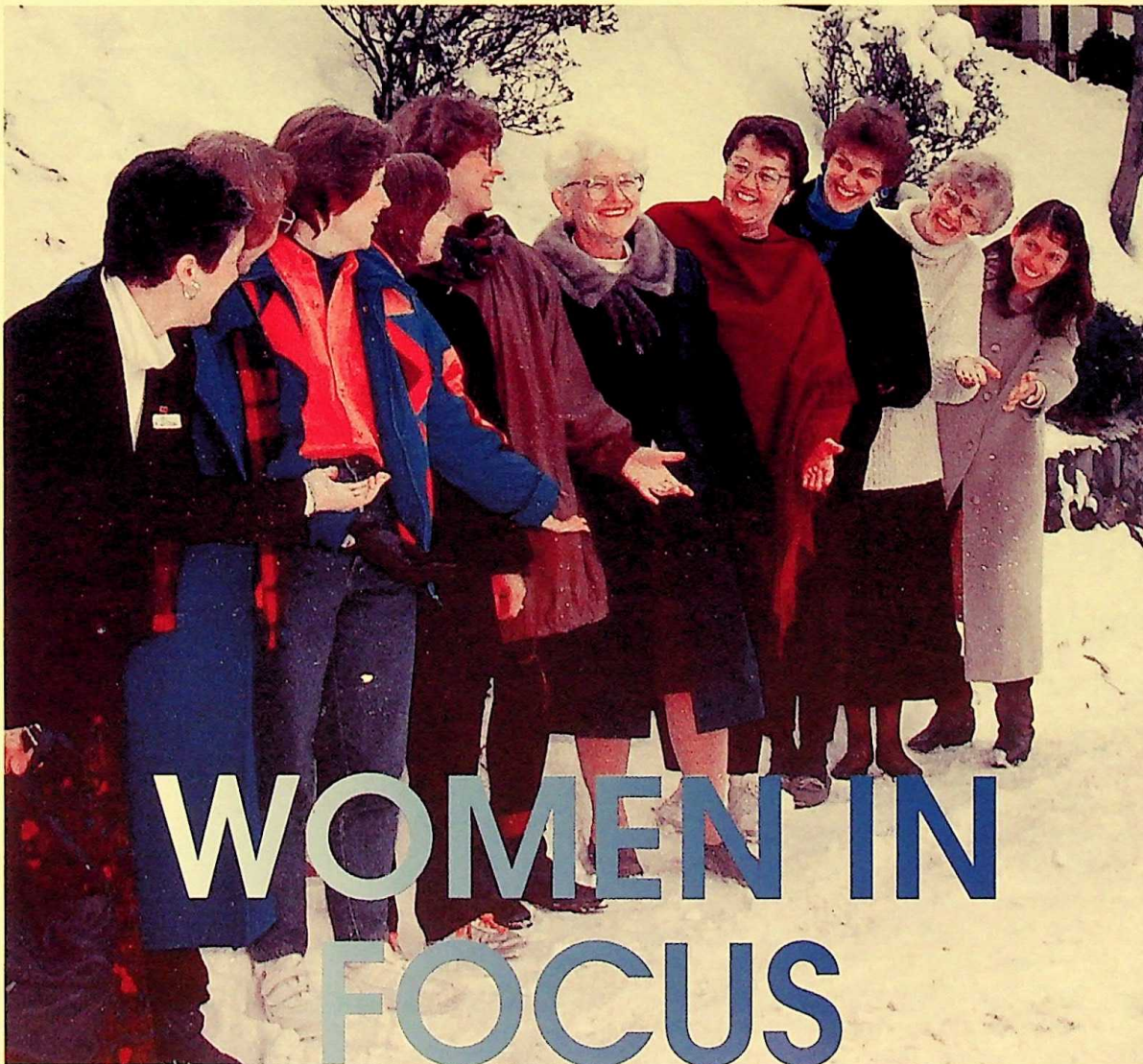


JAPAN HARVEST

Japan Evangelical Missionary Association

Spring, 1994

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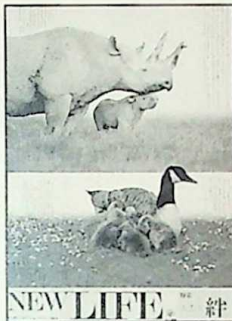
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JAPAN HARVEST

Volume 43, No. 4/Spring 1994

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Managing Editor, Donnette Wright

Editorial Committee: Siegfried Buss, Janice Kropp, Henry Lake,
Katie Sisco, Tim Selander, Hugh Trevor, Don Wright

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Katie Sisco, Nancy Sorley

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In This Harvest ...



Women in Focus

Janice Kropp & Katie Sisco, Guest Editors

“A man swimming a horse across a turbulent stream does not stop to take a picture of the experience. I'll get my colts across the stream, see them thoroughly dried off, and well fed and on their way—then PERHAPS, the picture” (Catherine Marshall, *Meeting God at Every Turn*). The members of JEMA Publications Commission decided it was time to take the picture. This Spring issue of *Japan Harvest* features only a few of the many women who have served and are serving in this land, but it represents ALL. Along with the precious few who have become well known are the precious MANY who serve our Lord Jesus Christ through a myriad of ministries. We salute YOU, women at work! Our God sees and our God rewards! Your works are evident, appreciated and indispensable to the Kingdom of God. Thank God for each and every woman who lives and serves here!

The picture has been taken. With a dedication and commitment to the will of God many have served alone in sections of Japan from Hokkaido to Okinawa. Jesus Himself has been their Protector, their Helper and their Friend. Others have served with their spouses, giving encouragement and complementing their husbands' ministries. Others have given brave leadership in their fields of expertise. No one is greater than the other. All of you called “Woman” are special in the eyes of God and in the eyes of your fellow workers.

As you read through this issue, we pray that you will be encouraged, inspired and blessed. It is with hearts full of praise that we say thanks to you, ALL WOMEN IN MINISTRY, for your special part in what God is doing in Japan today! With this issue, we wish to honor you!



Our guest editors are both M.K.s from Asia and have worked faithfully as feature editors on the *Japan Harvest* editorial staff. Janice Kropp and her husband, Dick, came to Japan as missionaries with the C&MA Mission in 1969. They have four sons.

Katie Sisco and her husband, Ron, also have four children and have been in Japan since 1974. They serve with OC International. Katie becomes the new *Japan Harvest* Editor-in-Chief with the next issue. This makes her the first-ever woman editor. Congratulations!

dw



JEMA Windows

Barry and Jan Potter
JEMA President

Missionary women are involved in every area of ministry in Japan, playing major roles in evangelism, nurture, and discipleship. Some of their stories appear on the following pages. This past year the JEMA Women-in-Ministry Committee was inaugurated, and is seeking to meet the unique needs of women in the missionary community.

Because of this issue's theme, I turn over the remainder of this space to Jan, who this past year served as chairperson of the new committee. Before I go, I want to thank you all for allowing me to serve you these past two years as JEMA President. It has been a privilege to get to know many of you, and to work together with you as JEMA has moved in some new and exciting directions. These will continue under JEMA's new president, Ron Sisco. I look forward to working with him, as I am sure you will.

And now Jan will share a recent incident illustrating one woman's ministry in Japan today.

Mrs. Tanaka has just left my house. I am staring at the door, bewildered, confused and hurt. She has told me that her decision to follow Christ was in fact a lie. She says she no longer wants to study the Bible. I am stunned. I can't understand the events of the past week.

We had decided to leave early for the last day of the Billy Graham meetings. Would the Tokyo Dome be packed out? I didn't know, but just in case, the earlier bus was the better choice. I was so excited. Two ladies from our neighborhood were coming with our family.

One of them, Mrs. Tanaka, had been doing a Bible study with me for a year. When I suggested she attend Mission 94 with us, she jumped at the chance. We were praying that this would be the night that she would make the most important

decision of her life.

Anticipation increased as we boarded the train for the ride into the city. We arrived in plenty of time and found good seats in our section. We put our guests next to the aisle just in case they would make the trip to the front of the stadium later on. As I looked over the sea of empty seats, I wondered if there were enough Christians and seekers in all of Japan to fill them. But by the time the program began, finding a seat in the central areas of the Dome had become very difficult. Later we heard Mission 94 referred to as the largest gathering of Christians in the history of Japan.

Mrs. Tanaka was fascinated with the scene opening up before her. Gradually, the crowd grew quiet as the singing began. The choir was thrilling, with the acoustics amplifying the voices and carrying us to Heaven. Surely Mrs. Tanaka would be impressed!

The crowd hushed as Billy Graham got up to speak. His message was simple with power. At the end he hardly gave any altar call at all, but people began streaming to the front. Mrs. Tanaka had been listening intently, and when Dr. Graham asked for a response, it was obvious that she was deeply moved, and was struggling to know how she should respond. I cried out to God for her and rejoiced as she got out of her seat and began making her way to the front, tears streaming from her eyes. I accompanied her down the aisle, tears in my eyes, too.

I stood beside my friend as she repeated the prayer of salvation after Dr. Graham. Yet when the counselor came, she said, "I don't know why I am here." The counselor responded, "You're here because God called you to come." But Mrs. Tanaka said that, somehow, she just couldn't make the commitment to Christ that Dr. Graham had asked for. And yet she had prayed. She had cried. In fact, she cried all the way home on the train. Surely God had touched her deeply!

But now I stand, staring at the empty

genkan. She has just told me that she can't become a believer since her husband will not join her. Harmony in the home is the most important thing; Christianity would bring discord. She cannot continue any Bible study if doing so requires a decision. And with that she hurried home.

She has obviously been touched by God. I saw it for myself! God has worked in her life. However, as I stand here considering Mrs. Tanaka's words, I have to ask myself what that something was, and where I go from here.

I have just talked to my friend. In the course of ministry in northern Japan years ago, my friend dealt with a woman who, like Mrs. Tanaka, just couldn't take the final step to Christ. Recently, she journeyed back there, and was able to meet with this woman again. Sixteen years after she first shared the gospel with her, the woman said that she was ready, and asked to be led to Christ!

Okay, Lord. I'm willing to wait. Please keep Your hand on Mrs. Tanaka. Help her to remember what happened at the Dome.

Help her to remember the tears. □

JEMA News

Coming Events

JEMA Ladies Retreat

"Happiness is a Choice"

May 5-7 at Ranzan, Saitama

JEMA Prayer Summit for Men

June 1-4 at Okutama Bible Camp

¥26,000

Karuzawa Summer Conference

August 1-3

Speaker: H.B. London, Focus on the Family, Pastor-to-Pastor ministry

Honoring A Friend

In this issue we honor a special lady who works in our JEMA office

Close-up

March 1994

Dear Matsushita San,

Compared to some others I have not known you very long, but I have certainly grown to love and appreciate you in these short years I've had the privilege of working on the Harvest! There have been our brief talks on the phone, a quick cup of coffee or lunch together, and it never seems our fellowship times have been long enough.

Your faithful service to JEMA blesses my soul. Your wide experience with things foreign gives you an understanding of us, often strange-acting missionaries, and we always feel your loving help and concern for us.

You have stood alone at home as a Christian. My, that takes fortitude! Please tell us your story. We deeply love and appreciate you! May we have many, many more years of working together!

