wall



11/30 Concrete Poured



My DAD... Ron Bedow, the girls, Jessica's friend, and my Niece and Husband in JAPAN



Monday Chapel Time at Grace Preschool



Thursday English and Costco Donation



Popcorn



2 Concerts - Rengo Womens Conference and Daito Church in Osaka



Community Bible Study Seminar Translating

Thank you for your Prayers and Support

Email [bedow@me.com](mailto:bedow@me.com) Tax Deductible donations at <https://goinchrist.com/> Missionary #1385

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