



JAPAN HARVEST

Fall 2001
Japan Evangelical Missionary Association

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室キリスト教会

Celebrating a Year of Jubilee
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Japan Harvest Magazine

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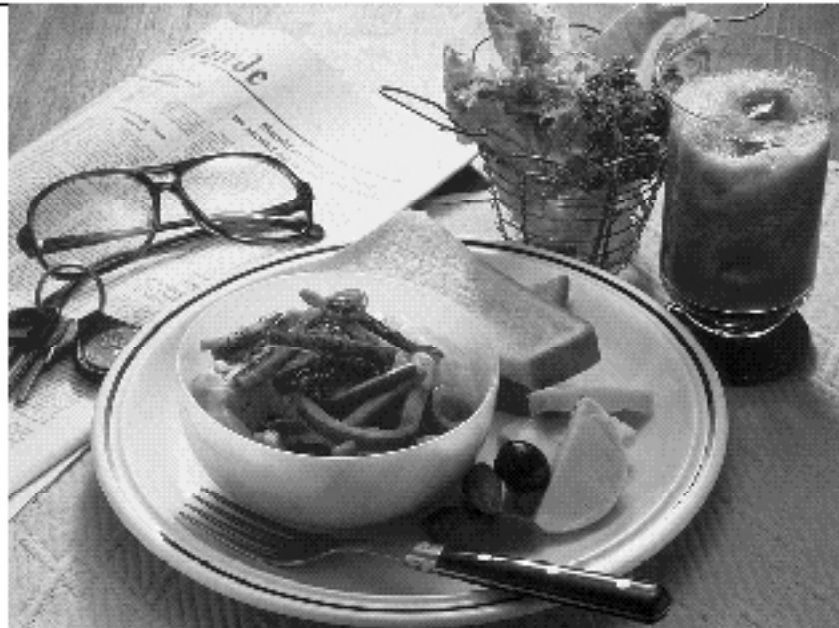


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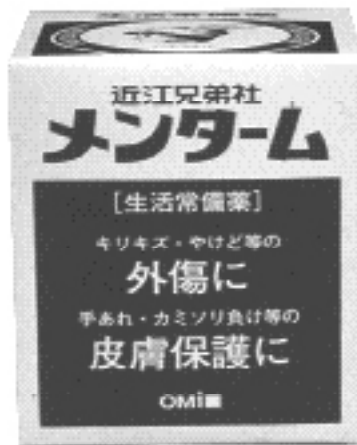




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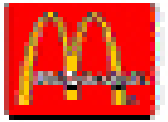
OFFICE

Okinawa	Feb. 2 - 4	Naha Nazarene Church	098-832-0309
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Osaka	Feb. 14 - 16	Marumiyama Piloty Hall	0724-44-7550
Kobe	Feb. 18	Japan Christ Koto Chuo Church	0724-44-7550
Kyoto	Feb. 18	Kyoto Yamachi Hall	0724-44-7650
Tokyo	Feb. 24 - 26	Yasotsubashi Church	03-3291-1910
Hokkaido	Feb. 27 - Mar. 1	Sapporo Prince Hotel	011-261-6891

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JAPAN HARVEST

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MOVING? Contact the JEMA office so we can update our files!

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From the President's Pencil

By the time you read this we should be well into the twenty-first century. What lies ahead of the church in Japan? Persecution? Noticeable growth? Severe shortage of able pastors? New expressions of church life? More of the same?

There does seem to be a rising self confidence in the nation so perhaps Japan is learning to say NO. Will this lead to persecution of Christians? Young people's attitudes seem to be changing, but how deep rooted are these changes? Will they conform when they begin to work? Will the government's efforts to promote IT technology bring lasting changes? Will Japan become more open and so more likely to change? If there is a resurgence of nationalism, will that bring persecution of Christians? Would these things necessarily lead to growth?

Will the returnees return here with vibrant faith and new expressions of worship? Will their ways of doing church lead to basic changes in the way church happens here? How is the church going to cope with an aging

society? Will the missionary community be in the forefront of these changes or will we be, as often happens, once again reacting to change? Or will we and the church choose to carry on as usual and perhaps miss out on a tremendous opportunity for the gospel? The JEMA sponsored Church Planting Institute could have a significant role to play in the next few years. The next conference is planned for NOVEMBER, so it might be a good idea to plan now to be there.