*With love,
JK*

I, Mizuko Matsushita, was seventeen, walking in the darkness, with no real purpose. Problems such as study, friendship, and the future all bothered me, but my greatest fear was of death. I had had a heart ailment when I was twelve. Even though it was not extremely serious, I was afraid that my heart might stop and I would die. I became preoccupied with what would happen after death. I tried to talk to my parents about this but they did not understand.

My parents were faithful Buddhists, so I prayed to Buddha every morning and evening. My mother's oldest brother had become a priest after the Second World War. His son also became a priest. My parents were very influenced by these two. When they visited us we always greeted each other by chanting a Buddhist prayer. So I was praying, but I felt that my prayer was in vain. There was no answer, no consolation, no hope. I covered my inner agony by pretending to be cheerful and contented.

Then in that 17th year of my life, I happened to find a bilingual edition of *Stories From the Bible*. One story particularly touched my heart, the story of the Good Shepherd from Psalm 23. I read this over and over until I knew it by heart in both English and Japanese. I longed to know who this "Lord" was. A faint flicker of hope had started to shine in my darkness.

Two years later I entered the university founded by the American Methodist mission in the Meiji era. There I met a woman who taught us not only the Bible but many hymns in English. Some of my friends in her Bible class soon made public commitments of faith by baptism, but I hesitated to accept Jesus as my personal Savior, although I did start to attend a church near my home.



Mizuko Matsushita and Her Mother

I was fearful of my parents' reaction. I knew they would be angry as well as sorrowful. Not until my fourth year of university did I have the courage to confess my faith publicly in baptism. After long reflection I decided to tell my mother about my baptism. She was upset, frightened, and determined to persuade me to give up the idea. At last, she did accept my decision but asked me to keep it secret from my father. He hated Christianity. I was sad, but I wanted to be obedient to my Heavenly Father.

In 1973 I went to Europe where I lived for ten years. I wanted to get away from Japan's bondage and traditions as well as from my parents trying to arrange my marriage. I wanted something new and adventurous. After one year of French language study in Paris, I moved to Geneva, Switzerland, and started to work for a non-governmental organization.

While I was in a Salvation Army dormitory for my first three months, I made friends with a 90-year-old Russian lady of faith and prayer. She became my spiritual family and prayed for me, especially that I would go to the Geneva Bible School. I hesitated because I was attracted to a career in the international field. I would probably *never* have gone, had it not been for a certain incident. Before I had left Japan, I'd been introduced to a young diplomat as a marriage prospect. As a Christian I had rejected this arrangement. I never expected to see him in Geneva! I was shocked and embarrassed when I ran into him at a conference and that encounter prompted me to change my way.

It was in 1977 that I finally entered Bible School. Even though the studies were hard, I thank the Lord for that year. He really blessed me. And even now my spiritual families in Switzerland and France continue to pray for me.

In 1983 I returned to Japan. After several months of work for a French company, the Lord closed that door and opened another to work for JEMA. For the first several months I did not like my work in the JEMA office. I was alone all day and was bored with routine and non-creative work. For someone like me who enjoys social contact, it was a hard adjustment. However the Lord understood my heart's desire and allowed me to develop ministries inside and outside JEMA. My years of experience in Europe help me to understand missionaries' feelings, especially those just arriving in Japan. Around those who have been here many years I sometimes feel uneasy as they become more Japanese than I. I don't feel I am a typical Japanese woman any more!

Sometimes I do struggle with the problems of JEMA work, but I am glad to serve the missionary community as long as the Lord places me here. Your name is familiar to me through the JEMA directory. I welcome your visits, chats and encouragement! □



Portraits from the Past

by Alma Tygert &
Guest Editors

Alma came to Japan with her husband, Steve, in 1976 as TEAM missionaries. Her ministries include Bible studies and women's luncheons for evangelism.

"We children were raised with the constant vision of our mother weeping over the lost in all the lands around the world"

Mabel Francis



"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for."

Hebrews 11: 1,2

Considering the past is at times a needed spiritual exercise. History benefits us in the examples it presents. The history of mission in Japan is marked by godly and outstanding missionaries. We would do well to know them! Who were some of these? How did God call them, first to faith, then to service? How did they live out their witness here? In the last issue of the *Japan Harvest* we met missionaries of the not too distant past and weren't we blessed!

Let's go back a little further, about eighty years ago, when two vibrant young women were just arriving in Japan. The one from the tiny American state of New Hampshire, later joined by her sister and brother, was Miss Mabel Francis. The other, from Wales, was Miss Irene Webster-Smith.

These two names have been etched into Japanese history, both Christian and secular. The impact of their lives persists even today. The word "persists" seems appropriate because it characterizes the way they lived for the Lord, but we're getting ahead of the story.

Mabel's father was a circuit minister and her mother a woman of deep faith. Mabel remembers, "She (mother) was quiet and gentle, and faithfully taught the family about the things of God.... We children were raised with the constant vision of

our mother weeping over the lost in all the lands around the world." At the age of fourteen, Mabel had a deep thirst for God, and by the time she was eighteen was holding special evangelistic meetings in the school house where she taught. At nineteen Mabel had a definite call to Japan and went on to further her education in preparation for missionary service under the Christian & Missionary Alliance. She arrived in Yokohama on November 30, 1909. She was twenty-eight.

Irene grew up in a

Christian environment, but not until a friend asked her directly, "Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and Friend?" did she begin to think seriously about her need for salvation. It took some time, but one night as a teen, alone in her room, Irene knelt and asked the Lord Jesus into her heart. Irene promised the Lord that night that she would win one person to Christ a month. She started to enjoy going to church and was quickly involved with ministry to children living in the slums. It wasn't long before she began to feel that her dream of becoming a lawyer was not God's plan for her life. "At moments she felt that God might want her on the foreign mission field, and the pull was strong—so strong that she actually avoided going to missionary meetings or reading missionary magazines. She was afraid that she would succumb to the call." We know the rest of the story. Irene arrived in Kobe as a missionary with the Japan Evangelistic Band on December 2, 1916, the year that she was twenty-eight.

These two Spirit-filled ladies grew in a strong faith that persisted throughout their lives. At sixty years of age, Irene, for years known simply as "Sensei," began a new work with students in the heart of Tokyo. She needed a place to which to invited the young people. When she followed a lead on a piece of property in Ochanomizu she went straight to the point. "I'm in search of a place to carry out the work of my Friend, who is the Savior." Believing that a student center was the best way to bring the Message to the greatest number of students, she trusted God for a miracle. Faith persisted despite the circumstances.

When the time came to put a new building on the purchased property, her governing board would not agree to a three-story structure. Two stories, they felt, was quite adequate. Sensei had a stairway built leading to a non-existent third story and had the construction men put the steel reinforcement rods in high enough for at least one more floor. Irene Webster-Smith had eyes for the future and a heart full of faith. Today the Ochanomizu Christian Center stands as a lighthouse for the gospel and a memorial to a woman of God!

But Japanese real estate was just a means to build human lives for eternity. The real memorials to these two women are names written in the Book of Life. It was said of Mabel Francis that she was loved for the way she revealed Christ. One of those who came to Christ through her witness was a mayor's daughter, Matsuko Yoneda. Married, then widowed and

left with three young daughters, Matsuko determined to raise them to serve the Lord as missionaries. At great cost to herself she sent her daughters one by one to Bible college. In God's plan, three young men trained at Union Biblical Seminary in India, returned to Japan, and who should they marry, but those three special daughters! One couple went to Jamaica, another to India and the third to Kenya. They are still carrying on in Mabel's footsteps today.

What other characteristics marked the lives and ministries of these godly women?

SIMPLICITY was one. When it was time to raise funds for her outfit, passage and a year's support on the field, Mabel trusted the Lord in childlike faith. "Almost every letter I received," wrote Mabel, "had some money in it." She left for Japan with three gingham dresses, a knife, a fork and a spoon and "at the bottom of my trunk I had a half-pound package of Baker's cocoa."

There were other ways simplicity marked their lives. Irene was given a word from the Lord early in her ministry. "As thou goest step by step, I will open up the way before thee." That was how she walked with God, taking each step in confidence that He was leading. She taught the simplicity of the Word. She believed in the simplicity of salvation. If God said it then it is so. This was the simple gospel she carried into Sugamo Prison when the Lord miraculously opened its doors to her. She led fourteen Japanese war criminals to Christ. The prison guards were so impressed by the changes they saw in the lives of these condemned men that they invited Irene to come share the gospel with them also!

Both Mabel and Irene accepted God's call to singleness, though not without question at first. However, once knowing it was His Word to them specifically, they followed Him in simple faith.

The **JOY** of the Lord was another characteristic mark. During the war when Mabel was imprisoned with her sister, Anne, they were enabled to thank the Lord when there was nothing to eat. "Lord, if this is what you want, it's all right with us." Heart joy in the midst of extreme circumstances flowed out of their relationship to the One they trusted completely.

They were exuberant **SOUL-WINNERS** and were never too tired to sit and talk about Christ; hear a personal problem; or lead someone to the Savior. At the same time they were faithful in seeking to meet physical needs as well. Just after the war, when Mabel and Anne returned to Matsuyama in Shikoku they found everything destroyed. They dismantled a donated US Army house with their own hands in order to obtain supplies to rebuild the church. Food they received from the GI's was consistently shared

with everyone around them. The ministry of giving spiritual and physical food went on for years and extended far beyond their own locality. Mabel went wherever she was asked in order to share the gospel.

Irene and Mabel both possessed a **SENSE OF HUMOR** and a candidness about themselves that kept them walking humbly with the Lord. Mabel would tell the story of an elderly gentleman who was miraculously saved and would get up at meetings to testify at great length. The problem was that the man had no teeth and did not speak plainly. No one understood him very well. Mabel would pray, "O Lord, stop him! He is spoiling the meeting." One night the Lord spoke plainly to her. "I can bless right over that old man. He is standing there trying to glorify Me, but you DO bother Me by sitting here and fretting over it."

Their lives were distinguished by a **HEART SENSITIVITY** to the Holy Spirit. They learned that it was not what others did to them, but how they reacted that mattered to the Lord. They learned the humility of repentance and confession. They learned to obey in the little things as well as the great.

There is no way justice can be given to the life stories of these two exceptional women in one short article. But you can read on in their biographies listed below. Or you could talk to Steve. He knew them both! Either way, have a good visit!

Book titles: *Sensei, The Life Story of Irene Webster-Smith*, Russell T. Hitt, 1965.

One Shall Chase a Thousand, The Story of Mabel Francis, Mabel Francis with Gerald B. Smith, 1993. □



Irene Webster-Smith

“As thou goest step by step, I will open up the way before thee.” That was how she walked with God, taking each step with total confidence that He was leading the way.



Picture of Two Sisters

by Janice Kropp

General MacArthur, touched by the multitudes of broken-spirited Japanese, gave the call for 10,000 missionaries to come to Japan. Ten thousand missionaries! Who would answer the call?



Ann Classen

Two wonderful and effective single missionary women, Miss Irene Webster-Smith and Miss Mabel Francis, challenge us from days past. These two saints, now in glory, are a part of that "great cloud of witnesses." They call to us, as it were, with words of encouragement to keep on with the race, keep on sowing the seed, keep on winning people to Christ and keep on building churches in Japan.

World War II was finally over. General MacArthur, touched by the multitudes of broken-spirited Japanese, gave the call for 10,000 missionaries to come to Japan. Ten thousand missionaries! Who would answer the call?

Born and raised in western Kansas, Martha and Ann were the two older children of Abe and Agnes Classen. With eight children and a small farm to run, life was busy and yet happy. Abe and Agnes were devoted Christian parents, but as is often the case, Martha and Ann attended church without knowing the Lord Jesus Christ in a personal way. As Ann put it, "I acted like a Christian, but didn't realize how rebellion was creeping out in my attitudes."

Two churches near the Classen home combined their youth groups. Revival had broken out and one of the Classen cousins invited Martha and Ann to an afternoon meeting. The two girls agreed to attend, but, being a little intimidated by the "revival" decided they would leave the meeting just before its conclusion. This way they would avoid pressure to commitment of any kind. As it turned out, a pre-meeting prayer time was being held with men divided from the women. Ann says that the women's prayer time did not last as long as the men's; it was probably because she and her sister did not know how to pray. They prayed the only prayers they knew, "Now I lay me down to sleep" and the Lord's Prayer. Lydia, a gifted personal worker, picked up on the girls' level of spiritual understanding and asked them if they knew Jesus Christ personally. Martha and Ann answered honestly, and that day they were born from above, new babes in Christ!

No one was told of their conversion until Uncle George congratulated them one evening. How in the world did Uncle George know about their private decisions? Well, he was dating Lydia, that gifted personal worker, who wasted no time telling George that she had won his nieces to Jesus!

The girls attended Meade Bible Academy for their high school education and then went to

Grace College of the Bible in Omaha.

Missionaries came to Grace College from time to time and the girls were challenged to mission! China tugged at the hearts of both Martha and Ann, but that door never opened to them for missionary service. Somehow the girls never thought of Japan as a "mission field."

Johnny Siebert, missionary to Japan, visited the college prayer band with a challenge for missions. The tug at her heart confused Martha; she wasn't sure if the tug was because of friendship—the Sieberts had been friends of the family for years—or because the Lord was drawing her. She decided not to attend the prayer band again until Martha and Ann's favorite Christian Education teacher gave her testimony there. Miss Frieson was resigning her teaching position and going to...Japan as a missionary. The tug toward Japan persisted.

It was when Dr. Phil Armstrong from SEND came to college with the powerful challenge from God and the urgent request of General MacArthur, "Ten thousand missionaries are needed now!" that Martha and Ann realized God was talking to them. Martha, gifted in teaching/speaking, and Ann, able in children's ministry, talked with Dr. Armstrong. Ann asked if their giftedness might be needed in Japan. "Oh, yes, look at this," he responded, as he pulled from his briefcase a magazine with Japanese children's faces on the front cover.

Martha, a year ahead of Ann in school, preceded her to Japan, arriving in December, 1951. She completed language school and teamed up with a co-worker. Meanwhile Ann was without a roommate for her last year of college, and who should become her roommate but the first Japanese ever to attend that college. That just couldn't have been by chance. God was confirming His call. And do you know who Ann's roommate was? Of course, she was single then, but she was none other than Mrs. Kikuko Ide now of Kirisuto Kyokai Asagao Church in Tokyo. At the recent Mission 94 Crusade, Pastor Sadaji Ide, her husband, led in prayer from the platform at the Dome.

Following a year of internship on an Indian Reservation in Montana, Ann came to Japan under SEND Mission in October, 1953. After five months of language school Ann was assigned to work with her sister, whose co-worker had left. The two sisters spent precious years of ministry together. This year, thirty some years later, Ann finds herself in church



Ann and Her Church

planting alone as sister Martha married several years ago. The ladies have planted churches in Higashi Matsuyama, Saitama Ken; in Yoshiwara, Shizuoka Ken; Atsugi, Isehara, Hadano Minami Ashigara in Kanagawa Ken.

Martha has been the teacher/preacher. She has felt so strongly about God's giftedness that she says when she cannot preach she feels like her life is taken from her! Ann has been the children's worker/facilitator. These two sisters have worked beautifully in tandem, a marvelous testimony to God's grace and giftedness! Let's glean precious nuggets from Ann's experience as she writes...

Women in Ministry

by Ann Classen

My sister, Martha (now Mrs. Henry Baerg), and I worked together in pioneer church planting for 35 years as single missionaries. Two years ago Martha and her husband and I started our seventh church planting efforts—in separate places and different circumstances. Martha and Henry are fully in charge of the work in Atsugi, while I am working with a Japanese pastor and an evangelism committee in Yamanashi Ken.

As Martha and I look back, we marvel at how the Lord could use us to start six churches that now each has a Japanese pastor. Here are some thoughts God brought to mind. I believe that God has given women, married or single, a "mother-heart." He uses this in a unique way in working with seekers and young believers. Both need lots of "babying" at first which might try the patience of a gifted man who would rather be behind the pulpit preaching. We were able to take the young ones on our laps as it were and love them through the bottle stage until they could manage alone.

As single women we were not so tied to

meeting the needs of a family so were free to go out for hours of literature distribution, follow-up and, later, visitation. When we went visiting, we found it was almost always a woman who answered the door. As women it was easy to get into conversation. Another plus was that people felt free to come to us at any time of the day because they weren't worried that they would disturb a family schedule.

Martha and I looked for the felt needs in each area where we worked. In the high-rise apartment areas we found many young mothers with no mother or grandmother nearby to turn to for help and advice. We never apologized for being single. God had prepared us as the two oldest in a family of eight children. We could speak from the child's point of view as well as from memories of our mother's example. Those who are mothers themselves can relate of course on an even deeper level but we knew that most of all a listening ear goes a long way! And our greatest contribution was to lead them to find their own answers in God's Word.

We worked well together as a team. I taught the cooking lessons, then watched the little ones and the oven, while Martha taught the Bible lessons, often related to family relationships and child training. Afterwards we all enjoyed what came out of the oven!

We found that when women are in charge of a work, male leadership developed rather quickly. Perhaps that can be attributed to the fact that new men in the churches saw the need of helping us! "...when I am weak, then am I strong" (II Cor. 12:10).

The high percentage of women in Japanese churches calls for a woman-to-woman ministry. We found there was such a need to disciple in the Word, sharing from our own experiences and modeling Christ's life. Every ministry is unique so the important thing is to follow His guidance, whether we are men or women. We have simply sought to use the gifts and guidance that He has given to us. □

"The high percentage of women in Japanese churches calls for a woman-to-woman ministry. We found there was such a need to disciple in the Word, sharing from our own experiences and modeling Christ's life"



Spotlight on Akiko

by Sandi Wisley

“For Akiko Minato, Christ gives the meaning and purpose to life”

Sandi Wisley arrived in Japan three and a half years ago with her husband, Tom, who teaches at Tokyo Christian University.



Who is Akiko Minato? To begin with, she is a delightful contemporary woman and a professor of Church History at Tokyo Christian University. When with Professor Minato you have a sense that she loves being Japanese, she loves being a woman, and she loves life! She is equally comfortable with academics and mothering. She chats with learned men and visiting foreigners with vivacious interest and contribution. She regularly breaks the boundaries to be the first woman representative in the Christian community in what used to be a man's world.

Her style of dress is chic, professional but modest. She enjoys her uniqueness as a woman made in the image of God, while blending tastefully with Japanese culture. Like many Japanese women, she creates an atmosphere of cheerfulness and warmth.

Professor Minato speaks in women's language, but at the same time is a persuasive agent of change in the church, an advocate for the improvement of the woman's role in Japan. She is willing to serve as well as to lead. Not intimidated by her community of men, she remains feminine in her task. She loves her family, her children. She cares deeply for her students as they do for her.

How did she become Japan's number one representative for evangelical Christian women in Asia? Her background might give us a clue.

Her brilliant grandmother educated all the grandchildren during the war, even teaching them English which was forbidden at the time. This strong woman modeled courage and hope during a difficult time in Japanese history and Akiko thrived under her tutelage.

Akiko wanted to be a medical doctor like her much-admired father, but he advised against it. This wise Christian man knew both the demands of medicine and his daughter's injury which he thought might limit her energy. An American bomb during World War II had caused a school building to collapse, pinning several children under debris. A large beam weighed heavily on Akiko's head until a rescue team arrived. The resulting injury is the cause of brief but recurring "inconveniences" throughout her life.

Akiko is a fifth generation Christian. Her father, a firm believer in women's education, encouraged her to attend Tokyo Women's College.

In 1959, while working for her M.A. in New Testament at Wheaton Graduate School, she met and married Hiroshi Minato. Together they



attended Harvard University under Fullbright scholarships. Unable to have children, they plunged enthusiastically into education, he in organic chemistry and she in church history.

Just as she completed her Ph.D. coursework and was anticipating writing her dissertation, much to her surprise and delight, she realized she was to have their first child! Immediately she stopped her studies with the goal of becoming an excellent wife and mother, but this did not dampen her thirst for knowledge. Even as a busy mother of three she studied daily in fifteen-minute increments taking advantage of the academic environment and her educational foundation.

Back in Japan in 1977 her husband died suddenly at the prime of his career. At 44 years of age he had published 23 scientific books while at the same time ministering widely as a Christian layman. As long as her husband lived Akiko Minato's primary role had been as wife and mother. Now with this unexpected change her ministry outside her home began to blossom.

Many opportunities for remarriage made her determined to keep the image of her husband strong within the family. A Christian family altar kept her and the children continuing in the direction established early in marriage. She communicated a strong sense of his memory, showing him honor, with freedom, and without the fear and bondage that accompanies ancestor practices. She models a Christian response to death, and the life hereafter. While many men are hesitant to discuss controversial issues in the church such as ancestral practices, funerals and the role of women, Mrs. Minato found confidence for her faith and practice to become a role model for Japanese women.

Royalties from her late husband's books provide adequate finances for each of the children's education. Mrs. Minato worked in part-time teaching, even writing and teaching English lessons on NHK for a time, while care-

Akiko Minato

fully watching over her family. Then when the children became independent, she took the full-time teaching job at what is now Tokyo Christian University.

While active in the international community as women's representative in the World Evangelical Fellowship, she teaches Church History and counsels students, seeking assignments for the graduates. She enjoys her role in public relations at TCU which gives her a broad basis for her networking skills. Her students say she is a cheerful teacher who shows personal concern, sharing ideas and seeking opportunities for them. She played an active part in getting government accreditation for TCU. Just this year a four-year university status was granted.

Some absorbing subjects she has written on are: "Josei no Honto Hitoridachi," "Wives who Helped Leaders in Church History," "Emperor Worship in the Roman Empire," "Women's Spirit Ris-

ing in History," and "Biblical Partnership: Home, Church and Society." After celebrating her 60th birthday, she now focuses on the next ten years of ministry. She will speak and write while continuing to counsel her students. Annual Fall lectures at Megumi Chalet in Karuizawa give women glimpses of her forthcoming publications while allowing interaction on contemporary women's issues and the church.

If you don't know Akiko Minato you have something to look forward to. In the meantime, be encouraged that this special lady is a role-model for women in Japan. She believes in the giftedness and capabilities of women in the church and she urges women to be involved in preserving the beneficial and beautiful things in Japanese culture while emphasizing Biblical principles. For Akiko Minato, Christ gives the meaning and purpose to life. □

If you are busy you need to read this!

If you are really busy you really need to read this!