Are we missionaries in danger of saying all the right things and yet perhaps doing the wrong things? Are we praying for Japan in a meaningful and consistent way? What are we doing which shows our loving Father in heaven that we really do desire to see many more Japanese believe in the Lord Jesus? Are prayer and the Word first in our lives? Are we using spiritual weapons to achieve spiritual ends? Are we like the son of the prophet who lost the head of his axe and yet continued to swing away with the handle?

May this new year of opportunity see each one of us seeking the Lord and

His righteousness for the benefit and blessing of many Japanese.

Yours with Him in the struggle,

Paul



SPRING Issue:

Featuring Honshu/Kansai District
Theme: Kansai Culture
and the Gospel Message

Please help us make this an inspiring and informative issue. We welcome your articles and photographs.

Submission deadline: February 28, 2001 with publication set for mid-April.

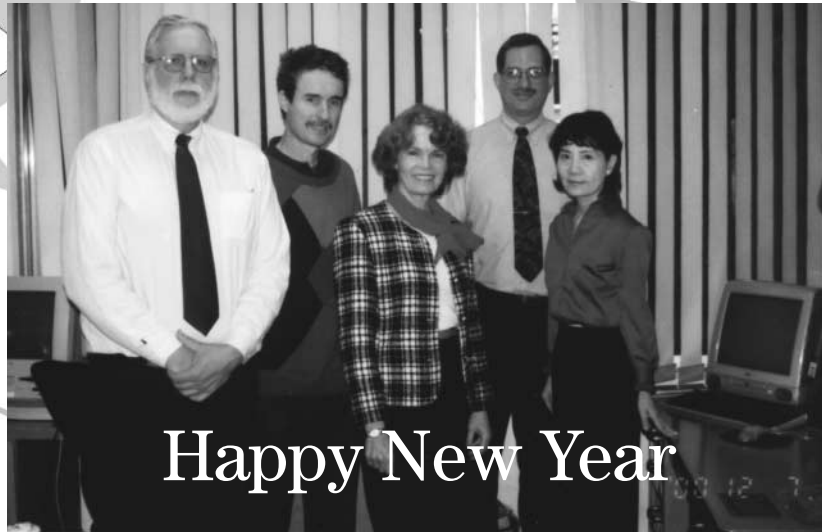
Summer Issue: Our **Jubilee Edition**

SPECIAL THANKS to all those in Hokkaido who helped with the Winter issue!

JEMA Datebook 2001

Event	Date	Place
JEMA Prayer Day	January 15	OCC, Navigator's Room
Leaders' Consultation	February 25-27	Okutama Fukuin no Ie
Plenary Session	February 27	OCC
WIM Spring Retreat 2001	March 7-9	Megumi Chalet
Christian Women's Fellowship Conference	March 10	Sapporo Bible Church Shiroshi, Sapporo
Nagoya JEMA Prayer Time	April 23	See Page 23
Tokyo Prayer Summit	May 15-18	Okutama Bible Chalet
Western Prayer Summit	May 21-24	Hiruzen Bible Camp
JEMA Summer Conference	July 29–August 1	Karuizawa Union Church

Our 50th Year



Left to right, Jim Rew, John Somers-Harris, Janice Kropp, Russ Epley, Mizuko Matsushita
Not pictured, Paul Pike, Dave Scott, Don Wright, Ken Young

Happy New Year

From the Publications Commission

This issue's theme, "GIFTEDNESS & THE GOSPEL," allows us to present a variety of methods by which the GOSPEL is communicated! Who can estimate the power of the printed page? It is a great joy to present to you the invaluable work of Word of Life Press Ministries and New Life League. Who can know how a church's address faxed, mailed or phoned will see the unsaved reached and discipled? It is our privilege to remind you of the Church Information Service. Novelist Aiyako Miura took Japan by storm with her newspaper series, "Hyoten" (Freezing Point). These, along with articles from fellow missionaries on the Island of Hokkaido, will warm your hearts. The Apostle Paul, when writing to the Corinthians, said, "You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody" (II Corinthians 3:2).

"Ministers sometimes worry whether people are paying attention. But the problem isn't the message, for they've already got the most powerful message in the world — the LOVE of God! The problem is rather one of communication: telling it in such a way that it will be heard.