Are you *busy* but purpose and direction are lacking? Are you *busy* but sometimes doubting your call? Are you *busy* but it's been a long time since you really saw God's heart for the whole of Japan? Are you *busy* but wondering if it's really worth the trouble? Are you *so busy* with good things for God that you haven't had much time for the **best**? There's a **Prayer Summit** up ahead...four days designed for Christian leaders whose singular purpose is to seek God.

Is four days too long to give to the Lord for a fresh perspective on His purposes for Japan and your ministry? If you say yes to *that* question you need the Prayer Summit more than you think.

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Framed for Good

by Leone Cole

“Right now someone just like Pam or Yaron may be in desperate need of a friend”

“I was in prison and ye came unto me.”
“...ye have done it unto me.”

Matthew 25:36,40 KJ

Harold and Leone Cole came to Japan in 1937 and founded Osaka Bible Seminary that same year. Until 1975, when Harold became terminally ill, they worked side by side for the Japanese people they loved. After Harold's death, Leone worked in her home church in California for several years until the Lord called her back to Japan. She is still radiating the light of Christ as she teaches, counsels and ministers in a variety of ways, including the prison work. Her book, Sentenced to Life, is available through CLC bookstores.

In the winter of 1991 I was attending a meeting of the International Women's Society and a request came for someone to call on a young American woman in prison. Two days later a friend and I were on our way to Chiba to

meet Pam. She was 26 years old and since her arrest at Narita Airport for carrying drugs her world had become a three mat cell. During the day-time she was not allowed to stand, walk around, lie down or go to the toilet. She was just to sit on the floor in the middle of her cell. In a week's time only three 15-minute recreational periods had been given.

Pam couldn't speak Japanese nor did she understand the framework of Japanese customs. After periods of interrogation, she was

asked to sign a confession written in Japanese. She had no family or friends in Japan. And she had not been allowed time to see anyone yet.

I called on Pam regularly for several months and wrote many letters to her and her mother. Her mother requested that I call her collect each week to report on Pam's condition. It was hard to watch Pam deteriorate mentally and I finally suggested her mother come. She did so immediately and Pam was moved to the Tokyo Detention Center, supposedly into the prison hospital. It turned out that she never was admitted to the hospital section. Pam's mental state became more and more confused. I called her mother again. I learned that Pam's father had already decided to come. Pam's uncle, a psychiatrist, had graduated from University with a doctor from Japan. This doctor went with the father to see Pam and the prison authorities. Eventually they were able to get Pam released to the Japanese doctor's private hospital. Later Pam was officially released on a four-year probation and able to return to Los Angeles. She has now recovered and is in college.

Pam is only one example of foreigners who are incarcerated in Japanese prisons. They are guilty until proven innocent. When they are first apprehended they may be detained for as long as a month without counsel or permission to see embassy representatives. They are often tortured in an attempt to obtain a confession, and interrogation periods can last up to 17 hours a day without food, water or toilet privileges. If they refuse to sign the Japanese confession handed to them, they may be forced to do so or falsely promised a release. At present Japan has a record of 99% confession rate from detainees.

The president of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations has written in their manual that to this day Japan's prisons are run according to the laws of 1907.

During the past two years much has been accomplished by the volunteer prison outreach group of the Tokyo Women's Society:

- 1) Regular daily/weekly visits to detainees, as well as correspondence with them and their families.
- 2) Food, towels and stationery, purchased from prison stores, have been supplied them and outside errands and business have been done.
- 3) Clothing for each season as well as



suitable bedding has been purchased for them.

4) Bibles have been given to every detainee who will receive one. I have also given each one a copy of my book, *Sentenced to Life, 50 Years of Missionary Work in Japan*. They all tell me the book has helped acquaint them with Japan and its customs as well as brought them inspiration.

5) English books have been placed in the libraries of the men's and women's penitentiaries and the Kosuge Detention Center in Tokyo.

6) TV programs, newspapers and periodicals in Japan and the U.S. have carried news to alert people to the existing conditions in the Japanese prisons. In fact, ABC's 20/20 program carried a detailed account in the summer and fall of 1992 and '93.

7) Japanese social workers have united with people inside the detention centers to publish case histories and other information, both in Japanese and English. These are available upon request.

8) Seminars are acquainting the public of the visitation ministry and the conditions of the prisoners. An orientation workshop is also offered for those who want to become involved.

9) Japanese lawyers, voluntarily representing foreign prisoners, hold a monthly seminar to discuss Japan's present penal system. This is an open meeting and many of our workers attend.

10) As of this writing, three of the men I am visiting are enrolled in a Bible correspondence course. Already lives have been changed and family ties restored because of the power of God's Word.

11) We attend the trial hearings of foreign detainees, which are held in the low and higher courts.

Sometimes three or four hearings are necessary, but when the final sentence has been given the detainees' status change and they go to the penitentiary, where we are no longer allowed to visit or even write to them. Only close relatives are granted these privileges.

While they are at the detention centers we may visit them for 15 minutes with a guard in attendance. Detainees are permitted one visitor a day, except on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

We are permitted to take or send things such as newspapers, books, or magazines. All other items including foods, must be purchased at the prison stores.

I have visited many prisoners from South America, Canada, England, Nigeria, the Philippines and Israel as well as the United States.

Yaron is one of these. He was taken into custody at Narita when firearms were found in his luggage. Evidently the gun was planted there by a business associate, but this 28-year-old Israeli was held responsible and sentenced to four years. When I visited this talented young linguist, I asked him if he would like to have a New Testament, since he had only an Old Testament and Jewish prayer book. "No," he said, "because if I read it I am afraid I'll believe."

After more visits and letters Yaron asked me for a New Testament. I sent it immediately and he read it through three times. What a joy it was to me when he finally confessed Jesus as his Messiah. Yaron's mother and I have become close friends through visits and letters. At Christmas time, 1992, when she was here to see her son, she and a younger son enjoyed Christmas Eve with me and my family.

Yaron was sent to Fuchu Prison to serve out his sentence. He advanced to the third rank and worked in the library as well as carried food trays to other prisoners. A born linguist, Yaron translated material into many languages for the prison authorities. Yaron's sentence was shortened and on December 9, 1993, he was released to return to Israel. He is the first of those I have befriended to be released from prison. It has put deeper meaning into the prison ministry for all of the volunteers. We have done something good for the Lord.

Since my first visit to a detainee that winter day in 1991, a volunteer group has been formed. We now have twenty volunteers regularly visiting prisoners. If you are interested please get in touch with our coordinator, Susan Hewitt, through the Women's Society, at 03-3400-0042, Monday through Friday, 10:00-2:00. Right now someone just like Pam or Yaron may be in desperate need of a friend. □

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Double Exposure

by Berni Marsh

“This consciousness of our calling to bring others to Him has been the strongest bond between us”

Berni Marsh arrived in Japan in October, 1955 and for eight years was principal of the Kyoritsu Bible School in Yokohama. Teruko Kawashima was one of her students. Out of a vision to reach unchurched young people, Berni and Teruko began coffee house evangelism in Tokyo. A pastor was able to establish a church as a result of their ministry and they moved on to Kyoto. For eight years they ran a coffee house with an interdenominational staff. Many were saved and established in various churches in the Kyoto area. Then the Lord led them to start their own church, which has been functioning for eleven years now along with a coffee house.

As Berni and Teruko say, coffee houses are everywhere in Japan and thousands of young people spend many hours in them every day. Through their years of ministry to youth, their purpose has been three-fold: 1) to reach the youth on the streets, 2) to be a bridge between the street and the local church, and 3) to train young Christians to be soul winners.

“Teruko, thank you for your love and your patience with me for the past thirty years!” I really mean it when I say to others, “Teruko’s reward will be great in Heaven.” As I write of our life together I recall the many sacrifices she has made that God’s will might be done in us. Neither of us expected to remain single nor did we know that our lives would be so closely linked for so long. God in His great love planned this in the council of the Throne Room. Of this we are sure. It’s difficult to evaluate one’s own ministry or walk as a missionary, but this relationship with my Japanese co-worker has been the core of my life—placed there by God and used by Him to accomplish His will.

The marriage vow made before God surely helps to keep a Christian couple together in times of difficulty. Of course Teruko and I made no such vow to each other. So when East and West clashed or pressure mounted it would have been easy to call it quits. Don’t imagine that either of us never entertained such thoughts. We did! But we would still

encourage all young single women workers to “team up.” If we could do it, you can too!

We offer no simple formula but here are a few springs of water that are deep, always available and will never run dry:

1. We had to learn that all our wells are in Him. We cannot meet all the needs that the other might have. We fail and disappoint each other. Jesus alone can satisfy our hearts. Therefore, intimacy with Him is the foundation of any human relationship.

2. We learned to check one another when any “poor me” signs appeared. You know them—despondency, dissatisfaction with circumstances, fear of the future. We learned to call them what they really are—selfishness, not easily overcome until you keep your eyes on the Cross. And this is daily, mind you!

3. Learning to rest in one another’s love is another precious spring. Sometimes it’s hard to prove one’s love, but in all the strain of caring for people with great needs, we’ve needed to know and trust the love we have for each other. Love never fails.

4. Family life usually includes children, family outings, etc. etc. The single woman must accept that these are not a part of her life. For us, there’s eating out or short trips to hot springs or trips to the mountains, which we both love so much, books, visits with friends and through it all, laughter. When laughter is gone life is dull, especially for two aging ladies! Thank you, Father, for Your sense of humor.

5. Mutual respect of ideas is of vital importance. Both of us are rather strong headed. Down through the years we’re learning that it’s not who is right or wrong but what God is trying to say to us. An exchange of opinions is one way of coming to an understanding of His will. Hasty decisions can be our downfall. I don’t like it when Teruko challenges my ideas, but without her “check” where would I have ended up?

6. The Shepherd, who knows the way, always goes before us. Through three big changes of ministry, countless house moves, times of illness, failures and discouragements, Jesus held our hearts and minds in His hand. Step by step He has opened the doors for sharing His life. This consciousness of our calling to bring others to Him has been the strongest bond between us.

Coming up we face perhaps our biggest challenge—the aging years. But we believe that whether we remain together or must part, our calling remains the same, and Jesus who has led us this far will never fail. Hallelujah! □



Japan Harvest

The Secrets of Women

by Kathy Kennedy

Kathy and Dave Kennedy have been in a church planting ministry with the Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society since 1981. Kathy is the JNH Prayer Chain Coordinator, and they are foster parents in the Josei no Himitsu ministry.

Deeanna and Randy Wallace came to Japan in 1990 as independent missionaries. Deeanna is a midwife, and they have been foster parents to many children and birth mothers in the USA before coming to Japan. Besides being the director of JNH, Deeanna is an adoption counselor for Ai no Kesshin.

Two-year-old Haruko was too young to understand what was happening when her father told her he was taking her to a nice place. He left her and her infant brother at an orphanage and she never saw her father again. She remembers crying for a week. She does not know why she was abandoned. Because she did not do well in school, Haruko was put out of the orphanage at 16 and was totally on her own. She worked at a variety of unskilled jobs. Since she had never known love, she tried to satisfy her heart with material things. The quickest way to earn money to buy things was to work as a bar hostess. By 21 years of age, Haruko was pregnant, in poor health, and living with people whose life-style was destructive. She needed help and she needed it badly.

Many young women in Japan end up in situations similar to Haruko's. A lot of these women with unwanted pregnancies have abortions and then suffer from depression resulting from post-abortion stress syndrome. If the unwanted babies are not aborted, many times the baby is abandoned on the front steps of a shrine, in a garbage dumpster or at an orphanage. These actions are hidden and these "secrets" lead to deep pain. If the woman decides to keep the baby she probably will experience rejection from family and society.

Josei no Himitsu (The Secrets of Women) was founded by Deeanna Wallace in 1992 to help women in crisis. Deeanna was already working

with a Christian adoption agency in Japan called *Ai no Kesshin* (The Decision of Love). She was touched by the needs she saw in the lives of desperate women who felt they had no alternative but abortion in the case of an unwanted pregnancy. As a branch of *Ai no*

Kesshin, Josei no Himitsu provides counseling and alternatives to abortion as well as help for other crises. God's love is shared in very practical ways.

Deeanna set up the nation-wide, toll-free crisis pregnancy telephone line in February 1993, the only one of its kind in Japan. She has traveled to a number of churches in Japan to give *Josei no Himitsu* telephone counselor training and information seminars. So far 4,000 doctors in Japan have been given information explaining the services of *Ai no Kesshin* and *Josei no Himitsu*. There are posters and brochures available in both Japanese and English.

Josei no Himitsu's ministry also includes prayer and foster parenting. We know there is a great spiritual battle in Japan and our first line of defense is prayer. A nation-wide fax prayer chain has been set up, with telephone counselors and other interested people receiving prayer requests and praise items regarding the ministry.

Foster parenting means that babies being adopted by families in other countries are cared for while the paperwork is finalized (usually about six weeks). The birth-mothers also sometimes need a loving environment in which to stay until the baby is born and while they recover from childbirth. Foster parenting provides unique opportunities to share the love of the Lord.

A friend gave Haruko the toll-free telephone number of *Josei no Himitsu* which she called. Staff members were able to help her move out of her unhealthy living situation and into a Christian foster home. She is now showing signs of openness to the gospel.

The ministry of *Josei no Himitsu* may be one key to penetrating the hearts of the Japanese. It reaches into an area of society that most ministries do not. It's a compassionate and practical outworking of our Christian faith. For the Japanese Christians who have been involved it has been an eye-opening and spiritually maturing experience. Matthew 9:36 says that Jesus was moved with compassion when He saw the multitudes. Let's allow our hearts to be moved for these who are in trouble and helpless.

If you are interested in finding out more about *Josei no Himitsu*, please call Deeanna Wallace at 0476-28-4436 or Kathy Kennedy at 0424-71-0590. □



Deeanna

Baby

Kathy

One Woman's Album



by Inga Lidal

Inga and her husband, Roald, came to Japan in 1970 with New Life League.

I grew up on the west coast of Norway on a small island of only 9,000 people. My grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins lived all around us. I have always been very close to my family, and could not even stand to stay overnight in anybody else's house, although I loved to go and play and visit during the day. I had absolutely no desire to go far away.

Going to church was always part of my life, but when missionaries came to visit I had mixed emotions. I loved to hear about their lives and work, and I always felt the Lord wanted *me* to go, but I did not want to! Then missionaries from New Life League, Japan came. When I heard about Japan and their literature ministry I was moved. I loved to read, and I knew how important literature was. God laid a heavy burden on my heart. Finally, after much struggling I was able to say I was willing, and the Lord helped me to look forward to becoming a missionary.

In my home church there was a boy who had been my close friend since I was six years old, and who meant much more to me by this time. What if he did not feel the same way about going as a missionary? The hardest thing was to come to the point of willingness to go even if I had to do so on my own. I'm glad I did not have to though! God laid the same burden on his heart, and we were able to go together. By the time we left Norway, we also had a four-month-old daughter.

Coming to Tokyo was a shock. All the people, the small houses, musty smells, dust, and mold were unbelievable! And everything seemed to be gray. I was young and very willing to change my ways and habits and to please everybody else. Looking up to the older missionaries, I believed the Lord wanted me to be like them. The first sacrifice I felt I had to make was the way my home ought to look and what I did and did not do there.

Meanwhile we started studying Japanese. But it had to be done using English! I soon found out that to *speak* English was quite different from *understanding* it. Coming from being able to speak to everybody to a place where I only had three other adults, my husband and baby daughter to speak to, was very uncomfortable! Everybody else spoke only Japanese and/or English. It was so embarrassing to make mistakes when I tried to say something, that I decided it best to keep quiet and speak only when necessary. Thanks to a dear older missionary who took time to show me what a terrible mistake I was making, that I gradually

changed. He explained that others truly wanted to communicate with me, but I had to come out of my shell.

The New Life League printing press is located in Niiza, just outside Tokyo, and I was happy to move there eight months after arriving in Japan. There was a yard where our daughter could play with other children, and friends for all of us. I was eager to take part in the work, and since I was more than willing, there was always more than enough for me to do. I tried very hard to please everybody. After a while I felt I was being torn to pieces. By this time we had our second daughter (later we had a third). I wanted to spend much more time with my family, but by now our home was an "open house." I felt that when I was not able to go and help in the press, I could at least have others in for meals or for coffee and rest. I became unhappy and tired, and one evening my husband asked, "Do you realize there is almost nothing left of the real Inga? You have become a person who only tries to please everyone else."

This shook me. I knew he was right, and I knew God was talking to me. I was to let *Him* tell me what to do, and not everyone else. I was also to remember that "whatever you do to one of my smallest ones, you have done to Me," and that included my husband and daughters. In fact, they were my first responsibility. It was fine to take time to make my house a home! To bake cakes and make a nice meal without feeling I had to invite people! Even to make jelly without having company, though an older missionary told me quite pointedly that she never did that! The important thing was to follow what God wanted me to do, and to keep my communication with Him open.

I've loved having a part in printing and publishing Christian literature from the beginning. Over the years, the production of Scriptures and gospel materials has increased dramatically. As I've learned to do what my Heavenly Father wants me to do, I'm sometimes only watching from the sidelines as amazing amounts of literature are prepared for distribution. I took time one day to watch pages of the Chinese Bible coming off the press at unbelievable speeds and as I thought of the people who would receive them tears came to my eyes. Then the Lord let me help take some of those Bibles into China and meet believers there!

Serving Him is an exciting life—whether it's in the print shop, on a Bible-carrying mission, or in my home. And I am at peace. □

"Serving Him is an exciting life—whether it's in the print shop, on a Bible-carrying mission, or in my home. And I am at peace."



Japan Harvest

Focus on a Friend

by Carolyn & Martie Tarter

*Our lives are songs. God writes the words,
And we set them to music at our pleasures,
And the song grows glad, or sweet, or sad,
As we choose to fashion the measure.
We must write the music, whatever the song,
Whatever the rhyme or meter;
And if it is sad, we can make it glad,
Or if sweet, we can make it sweeter.*

Author Unknown

Carolyn Tarter is a senior at CAJ. Member of the Madrigal Singers, Flute Ensemble, Concert Band and A Capella Choir.

Martie Tarter has been Director of Choral Music at CAJ for twelve years. She and Steve have served with SEND International since 1972.



Denise Owen
Carolyn Tarter
Lynell Tarter

Dear Denise,

The other day I found this poem that made me think of you.

Our lives have been many types of songs, haven't they? We go back a long way, and it all began with elementary music. Maybe I couldn't multiply or hit a baseball, but I could sing. There are so many early memories: singing a song full of S's after I'd had my two front teeth pulled; starting flute in fifth grade and practicing faithfully thirty minutes every day, and having to hold hands with J.B. while the class sang a love song.

As elementary music classes ended, what began as a teacher/student relationship grew into something more. I can't think of a role you have not filled in my life: friend, parent, counselor, teacher.

Remember the hours we've spent in coffee shops like two scholars at a *yeshiva*, discussing theology, books and the Bible? Remember when I fell in love for the first time? You were the first and only person I told. You waved good-bye as I left on my first date, and listened with interest when I talked of nothing but him for weeks. When I suddenly stopped talking about him, you knew that episode in my life had ended, and you handed me Kleenex and showed me how to move on.

We cried together when Mom was diagnosed with cancer. We laughed together when we were stranded in San Francisco on that nightmare trip to Japan when we missed our plane and I lost my luggage. We ended up on the luxurious fourteenth floor of the Plaza Hotel, with me in a borrowed nightgown and my dad's Air Force field jacket!

I guess what I'm trying to say is thanks for the memories. You have influenced me more than you could know.

Not in my wildest dreams could I have guessed when I grudgingly took J.B.'s hand, that eleven years

later I would be shaking the hand of a professor from the Eastman School of Music before auditioning for admission. Not only have you taught me the joy and power of music, but from you I have seen firsthand what it means to be God's creation. Please believe me when I say that I admire you more than anyone I have ever known.

I love you,
Carolyn

And from Martie

As I walk from the CAJ parking lot to my office in the music building, I can hear the sound of thousands of birds.

No, it's the third graders entering the wonderful world of music through learning to play the recorder.

It's going to take a very special person to order out of the chaos I am hearing this morning.

Now two weeks later, the hopeless cacophony has become a recognizable, "O Come all Ye Faithful." It's another unit completed for CAJ elementary music teacher, Denise Owen.

I first knew Denise as a teacher of our daughter, Carolyn. As I watched Denise work with 120 elementary students in Carolyn's fifth grade Christmas program I marveled at how someone not much taller than the fifth graders had such excellent control. Even more impressive was her joy of singing and praising God that was visible in the children's faces!

Denise Owen was born and raised in Kokomo, Indiana, USA. Her parents were high school music educators. She began music lessons early in life, starting with the piano, then the flute and violin. But in seventh grade she found her musical niche when she discovered the pipe organ. It was love...and she discovered it by her own admission, "an incredible sense of power" at first sitting.

Denise graduated from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music with a Bachelor of Music degree in Elementary Music Education in 1978. She had become a Christian late in her high school years and throughout her Oberlin studies was active in the campus Christian fellowship. Having learned French as a child, she lived in the French House on campus, and even did a summer ministry trip to France, anticipating full-time ministry there.

She went to Regent College where she received a Masters of Theology in 1981. So, after, she joined Life Ministries, and found herself not in France, but in Japan.

In April of 1981 Denise began her work with the English Language Institute in Urawa, Saitama Ken. After a summer of language study in Karuizawa, she began teaching at CAJ that fall.

Full-time ministry at CAJ meant leaving Urawa, but Denise continued in language study and began attending the Higashi Kurume Church of the Fukuin Dendo Kyodan (FDK). Today she is a leader in their music ministry team, and involved on a rotation basis in preaching as well.

It is difficult to attach a label to Denise Owen: educator, Bible teacher, organist, flautist, composer, linguist, life-long student, theologian, preacher, servant, trusted friend and colleague...they all fit. Denise is a woman who seeks God and strives to be all that He intends her to be.



Refreshing Books



Daily with the King

W. Glyn Evans, Moody Press, 1975



Reviewed by Faith De La Cour. Faith and her husband, Stan, serve with LIFE Ministries at the International Community Chapel of

Saitama. She is involved in Women's Ministries and is a member of the JEMA Women in Ministry Commission.

In *Daily with the King*, Dr. W. Glyn Evans directs our attention to the king we serve. "I will settle things with You, Lord, once and for all concerning my rights and responsibilities. To accept Jesus as my Savior means I resign all my rights to justify my sin before you; Jesus did that for me. But to accept Jesus as my Lord means I resign all rights to myself—my time, my talents, my future, my all...." Other devotionals begin with statements which recognize our position before the king we serve: "I will realize that God expects only one thing of me—obedience. This obedience must be prompt and entire...."