Besides books and sermons, people learn about God by observing how Christians live. People come to know the love of God by seeing how it affects the lives of others. Words are important. But we also teach by the way we live" (reprinted from QUOTE). May God grant you a rich year of fruitful sowing and watering. We already know it is God who will give the INCREASE.

JAPAN HARVEST READER SURVEY RESULTS

Almost a year and a half ago, we on the JEMA Publications Commission felt the need to know, you, our readership better. A survey was distributed at all JEMA sponsored meetings. One hundred eight, 67 men & 41 women, responded. For 22% of those surveyed, English was a second language. (Thank you for persevering!) "News articles" and "Language/Cultural articles" headed the list of your interests. Fifty-six percent prefer four issues of the magazine per year and over half those surveyed gave words of praise and/or constructive criticisms.

Let us share with you how you have helped us.

Suggestions

- "not so much America centered"
- "use more attractive font"
- "translated materials"
- "please get the issues out on time"
- "more multi-media/including internet"
- "more articles on singleness by singles"
- "catch the typos, errors, etc.,"
- "include introductions of JEMA member missions"

Response

- concentrating on Japan
- print more readable
- translation from *Gospel for Millions*
- article deadlines & publishing dates
- Modern Tech page
- several articles in the Fall 2000 issue
- striving for excellence
- featured mission in almost every issue

We will pass out "Survey Final Totals" at the coming Plenary Session. Our thanks to you for helping us make our magazine the best it can be!

Hokkaido Patchwork

by Irene Hope

Dangerous Hokkaido bears, elegant race horses; wide open spaces, crowded city centers; hot humid (by Hokkaido standards) summers, icy cold winters; areas with little snow but plunging mercury, others with meter after meter of snow; hot spring resorts, modern swimming pool complexes; Ainu people brushing shoulders with Japanese; the barren crags of active volcanoes Komagatake and Mt. Usu, the Kushiro swamps providing a home for the red crested crane; these are some of the varieties in this island of Hokkaido which has been my home for 28 years.

Hokkaido is surrounded in three directions by Russia (the mainland, Sakhalin and the four disputed islands) and Russian sailors are frequent visitors to Otaru and Wakkanai. One of the early American advisors on the colonization of Hokkaido suggested that Muroran on the south coast would be a better choice for the capital city of the island than Sapporo, as the Russians might blockade the west coast. Pioneer settlers came to Hokkaido only about 130 years ago, so Japanese traditions are far less noticeable. There are fewer religious matsuri (festivals) than in other parts of Japan; people are probably more open in their thinking and Buddhism and Shinto are less strongly entrenched. For all that, people don't quickly come to believe in Jesus Christ. Churches use many methods to contact people with the Gospel ~ English, children's clubs, cooking classes and even patchwork groups.

Sapporo, with its famous Snow Festival during early February, is one among many places in Hokkaido that brightens up the long winter with huge snow models of famous buildings, popular TV cartoon characters or animals, and intricately carved ice models. From the end of November the White Illuminations in Sapporo's long, straight central Odori Park cheer up the dark days until it is time to begin building the snow statues. Those who are energetic have easy access to ski slopes in many areas of Hokkaido. The Winter Olympics were held in Sapporo in 1972, giving us our first subway train line. Some brave the elements to watch the ice flows on the sea around Abashiri and Monbetsu on the east coast.

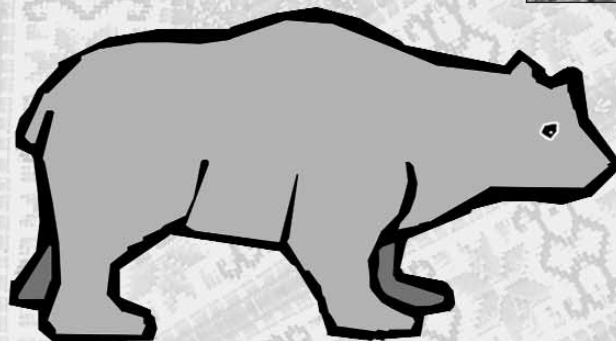
A long winter of snow shovelling makes us *kowai* (Hokkaido dialect for *tsukareta* ~ tired) and it's a long time until April when we can put away the mama dumps (large hand-pushed snow clearers) and winter tires. Cherry blossom viewing trips in early May to Shizunai or Matsumae help us forget these rigours of winter.

Between Asahikawa and Biei (famous along with Furano for its lavender-covered hillsides) you can branch off the main road onto the Patchwork Road. Some fields are ploughed following the contour of the hills, but others are ploughed up and down (how can the farmers keep their soil?) In summer the variety of crops they grow gives a pleasing mix of colour and texture.

Traditional Hokkaido *jingisu kan* is enjoyed on summer picnics ~ lamb and vegetables cooked in a pan the shape of Genghis Khan's helmet. Stalls at local festivals or in parks sell delicious *tokibi*, known to those in other parts of Japan as *tomorokoshi* (corn on the cob), cooked over a charcoal burner. Summer is a time when people explore the beauties of the Akan, Kussharoko, Masshuko area and Shiretoko Peninsular or marvel at the unusual phenomenon of a square-shaped sun in eastern Hokkaido. Some head south to enjoy the spectacular night view of Hakodate while others make for Wakkanai and sail to Rebun and Risshiri, the two most northerly islands of Hokkaido.

In the mid-19th century William S. Clark came from America to teach at the Agricultural College, which became the University of Hokkaido. Among the students in his classes were Nitobe Inazo, whose portrait appears on the ¥5,000 bank note and Uchimura Kanzo, theologian and founder of the "No Church Movement." A witness still continues on the campus, but as cloth for patchwork is cut to size, so Clark's famous watchword has been cut from the meaningful "Boys be ambitious for Jesus Christ!" to "Boys be ambitious!"

Irene Hope from Scotland, came to Japan with OMF International in 1972 and has served since that time in the OMF office in Sapporo.





When Small Means Big
 Jim Sandholdt of NEMURO, Hokkaido writes: Ali and I work in the area of evangelism and church development. I currently serve as pastor of *the only Protestant church in town*, the Nemuro Christian Church, founded in 1886. Located on a narrow peninsula surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and Sea of Okhotsk Nemuro is the eastern most city in Japan famous for its natural beauty!

Looking back over the years, we feel fortunate to have worked primarily in local churches. This has given us the opportunity to walk a few miles in a Japanese pastor's *geta* (Japanese wooden shoes). We've stubbed our toes on many of the same stones, waded through some murky potholes together, and once in a while, have paused at the top of a hill to admire the same breathtaking view. Most Japanese pastors minister to small congregations. (Nationwide average is 34.) Small congregations, however, have a lot to offer, but a poor self image often prevents them from seeing how God is blessing and using them. From our experience we know that small membership congregations can excel in at least three areas: prayer, leadership development, and cooperative ministries.

In connection with the Nemuro Church is the small preaching point of Hamanaka which had, "A Carpenter's Witness":

"If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's (Romans 14:8).

Hamanaka Township in eastern Hokkaido is a beautiful, albeit small, part of God's world. Gently rolling, grassy hills punctuated with the soft green of larch trees and the sharp black and white of Holstein cows never fail to delight tourists. Some city dwellers like it so much that they pull up stakes and move here, trading their fast-paced urban lifestyles for the more natural rhythms of a dairy farm or woodworking shop.

Ms Kayoko Yoshida did just that a few years ago. She found work as a milker on a dairy farm, and together with her retired father started a new life in this small community. God didn't intend for her new life to stop with just a change of scenery, however. Before long, *she read a book* that introduced her to Christianity and she started down the path to belief and baptism. Kayoko found other Christians in other towns nearby, but none in her own community. She began to pray, "Lord, don't let me be the only Christian in Hamanaka. Let someone else here come to know you, too."

A long five years passed before Kayoko saw the answer to her prayer. Meanwhile, she started a small "preaching place". That's where we met Kayoko's father, Yoshio Yoshida, a carpenter by trade. He was a gentle, quiet man who loved plants and animals and, until he was diagnosed with inoperable stomach cancer at age 75, was hardly sick a day in his life.

Although Mr. Yoshida had sometimes attended services at the preaching place, he didn't seem overly interested. Now the serious nature of his illness caused him to think deeply about spiritual things. One day he asked, "Someone like me, who hasn't even memorized the Lord's Prayer, couldn't become a Christian, could he?"

The answer to Kayoko's prayer was none other than her own father! From October 6 until his death on

December 27, 1998, there were two Christians in Hamanaka. Through his illness and death, although a Christian for only two and a half months, Mr. Yoshida was able to witness to several hundred people. It reminds us that God has been using carpenters (and many others, too) to change the world for the last 2,000 years!