Writing as a pastor, Dr. Evans clearly understands the inner thoughts and motivations of those of us who are in full-time ministry. "I confess Lord, my sin of hasty impatience and easy discouragement in prayer. How often I have given up on someone by saying, 'He's too tough a case....' Forgive me, Lord, for the sin of letting natural results happen instead of changing the natural into the spiritual...."

I highly recommend *Daily with the King* as a daily affirmation of our faith and position before our God.

Taking Trauma Out of Teen Transitions

Larry Anderson



Reviewed by Linda Porick. Linda and her husband, Doug, have been with Navigators in the Tokyo area since 1986. Their three children are all currently teenagers.

This inspiring and helpful book for dealing with adolescence from age ten to twenty-two is not a

book of "how-tos" in managing teenagers, but rather a guidebook that speaks to parents as well. Anderson feels that a parent who isn't spending daily time developing his or her own relationship with Christ and praying for the children won't handle crisis well. He also believes that keeping long range goals in mind helps us keep our perspective clear and our reactions to our children on an even keel. The book is approached through seven "team members" that will help get us through the sometimes tough teen years with confidence. These team members are knowing God, goals, using resources, intimacy, prayer, time and laughter. On finishing the book I felt challenged and encouraged. In fact I wanted to begin reading it again to be sure I hadn't missed anything.

Larry Anderson is the Regional Director for Young Life in the greater Los Angeles region. He has served on their staff for more than 15 years. His book is published by Navpress and is available through Christian bookstores.

Where Will I Find the Time?

Sally McClung, wife of

International Director of YWAM



Reviewed by June Gregory. June came to Japan in 1966 with Christian Literature Crusade. She returned to England in 1974

and spent seven years looking after her ailing parents. She is retiring this year after serving the last twelve years in the Ochanomizu book store.

I read this book when it was first published in 1988 and I am so pleased that the publisher decided to reprint it in 1993. It gave me a new outlook on "time" as a valuable gift from God. I've read many books on time management. I'm a person who needs to be constantly updating my systems and schedules. I find it hard to keep organized and my house tidy. Especially it's hard to set aside time for God and time for prayer and keep to it. 101 other things are pressing to be done and can so easily eat into that time slot. This little book with its "all work and no pray?" emphasis

helped me see that it is as important to budget your time as it is your money. There are nine chapters: A time to organize; to build; for marriage; family; friendship; life; work; fun; healing. Each starts with a quote from Ecclesiastes chapter 3. It is an eminently practical book, showing how to guard against burnout in all areas of our lives. Kingsway Press 1010 yen

Operation World

Patrick Johnstone. OM Publishing

Reviewed by June Gregory

It is wonderful to have a new edition of this invaluable prayer guide. Revised statistics on religious developments, recent data on political and socio-economic changes, new figures on the growth and spread of population, and 49 entries on new countries are included in this fifth edition. Formatted for daily use, *Operation World* is an alphabetical listing with specific points for prayer for every country of the world. Even if you don't use it on a daily basis, this volume will enrich your knowledge and enhance your prayers for our world today. And there is a children's edition entitled *You Can Change Your World* in attractive hardcover, beautifully illustrated (2790 yen) giving details of 26 countries and 26 people groups to encourage your children in meaningful prayer for their world.

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Billy Graham Mission 94 Report

Mission 94 received good press coverage. The Billy Graham team came to Japan in 1968 and again in 1980 for major crusade outreaches. Even though Graham is not well known in Japan, one unique aspect of Mission 94 was the good coverage by the secular press. This is partly the result of the previous crusades. In the 1968 meetings a young man named Motoyoshi Tago met Jesus. Now he is the vice president of Word of Life Press and served as the Crusade Press Liaison. Then in 1980 another young man, Kazutoshi Tanno became a Christian. He served as the assistant liaison and was able to use his secular press contacts wisely.

Dr. Graham spoke to the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan on January 7th. On the same day he was interviewed on an Asahi TV program. He was given 15 minutes of a morning show for housewives. Though they attempted to be very low-key, asking him questions about his family and his views on world peace, he consistently brought the subject around to spiritual truth. His brief comments carried a lot of weight and left viewers with much to think about. Japanese TV regularly handles occult type issues but gives no time to spiritual truth. However, they were very favorable to Dr. Graham, introducing him as one of the most praiseworthy people in the world today.

At the January 10 Press Conference Billy Graham said, "When we were here in Japan in 1980, the Governor of Osaka gave a wonderful reception for us. And in the course of it he asked me a question. He said, 'Why is it that the Christian

faith has been present in Japan for several hundred years, and yet it has made very little impact, and very few Japanese have come to believe in Christianity?' Then he answered his own question: 'I believe it is because the Christian faith has not been made clear to the Japanese people. I hope you will make it clear to them.' And that is what we are here to do—to make the Christian faith clearer and more understandable to the Japanese people."

Mission 94 was set up with the determined intention to "begin in the church and end in the church." Over 1,100 churches took this seriously. The involvement of hundreds of pastors and thousands of believers was thrilling to watch. Choir members, ushers, counselors, advisors, prayer team members, there were so many parts to play. But perhaps the most vital was the friend who invited another to the Crusade and is now working on the follow-up. The demanding work of harvest is well underway in churches all over Japan.

The Crusade at the Tokyo Dome brought together over 125,000 people, but it also touched an additional 20,000 from Kyushu to Hokkaido through a satellite network reaching 58 locations. Over 50,000 responded to Billy Graham's simple messages, with over 3,000 making that first step of salvation faith. Perhaps Dr. Graham will not be able to return to Japan for another major crusade, but we look forward to meeting the new Tagos and Tannos who are moving into society to represent Christ throughout Japan, and especially in the media.



Rev. Robert J. Kuglin was a student pastor at Weyburn, SK, until completing studies at WCBI in 1953. He started a full-time pastorate the day after graduation and married his high school sweetheart 2 months later.

For 20 years Bob and Gwen, a bookshop manager, pastored five Alliance Churches in Alberta, B.C., N.S., and Ontario, from which eight other churches were planted.

Make plans now to attend for your spiritual refreshment, inspiration, and rejuvenation

Karuizawa Deeper Life Convention

Karuizawa Union Church July 28th-31st
Thursday 7pm, Friday 10am & 7pm
Saturday 10am & 7pm, Sunday 10:30 & 7pm

In 1967 Bob was miraculously healed from a crippling decomposed spine, and returned to full-time public ministry as pastor/evangelist.

In 1972, Bob was commissioned as an Alliance evangelist. He has ministered in 411 cities and towns in crusades. He has assisted in planting many churches at home and abroad, and has taught special courses in 11 Bible colleges and seminaries.



Potpourri & Promises

by Janice A. Kropp

“Growing where we’re planted”

“Consider the lilies of the field’—they grow where they are put,” pens inspiring writer, Oswald Chambers.

My husband, Dick, and I have made it our practice down through the years to read and pray together daily. For us, this has been a precious time and I always challenge newlyweds to pray and read together right from the start. This would apply to partners in ministry as well for it binds and blends our spirits! In our case, we have used different devotional books, and of course the Word. As we did last year, we’re continuing to read from *My Utmost for His Highest*, that great classic.

I think today’s reading speaks to us all...to singles...to wives...to husbands, and I quote,

“A simple statement of Jesus is always a puzzle to us if we are not simple. How are we going to be simple with the simplicity of Jesus? By receiving His Spirit, recognizing and relying on Him, obeying Him as He brings the Word of God, and life will become amazingly simple. ‘Consider,’ says Jesus, ‘how much more your Father, who clothes the grass of the field, will clothe you if you keep your relationship right with Him.’ Every time we have gone back in spiritual communion it has been because we have impertinently known better than Jesus Christ. We have allowed the cares of the world to come in, and have forgotten the ‘much more’ of our Heavenly Father...”

“Behold the fowls of the air’...their main aim is to obey the principle of life that is in them and God looks after

them.. ‘Consider the lilies of the field’—they grow where they are put. Many of us refuse to grow where we are put, consequently we take root nowhere. Jesus says that if we obey the life God has given us, He will look after all the other things. How much time have we taken up worrying God with questions when we should have been absolutely free to concentrate on His work? Consecration means the continual separating of myself to one particular thing. We cannot consecrate once and for all. Am I continually separating myself to consider God every day of my life?” pg. 26

Male, female, single or married, the word of consecration comes to us, to me.

Sometime ago I read Catherine Marshall’s book, *Meeting God at Every Turn*, and came away thinking, “Yes, whatever the circumstance...grow where you are planted!” Catherine Marshall in all her life stages: single, married, widowed, remarried to a man with children, came face to face with the realities of life! In fact, I can’t think of too much she didn’t face. (If you need to be encouraged today, I suggest you read this book.) You know why I picked it up? In my little world I face some hard things and honestly speaking, I just wanted to see how God met Catherine in her times of need. I wanted to make a check to see if, by any chance, I might be passing some of life’s tests satisfactorily.

Let’s think for a moment about singleness. As young missionaries back in the 70’s we were mentored (unbeknown to her) by a dynamic single missionary in our denomination. She spoke the language like a national, had more energy than three women put together, did not fear church planting alone, and the sky was

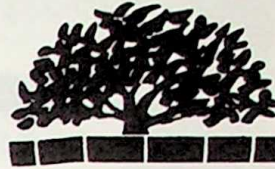
the limit for trusting God. Her name was Miss Susan Dyck, and her memory testifies to her effectiveness. She led more people to Christ than most of us and some of those are now leaders in our own C&MA. Susan meant more to me in the early days of my career than any other one person!

Now, singleness, what about it? Let me quote Dr. Tony Campolo as he writes for the little bulletin *Families* published by Family Concern, Dr. Allan Petersen, editor:

“We seem to forget that Jesus was single. If singles feel uncomfortable in the fellowship of faith, Jesus feels uncomfortable because He’s single. He models singleness. The Scripture says if you’re really going to follow Jesus, then it would be better if you stayed single. The radical discipleship that Jesus calls us to is very difficult to reconcile with familial responsibilities. Singles must recognize that singleness is the greatest opportunity to live out that radical gospel. The single person is capable of following Jesus in a radical commitment, in ways that married people never could. It’s about time that the church began preaching this fact.”

Praise God for the single missionaries who dot this land. May you be encouraged today to keep on keeping on. Grow where you are planted. Grow strong, grow tall! In this Spring issue we have only been able to *highlight* your ministry and impact. We praise God for each of you! God bless!

Those of us who are married find special privileges in ministry as well. The husband/wife relationship mirrors the Godhead. The authority of the father and the tenderness of the mother are reminders of what God is like. Also, the Christian home is a model which in turn becomes an encouragement to the Japanese, shall I say, most of the time. By that I mean there are



times when we do not set a good example. This I know from experience. And yet, I have found that in those weak times, my Japanese friends were encouraged, for their lives didn't always fit the pattern either. God is so kind to use us in our weakness. Isn't that just like Him? Paul was honest with us when he wrote in black and white, "I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling." (I Cor. 2:3) The Lord said to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness... therefore..." (II Cor. 12:9)

Again, in this issue we have only hinted at the beautiful ministry wives have in the Kingdom of God. We praise God for every one of you!