Ali & Jim Sandholdt have been in Japan since 1981 and serve with American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

Be Who You Are
"So that by ALL possible means I might save some"
I Corinthians 9:22)

Ken Cowell of Kushiro City records: The Apostle Paul must have been very innovative in his presentation of the gospel. It appears he used anything and everything to present Christ. It didn't apparently occur to him that every method had to succeed every time. He didn't believe he could save all but some. Maybe we shouldn't be worried so much if we fail to succeed every time we try something.

Our work has not been particularly spectacular, but God has saved some. Let me explain.

Children are gifts from the Lord. In our early years here we were blessed with twin boys and a cute little girl all with blond hair. With hardly any other foreigners in our city you can imagine the attraction. (Our physical appearance can be a gift.) I believe the twins were instrumental in bringing a lady to Christ who also had twin boys, our boys' age. This believer later gave us the land on which our church building now stands.

A routine doctor visit with our little girl found one of the nurses interested in becoming her friend. In due time the nurse found Jesus. *Thank God for the gift of children.*

English teaching has been a means of winning people to Christ here. It was through a *juku* (cram school) run by university students for youth in junior high school that one became a believer and is now a part of our church body.

Cooking and craft classes make spreading of the gospel easy and natural.

Friendship is something every believer can use in reaching people for Christ. We must avoid the danger of making evangelism the work of “specialists” thus causing the majority of believers to leave it to those who seem to have special gifts. Giftedness is something to be used in evangelism, *but godly living, prayer and the power of the Spirit are indispensable.* God uses those with special gifts and He uses those who don’t seem to have them. *Surrender is key.*

Ken & Christine Cowell have been in Japan since 1972 and serve independently.



Going Down to Go Up
Irene Hope writes the following after talking to Lee Soo Goo & Sook Il, Marianne Murphy and Joy Cho:

Middle-aged Mrs. Tadaki grasped the rail tightly and pulled herself up the stairs. It seemed a long climb up to the second floor where the church service was held. Her collagen disorder made it difficult for her to walk properly, no less to climb stairs. The joy of returning to her beloved church, Sapporo International, after four months in the hospital spurred her on.

The first time she called at the church things were very different. She told the missionary, “I don’t know why I came today. My legs just brought me.” Her hairdresser, Mrs. Kuroyanagi, had been baptized at Christmas 1999. She was so full of joy in her newfound faith that instead of her usual chatter, she bubbled over to her customers, telling them about Jesus Christ. She told Mrs. Tadaki of the church she had recently started attending, “But you would never go to church,” she added. Maybe that was just the right way to challenge Mrs. Tadaki. “Oh, yes, I could go too,” she responded.

She went to church at which time the missionary invited her into the church office and they began to talk. After a bit this rather coldhearted

woman began to cry like a baby. She had been divorced in her 30’s and was now worried about her daughter’s divorce. She had to be strong to bring up her child on her own. “This is the first I have had any warm feelings,” she confessed to the missionary.

Mrs. Tadaki began coming to the church every Sunday and started studying the Bible. Like her hairdresser, she trusted in the Lord too. But what was she going to do about her *kamidana* (god shelf)? She had dearly loved her father and the thought of throwing out the *kamidana* he had worshipped at made her sad. She struggled for some time, but finally realized that she had to obey God. She was baptized Easter 2000.

In June she had to give up work to enter the hospital with her leg problem. Church members, remembering the cold, critical person she had been, were amazed at how bright and cheerful she had become. She told them, “If I hadn’t become a Christian I might have died because of all my troubles. I’m a perfectionist, and I get so frustrated when things don’t go just right.” Instead of giving in to her problems she witnessed to many people in the hospital and as a result a girl from a town in southern Hokkaido started attending church.

Leaving Sapporo International Church to return home after worship on this happy day, one wonders what going back down those stairs must have been like?

Irene Hope serves with OMF and has been in Japan since 1972. She serves in the mission office.



Gospel Fever Hits 5
Janet Dallman’s measures the temperature as she witnesses God at work.

Sapporo has caught the Gospel fever! I have been in Japan for just over two years and began working in a church-plant west of Sapporo in July. Five have come into faith!

Ritsuko is married and in her early forties. She was baptized in April of last year after joining OVIC (One Voice in Christ) a Christian based

amateur Gospel choir. She was befriended by one of the Christian choir members and began Bible study. She had been moved by the song, “For God so loved the world” and said she entered into faith as she sang.

Miho is the leader of another gospel choir based in Sapporo called “A Miracle in Sapporo.” The miracle is that God saved her through singing Gospel music. Trying to resist the wooing of the Spirit thinking that Gospel was just another style of music, her heart was captured by the truth of the words. Miho was baptized at Hachiken Church in July. She is reaching unsaved members of her choir.

Ayumi was baptized just two weeks ago. After attending one OVIC Gospel choir workshop for five days she began seeking. Formerly Ayumi was a member of the cult True Light (Ma Hikari). She has thrown away all paraphernalia and altar related to the cult. Today she shines with joy.

Two more people have come to faith, just in the last few weeks, largely through singing in Gospel choirs. Please pray for these five as they continue in faith. Pray also for the continuing impact of Gospel music on choir members and on those who listen in Sapporo.

Janet Dallman and her husband, Peter, are with OMF and first came to Japan in 1998.



Blessing & Survival
Richard Goodall recalls, the saying of his missionary tutors, “God’s work done in God’s way will never lack

God’s support.” Speaking of financial matters as a missionary, I once thought we weren’t getting enough, and the Lord encouraged me with His word, “Give and it shall be given to you.”

The good examples of hard working elder missionaries have been a great inspiration from language school days on. Stuart & Marion Caldwell had great influence on us. They started a church in Hokodate in 1958 and are still going strong. (They celebrated 50 years of missionary work and have longer first-hand expe-

rience in church planting and nurturing of anyone I can think of.)

Our strategy for pioneering has been very simple — find a meeting place in the center of town, give out tracts with invitations to regular and special gospel meetings. We passed out flyers on street corners, from house to house and particularly outside school gates. We have found it wise to use our own home as the church meeting place.

And what about our children? All six went right up through Senior High School in Japanese schools. *God has lead each in His own way.* Five of our children, Gerald and his wife, Akemi, Christine, Joy, Daniel and Carol and her husband, are here in Japan serving and living for Christ, while Russell and his family are helping in a Japanese church in Auckland.

Richard & Connie just celebrated 40 years in Japan. They serve with Christian Missions in Many Lands and are in church ministry in Muroran City, Hokkaido.



*Listening & Learning
Simon Crittle writes notes
he gathered at Sapporo
Japanese Language Center
when veterans Tony and Pat*

Schmidt spoke.

Relationships come first. The most important thing in ministry is our own close walk with God. We owe that to our co-workers and the people to whom we minister. Loving relationships are important, for couples and teams.

When it comes to teamwork try to

see if your teammate's weakness might be your strength, or the other way around. Cover for one another. Missionaries should see all resources as resources for the team instead of competing. Talk often and talk openly always assuring that above all else the best is desired for God's Kingdom.

Be out where the people are. Be friendly and if you err, err on the side of being friendly. Beware of spending too much time at the computer, or reading or preparing.

In church work keep in mind that *suggesting new ideas must be done slowly.* State an idea once, state it clearly and then back off. Wait for the Japanese brethren to pick up ideas.

Train believers to do everything you do. Try never to be indispensable. You might replace the sermon with a Bible-based testimony once every three months.

Emphasize Christian literature and have a well-stocked church library of books and videos. Bookshelves should be in a prominent place, including materials for both believers and seekers.

Be out in the neighborhood, but also *open your own home.* People include children. If you love kids there will always be a place in the hearts of parents and grandparents for you.

Simon and his wife, Megumi, came to Japan in 1996 with OMF and are presently on home assignment.

Tony and Pat Schmidt are also with OMF and first came to Japan in 1970. They are presently in church planting.

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Ayako Miura, Author of 8 Million Seller Books

Translation by Junko Nakagawa

It all began while she was working in a grocery store in Sapporo! Asahi Daily News Paper ran an ad for anyone to submit his/her writing for a series to be carried daily. Along with others Ayako responded and was chosen for her story in 1962. The story entitled, "Hyoten" (Freezing Point) took the Japanese by storm. The response to the newspaper series was so enormous that the story was dramatized for television. (This was long before everyone owned a tv, so people often gathered in local stores to watch the suspense filled intriguing story unfold.) That same year the novel was published and won a prize, with sales of over one million. Of 731 novels submitted in 1989, *Hyoten* was chosen and the writings of Mrs. Miura became known and loved.