Let us ALL continue to grow where we are planted!

Nature has within it the power for growth. And it is not always the sunshine, nor is it only the rain. It's a fine combination of the two, p-l-u-s.

God is consistent. What we see in nature with our eyes, we experience in the spiritual realm. Oh I do love the sunshine in my soul and I dislike the clouds, to say nothing of the torrential rains. Jesus says, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life." (Matt. 6:25)

As families we do have many, many cares and concerns. Life is just that way. As singles, we have special needs that we are not sure others can even understand. Remaining faithful, cheerful and content is a great challenge. In all these it is the handling of the issues that is crucial. As we process our various needs and problems we dare not dig away at our roots for this in turn will cause us to wither and die. Let us always be looking upward, gazing into His wonderful face and receiving His enabling for growth and ministry. Let's GROW where God has planted us—is that not consecration!

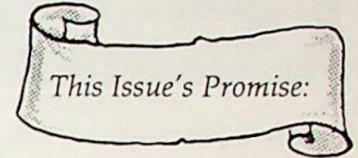
Let go and let God

Question: As I come up against circumstances, how do I keep growing well?

Answer: "Let go and let God"... the author is unknown, but I would like you to ponder what someone has written:

"As children bring their broken toys, with tears, for us to mend, I brought my broken dreams to God, because He was my Friend. But then, instead of leaving Him in peace to work alone, I hung around and tried to help, with ways that were my own. At last, I snatched them back and cried, 'How can You be so slow?' 'My child,' He said, 'what could I do? YOU NEVER DID LET GO.'"

Is that what I'm really doing when I worry and fret?



This Issue's Promise:

"His divine power has given us EVERYTHING we need for LIFE and GODLINESS through our knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness." II Peter 1:3

Remember, He says He has given us everything we need! "Lord, I want to grow where You have planted me."

jk

N-O-T-I-C-E B-O-A-R-D

For those living in large cities various enrichment and evangelistic opportunities are available. Some of these are as follows:

COFFEE HOUR held three times a year at CAJ
For details contact Alma Tygert, 0424-67-2658

PRECEPTS a Bible study course
For details contact Janice Potter, 0429-39-3570

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CLUB, held eight times a year at the American Club, Roppongi, Tokyo
For details contact Alma Tygert

LADIES' LUNCHEONS, held throughout Japan.
a phone call to a missionary in your area would probably give you the start you need to find out details.

TRIPLET PRAYER MINISTRY
For details contact Dian Long, 0424-73-9733

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP
For details contact Martha Berg, 0424-68-0260

God Is At Work In Japan!

Development of a Negative



Tim and Katie Cole

For this special women's edition I asked Katie Cole to share her testimony with you. *Katie Sisco.*

Heaven is a wonderful place,
filled with glory and grace,
I'm gonna see my Saviour's face.
Heaven is a wonderful place.

Do you know the refrain that is often added to this chorus? "I wanna go there."

Being in heaven with Jesus. That is our reward. That's why Christ died for us. That's what we teach our children. That's what we've come to Japan to preach.

"I wanna go there" is **not** what immediately went through my head when my doctor told me I had to have further testing after an abnormal Pap result. I sobbed while washing dishes that night. "Lord, why have You given us four children and another on the way if You don't want me to be their mother? I really would like to grow old with Tim and go to be with You when I'm done with this life down here!" To say it was a hard weekend is an understatement. Then came the biopsy and waiting another five days for that result. We talked and prayed and assumed God would come through for us—and that the result would show—no cancer.

Why is it that we always expect good things from God? I never prayed, "Lord, please give me cancer to help me trust You more." "Please bring me close to death so that I can learn where my priorities in life really are." I never thought, "It would be great to have to choose between my life and the life of my unborn baby so that I could better understand what others

go through." As small trials have come my way, I *have* quipped, "God must want me to learn more patience." I was brought face to face with myself, though, in the midst of this big trial.

One thing that shocked me was that I wasn't ready to "die and be with Jesus" even though I always thought I longed for that. I was shocked that maybe I loved my children and my husband more than the Lord. If I had been alone in a vacuum I would have gladly died and been gloriously happy to be in Heaven. But God didn't place me in a vacuum. He had given me family and friends, a husband and children. I had lessons to learn in trust. Even if I did die, God would take care of my loved ones. I needed to release that to Him and get on the right track in dealing with death and Heaven.

Cervical cancer is normally considered one of the "good" cancers because it can be surgically removed and the survival rate is close to 100%. However, I was 11 weeks pregnant. When my doctor showed us the diagnosis he explained that "micro-invasive" meant the cancer was already spreading. He said the only thing to do was abort the baby and have a hysterectomy. I'd like to say I smiled and told Tim I agreed wholeheartedly when he said, "Are we in agreement that no matter what, we will save the baby?" Instead I wanted to hit him! It was fine for *him* to say that, it wasn't *his* body being sacrificed! What a dilemma! Of course I wanted to do anything to make sure that my baby lived, but I also wanted to be alive to be my baby's mother.

There were well-meaning people who told us we should definitely take care of

me first, seeing that we already had four kids and all. Does that mean that being a fifth child makes you of less value? That didn't seem right either. The Bible doesn't say that only the first few children are a blessing, but rather that the man whose quiver is full is blessed.

Right away we learned that we couldn't handle this alone. Not only did we rely on the Lord for strength and guidance, we realized the importance of the counsel of friends and the prayers of believers. Hearing, "I'm praying for you," gave us strength to believe God really was in control. We heard from Christians and churches with whom we had no contact who were praying for us and the baby. We even heard from some prisoners in Indiana and a women's Bible study group in Benin, Africa assuring us of their prayers! We laughed that this baby must be the most prayed for baby ever and wondered what plans God must have in mind.

I could feel the baby moving earlier than any of our others, as if to say, "I'm here and I want to live!" Our first glimmer of hope came from a doctor in the States who said, "Katie, I see about 7-8 women a year who are in similar



Levi(10), Emma(6), Caroline(1), Silas(8), Amos(3)



A Refreshing Book



Renewal on the Run: Encouragement for Wives Who are Partners in Ministry Jill Briscoe

Harold Shaw Publishers, 1992



Reviewed by
JoAnn Wright,
Baptist
General
Conference
missionary
since 1969.

Jill Briscoe sees the ministry wife's role as a privilege, and this positive attitude pervades her writing. At the same time, she is aware of the frustrations involved and has a burden for those struggling with problems in partnership ministry.

Some of the issues addressed are: coping with limited resources and high expectations (Your worth is not determined by the size of your church); living with criticism (including nine practical ways of dealing with it); adjusting your role to

suit your temperament and God-given gifts.

The author stresses the importance of self-image and how it is nurtured by our friendships and our mate, but must be based on God and His Word. No husband can be the sole source of his wife's ego. She encourages us to find friendship, not necessarily limited to our own church or team.

How to find renewal on the run? We are challenged to escape our busyness and not be like Martha—too busy to be blessed. "Come ye apart and rest awhile—as Jesus invited you. If you don't, you may well find yourself coming apart." We must choose daily to spend time in prayer and the Word, at times in personal retreat.

You will enjoy Jill Briscoe's humor and encouragement, coming from years of ministry in her native England, as well as in the U.S. where she serves with her pastor-husband, Stuart Briscoe.

situations to yours. I have not yet lost a mother or a baby to this." In 30 years of practice he said he'd seen only one instance of having to choose the life of the mother over the baby. Imagine! This excuse is given so frequently by those who want to abort a little one.

Bouyed by this hope we went to the National Cancer Institute in Tokyo. The doctor there also said that I should be able to carry the baby to term and have surgery afterwards. What wonderful news! I had additional tests along the way and an otherwise normal pregnancy. Our incredibly prayed for baby made her entrance into the world on September 12, 1992. The supervising doctor was the one who had told us we needed to abort her. He was impressed by the whole experience and has agreed to counsel women differently from now on. Isn't God good?

We thought the miracle would be complete if the cancer disappeared with Caroline's birth, but it was still there. Five months later I had surgery and subsequent tests have come back "clean." God is allowing me to be mother to my five children for now. I've learned not to take that for granted.

God doesn't only give us things that appear to be "good." But He is faithful. He provides us with strength, wisdom and encouragement through His Word and His people. None of us live in a vacuum. We live in families and in the body of believers. God has brought me through a difficult time. He has blessed us with a beautiful baby girl. Through His grace and the encouragement of the body He has given me a taste of Heaven. I really do wanna go there!

Tim and Katie Cole came to Japan with TEAM in 1984.

Summer is Coming So is H.B. London

You can enjoy them both in Karuizawa August 1st through the 3rd at the JEMA Conference. Rev. London is Assistant to the President at Focus on the Family where his main assignment is to serve as liaison to pastors and churches. His main goal is to be a catalyst for the spiritual renewal and restoration of pastors and their families. First cousin to Dr. Dobson, he has has a long history in the pastorate, including two radio programs and a T.V. program. He is committed to world outreach and evangelism and at the same time cares about individuals. His motto is "God loves you as though you were the only one in all the world to love..."



Rev. London will be accompanied by Jim Daly, International Director for Focus on the Family. Jim is eager to help develop a ministry to missionaries.

Join us in Karuizawa for renewal, encouragement and challenge! See you August 1st.



日本語研究所 • From the Language Lab

by Miriam Davis, OMF Japanese Language Center in Sapporo

The Hymn *In the Sanbika*

The language of hymns is notably difficult for missionaries to grasp. In fact, it appears that many Japanese themselves at times have only a vague idea of what they are singing. However, there are certain classical or literary verb forms, worth learning as they will recur in many of the hymns. For this reason some of them are explained in the familiar hymn below.

賛美歌 #9

1. ちからの主を
ほめたたえまつれ、
わがこころよ、いましも目さめて、
たてごと
かきならしつつ、
御名をほめまつれ。

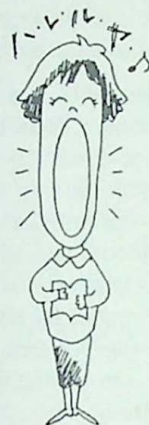
ちからの主 Lord of strength
ほめたたえまつれ = ほめたたえ申し上げなさい
A composite of the two verbs ほめたたえる (to praise) and まつる (polite form used in worship of and prayer to God). まつる is used as an adjunct for other verbs and has the meaning 申し上げる or いたす (a humble form).
~しも A particle used to emphasize the following expression. Not used in present day Japanese. Modern day equivalents would be *こそ* and *や*.
目さめる To wake up
たてごと Harp
かきならしつつ While playing
御名をほめまつれ Praise the name (of the Lord).