Ayako was born in Asahikawa City in 1922. She graduated from Asahikawa Women's Senior High School and became an elementary school teacher at the young age of seventeen. After teaching for seven years she became disillusioned with the militaristic slant in education and she left her position.

That same year, Ayako became ill with tuberculosis of both lung and spine and she found herself in bed for the next 13 years. While in the hospital she met again her childhood friend, who has since deceased, Mr. Tadashi Maekawa, then a student of Hokkaido Medical University. It was he who led Ayako into faith in the Lord Jesus. She was later baptized by Rev. Rinzo Onomura of Sapporo Kita Ichijo Church in 1952.

Upon being discharged from the hospital and recuperating at home, Ayako was introduced by a friend to

her husband to be, Mr. Mitsuyo. They were married in 1959 when Ayako was 37 years of age.

Mrs. Miura's first novel, *Hyoten* became known throughout Japan as a "Hyoten Boom" and this started her on her prize-winning career as a writer. She was fully supported by her husband who often recorded her oral notes, as she found herself too ill to write. Mr. Mitsuyo left his job in the forestry department to devote himself totally to his wife's needs.

"Shiokari Toge" (Shiokari Pass), "Hitsujiga Oka" (Sheep Hill), "Deiryuchitai: (Swampland) were novels which took place in Hokkaido. "Michiariki" was her biography, a trilogy with essays published in 1969. "Juguchi", with a wartime theme, was her longest novel written in 1994. In every novel the themes of the sins of mankind, LOVE and FORGIVENESS were clearly portrayed. There are many of her readers who have put their faith in Jesus Christ.

Hyoten was a novel that sold 3,400,000 volumes. Miura wrote more than 80 books selling 30,000,000.

Following a busy and courageous life, Ayako Miura passed into the presence of her Lord on October 12, 1999. The people of Asahikawa City in Hokkaido and her fans throughout Japan worked together to build the Miura Ayako Kinen Bunkai Kan. The previous year in June the Miura Ayako Memorial Kinenbugaku



Kan (Literature Center) was opened. The center is situated in a forest of trees gathered from many foreign countries and through this luscious green flows the Biei River, ever running, ever singing the praises of one of Japan's great Christian writers!

Over 100,000 visitors walked these grounds last October at the time of Mrs. Miura's death.

Some additional prizes awarded to Mrs. Miura were the Iharasaikaku Prize (Nobel Juju chi) in 1996 and then in November of that year she received the Hokkaido Bunka Sho (prize). July 1, 1997 the Asian Christian Literature Prize was awarded and in August of that same year the Hokkaido Kaihatsu Korosho (Development Contribution Prize) was given.

Was Mrs. Miura ever criticized for her writings? Sure she was, but it never bothered her that people said her writings were so simple that a child could understand. That was exactly her hope and dream, that anyone and everyone would be touched by her Christian message!

This article is a translation from the February 2000 issue of "Gospel for the Millions" (Hyakuman no Fukuin). Our heartfelt thanks to Junko Nakagawa for her excellent work.



Celebrating 50 Years

by Don Regier

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Word of Life Press Ministries (WLPB). Over the years, WLPB has earned the trust of evangelical churches and has matured along with them.

The 70s and 80s were years of growth for WLPB. During these years of a strong Japanese economy, it became Japan's largest Christian non-profit publishing, wholesaling and retailing enterprise.

When the "bubble economy" burst, however, churches experienced hardship as members lost jobs and struggled to keep church ministries afloat. This affected WLPB, and for seven years sales fell in its 17 stores and wholesale division. Believers became cautious in their spending. Furthermore, banks were reluctant to grant loans to any companies that not



Mr. Motoyoshi Tago

showing large surpluses.

Under President Motoyoshi Tago, the leadership team asked God to

direct in new ways. This resulted in many new outreaches.

What has WLPB been doing and how has it survived?

Consolidating Facilities

We needed to make operations more efficient. This was achieved by combining our warehouse and wholesale divisions into one facility in Hachioji. In 1994, we closed four other stores in Tokyo, and consolidated them into the large and efficient Oasis Book Center. The convenient Shinjuku location saw steady improvement in sales.