2. すくいの主を
ほめたたえまつれ、
みことばもて
わが身をはげまし、
なやみに
かたしめたもう
みいつたぐいなし。

すくいの主を ほめたたえまつれ Praise the Lord of salvation
みことば The word of God
もて A form of 持つて. Means *で* or *によって* (with).
わが身 My soul (body)
はげまし En couraging (はげまし = はげまして)
なやみ Troubles
かたしめたもう Helps (me) overcome
かつ to overcome
しめる (old literary causative form)
たもう = くださる
みいつ み honorific いつ authority, power (used of God)
たぐいなし Without compare (literally "no other kind")

3. いのちの主を
ほめたたえまつれ、
しげきめぐみ
あめとふりそそぐ。
つきせぬみいつくしみを
いかでわするべき。

いのちの主を ほめたたえまつれ
Praise the Lord of life
しげき Always, continuously Adj.
めぐみ Grace
あめと = 雨となって Becomes rain
ふりそそぐ Is poured out, down
つきせぬ Unceasing. つきる To cease,
~せぬ Old form for ない
みいつくしみ Loving kindness. み (honorific)
いかでわするべき = どうしてわすれましょう、
meaning わすれませんか。 How could it be
possible to forget (God's loving kindness)?
いかで = どうして、わする = わすれる



4. さかえの主を
ほめたたえまつれ、
世をこぞりて
かしこみあがめよ。
ひかりにいますわが主を
とわにほめまつれ。

さかえの主を ほめたたえまつれ
Praise the Lord of glory
世をこぞりて All people of the world
こぞりて Everyone
かしこみ With fear, respect かしこむ (vb)
ひかりにいますわが主を Our Lord who is
(bathed) in light
とわに Forever, eternally
ほめまつれ Praise (Command form)

by Christine Milby

How to Prevent Church Drop Outs

December 5, 1993

How can believers be prevented from dropping out of church life, and how should these drop outs be followed up?

Pastor Mitsuaki Yamamoto (Seisen Kirisuto, Sendai Church) says that in order to prevent drop outs he emphasizes faith until the rapture. "When a person makes clear a decision to enter the faith, I tell them that within the objective of salvation is the edification of the body of Christ. If only personal faith is emphasized, then faith becomes subjective and self centered. The life of faith necessitates encouraging one another in brotherly love."

Pastor Itoh (Assemblies of God, Shinohara Church) says that every member must contribute to the formation of a stable church. It is necessary that the three pillars of the church—worship, evangelism, and nurture—are solid and that the faith which the church exhibits toward God be attractive. The church should be a warm and happy place where every visitor is welcomed. It is also important that common sense be operative in the church. There are, of course, areas in which faith transcends common sense, but these should not go against society's ordinary expectations. When something happens in the church that goes against common sense, people are more likely to stumble.

Rev. Itoh observes that people who make a clear salvation decision are less vulnerable to dropping out than those who are more influenced by the atmosphere of the fellowship, so he conducts four month baptism classes and emphasizes continued Bible studies.

Shinohara Church maintains a steady flow of communication from the church to each individual over an extended time. Each visitor receives a warm welcome. Their addresses are entered into a computerized mailing list and invitations and evangelistic materials are regularly sent. Counselors are assigned to seekers to guide them to a clear faith. The computerized list of visitors and former attenders is periodically adjusted as appropriate. People who have not been to church for several years still receive invitations to special events such as Christmas and Easter programs.

Pastor Matao Okamura (Nippon Domei, Yokosuka Chuo Church) also emphasizes the importance of keeping

contact with people by mail who don't come any more. His church holds special meetings monthly. There is an evangelism work day scheduled before each one. The workers are divided into two groups, inner and outer. The inner workers use original church stationery and prayerfully send hand-written letters to those who have not been attending. The outer workers pass out flyers in the neighborhood.

There are many reasons why people may not come to church. Many with small children find it difficult to go to church, and students who enter college often become busy with school activities and part time work. But if the church continues to inform them of its activities and shows a welcoming attitude, often they will opt to come back to church when their situations change.

Kyokai Seikatsu no Tsukare to Sono Kaifuku (Church Life Fatigue and How to Recover From It) by Rev. Hori, was published recently by Word of Life Press. Anyone who has been a Christian for long can probably identify with the title. This book says that even when an individual has a wonderful personal faith, if the group is legalistic or lacking in warm fellowship or its understanding of the faith life, the believer can experience psychological pressure and not fit into the group. Sometimes even the act of going to church increases nervousness and may bring on neuroses in some people. If a person has a tendency towards depression, it is likely to worsen. As a solution to such a situation, the book suggests that mature believers be alert to areas in which church life may deviate from scriptural standards and then take corrective measures.

Other areas mentioned were unity between the pastor and officers, member care, recognizing individual differences, acknowledging the various weaknesses and changing situations individuals are coping with and adjusting the church's expectations accordingly.

A Video Bible for the Sign Language Culture

Nov. 14, 1993

Sign languages have an entirely different nuance than the national language from which they are derived. Because sign language is communication based on the movements of the hands and expressions of the face and upper body,

it does not follow the grammatical patterns of spoken and written Japanese. In fact, thought patterns and modes of expression are so different that the language gives rise to a whole new culture. So much so that the regular Japanese Bible does not speak to the deaf. The Japanese deaf, in effect, do not have the Bible in their own language.

The Japan Sign Language Bible Association has been founded to solicit prayer and cooperation for a project to translate the Bible from the original languages directly into Japanese sign language.

Conservative Baptist Missionary Mark Penner, the chairman of the executive committee of the Japan Sign Language Bible Association (formed by churches active in evangelism to the deaf) has been ministering to the hearing impaired in Japan since 1983.

The Japanese Sign Language Bible will of necessity use the medium of video. The Association covets your prayers and support.

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KANSAI NEWS

compiled by Nancy Sorley

Church Planting Workshop

JEMA Kansai held a seminar at the YWAM center in Takatsuki on November 30. The theme was working as teams in planting churches. Larry Nicholas of YWAM and Reidun Engene of Norwegian Missionary Society spoke and shared their experiences concerning team ministries.

Joan Stoller gave a presentation introducing Church Information Service and sharing statistics relevant to church activities in the Kansai area. Barry Potter, JEMA's president, led a discussion concerning the future of JEMA Kansai.

94 Hiroshima Mission Crusade (*Senkyou Taikai*)

Hiroshima actually lies outside the Kansai area, but pray for this major evangelistic outreach to coincide with the Hiroshima Asian Games to be held there in October of 1994. The dates for the meetings are 9 and 10. At the present twenty local churches have committed themselves to this outreach.

JEMA Annual Meeting

Mission Leaders' Consultation

(Feb 13,14) "Meeting the Finance Challenge" was addressed by Dick Owen, Business Manager of CAJ. His lecture is available upon request. "Meeting the Ministry Challenge" featured ministry case studies by Dave Bindewald (SEND international), Charlie Williams (Southern Baptist), and Tim Cole (TEAM).

Plenary Session (Feb 15)

New Mission Group Joins

For the first time in the history of JEMA a non-Western mission group has become a member of JEMA. The Korea Missionary Fellowship in Japan (Chairman-Shin Ho Kim) was welcomed into JEMA. The fellowship was formed four years ago, grouping 94 missionaries sent by a number of Korean mission agencies.



New Commission Formed

Another first was the decision to form a new JEMA commission called "Women in Ministry."

Crusade Greetings

Rev. Koji Honda and Akira Izuta gave greetings and expressed thanks for the missionaries who were involved in the Mission 94 Billy Graham Crusade.

Leadership Changes

The annual elections brought two new members to the executive committee, Gene Taylor of SEND International as Vice President and Reimer Clausen of North American Baptist as members-at-large. Ed Schlossmacher was reelected at Treasurer.

Ron Sisco of OC International was elected as President to replace Barry Potter, who finished



**Ron Sisco, New
JEMA President**

his two year term. Under Barry's leadership JEMA has strengthened the Kansai chapter fellowship, has launched into an emphasis on missionary care, and has begun to more actively in-

volve women through the new Women in Ministry Commission.

It was announced that Katie Sisco has become the new chairperson of the Publications Commission and Editor-in-Chief of the Japan Harvest. She replaces Don Wright who will leave for home assignment in June.

Japan's Post-War Protestant Churches

Hugh Trevor of O.M.F. has released a very helpful book which JEMA is recommending to all missionaries. This handbook of Japan's churches includes a brief description of each denomination and sect in Japan (all 184). It includes 60 graphs, both of individual denominations and also of combined totals. The graphs show clearly that all Protestants, particularly evangelicals, have been growing. Price: 1,500 yen; For JEMA members, 1,200 yen. Please order from Rev. Trevor.



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JEMA Women's Spring Retreat

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04-274-8699 by April 15. Cancellation possible up to
May 2.

Don't miss this opportunity for fellowship, fun, exercise and encouragement.

The Jehovah Witnesses Continue to Grow

Among the 229 countries of the world in which J.W.'s are working, Japan stands out as a showcase for numerical and organizational growth. Japan's growth looks like this:

Year	Evangelists	Baptisms	Kgdm Halls
1969	7,634		
1973	18,562		
1981	55,872		
1984	92,022		
1988	125,062	9,340	2,033
1989	133,846 7.0%	10,596	2,124
1990	143,399 7.1%	11,166	2,355
1991	153,823 7.3%	11,877	2,560
1992	165,823 7.8%	12,364	2,875

Each home throughout Japan is being visited regularly by the J.W.'s. In some parts there is a visitor every three weeks. In some places in Osaka the number of

evangelists has increased to a point that each home is visited every week, and there is a growing frustration because there aren't enough places for all the people to visit.

The New World Translation Research Center (Kanagawa) urges us to five actions: 1) Pray about the problem. 2) Study to get a correct understanding of their teachings and activities. 3) Start a study group in your church. 4) Develop a group who can counsel with people involved in J.W.s. 5) Aggressively distribute tracts that warn people about the J.W. teachings, and the difference between evangelical Christianity and the cults.

Home With Jesus

Paul W. Boschman died on January 19, 1994. He served as a missionary with the General Conference Mennonite Mission in Japan from 1951-1971. He was 70 years old, living in Abbotsford, B.C., Canada.

Dr. John Mair Lisgar Young died February 1, at his home in Georgia, USA following a lengthy illness. He was 81.

Dr. Young lived under the Japanese flag in four countries; in Korea as a missionary child, then later in Manchuria, China and Japan as a missionary for 27 years. He retired in 1981 after 14 years as a professor of Bible and Missions at Covenant College. He then returned to Japan for 6 years of church planting ministry with Mission to the World (PCA), retiring again in 1987.

He was the founding president of Tokyo Christian Theological Seminary in 1950 and was a member of the founding board of trustees at CAJ the same year.

He is most well known for his book on the history of the Christian struggle in Japan, *The Two Empires of Japan*, 1959.

John Young has two sons ministering to Japanese. Bruce serves as Japan Presbyterian Mission chairman. Steve is currently starting a Japanese church in Melbourne, Australia, having previously worked in Japan for 8 years.

Mrs. Olive McVety passed away February 26 at her residence in Tokyo. She and her husband, Ken, came to Japan in 1949 as TEAM missionaries. She taught music at CAJ for many years and was active in organizing the Tokyo Women's Luncheon, as well as Bible studies.

She had been suffering from Parkinson's disease since 1982. Her courageous struggle, along with her constant attitude of praise and thankfulness to the Lord throughout her suffering was a beautiful testimony to many.

Your Prayers Requested

Please pray for Evelyn Cole, for her healing from cancer. She and her husband, Frank, have been missionaries in Japan since 1952. Their son, Tim, serves in Japan with TEAM.

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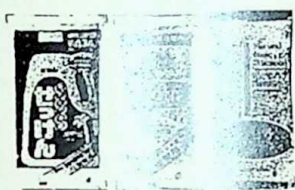


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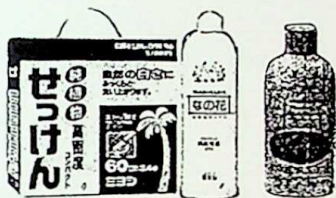
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