Publishing divisions were also consolidated by moving Every Home for Christ, Creation Productions (EHC tracts) and CS Seicho Center out of the Ochanomizu Christian Center to other locations.

We sold the vacated OCC office space and used the proceeds toward some of the long-range needs of WLPB.

Living Praise was included under the management of Life Productions, *Living Bibles* under CS Seicho Center, and the Ministry to the Blind leadership was turned over to volunteers working in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hakoda. The English department also closed, and left that ministry to CLC.

This consolidation process meant downsizing staff from nearly 200 in the 1980s to 124 in 1998. This was not an easy thing to do for any of us, but

necessary in order to continue the ministry.

Unleashing Staff

Realizing that our greatest asset was staff, leadership sought ways to unleash their talents. Staff received training to improve skills. The annual report meeting was turned into a brainstorming session. People received prizes for the best product ideas. A Marketing Planning Committee of young, energetic members was formed to coordinate all of the strategies for the marketing divisions.

Each staff person visited several churches with the goal to introduce WLPB products and to find needs believers had that should be addressed in our publications. Also, younger staff moved into middle management. All of these changes worked together to produce a sense of ownership.

Creating Innovative Programs

In 1998, Mr. Tago and the leadership



Oasis Bookstore

team envisioned a program called START 21. The goal was to reduce inventory by half within a three-year period through aggressive sales. This rise in capital would help fund future publications.

Through activities, such as a nationwide traveling van, a fund-raising campaign for distributing tracts throughout Kyushu and sending free literature to Japanese overseas, we reached all START 21 campaign goals in just one year.

Consequently, we initiated a new program, SUCCESS 21, the next year to rebuild our company and continue

to develop capital for new products. This program focused on customer service. Thus, a Customer Service Center was set up to handle complaints and suggestions quickly.

In addition, WLPM employed new methods for marketing research ran three campaigns under the banner CELEBRATE JESUS 2000. To continue working towards the fulfilment of the Great Commission in Japan these three efforts were:

1) LOVE KIDS sponsors evangelistic celebrations hoping to attract 400 to 500 children in each of ten cities across the country. The preliminary meeting in Nagoya drew 120 kids along with 76 parents and Sunday School teachers. More meetings are scheduled throughout the next year. Publishing divisions will coordinate the release of new products such as music, books and tracts for children, with this effort.

2) LOVE JAPAN will promote revival and evangelism. This includes EHC's tract- distribution campaign throughout Honshu's unchurched or sparsely churched areas, in cooperation with Campus Crusade for Christ.

From June to August in Chiba, Niigata, Nagano, Yamanashi, Ibaragi and Gunma prefectures, over 500 young people, primarily from Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan, distributed tracts and audio-cassettes from the *Jesus* video.

Lena Maria and Joni Eareckson Tada will be featured in some of the various concerts, art exhibitions and other events across the country. New products will include videos, books and tracts.

3) LOVE JESUS focuses on helping believers know Jesus better and follow him more faithfully. Events with John Drescher, Philip Yancey and Hugh Ross, as well as Holy Land tours have been scheduled.

Penetrating Secular Markets

Our Forest Books imprint, aimed at sales in 11,000 secular bookstores, is making an ever-growing impact. One title, *You are Special*, a picture book with a story by Max Lucado, has sold over 30,000 copies. Forty-three percent of these have been sold in

secular stores. There are now ten high-quality pre-evangelistic titles in this imprint and stores are asking for more. *Sight 21 Magazine* is a new publication targeting non-Christian businessmen. In just its first year, the circulation has climbed to over 10,000.

In November, WLPM participated in the Bible Exhibition held at the Kinokunia Bookstore. The aim of this exhibition was to educate the general public by presenting 2000 years of Bible history.

Cooperating With Churches

The "Niigata Plan", as it has come to be known around WLPM, has been a successful model of cooperation with local churches. In Niigata, our staff met with the local pastors to discuss how we could help them in their ministry. We explained that we had to discontinue our inefficient delivery service by car to the churches.

Realizing the importance of keeping the store open, the churches rallied to help by providing volunteers and promising to come into the store. The Niigata Life Center has since moved to a new site, the first floor of a parsonage built next to the magnificent new Niigata Gospel Church. We have had similar responses from many other pastors around the country.

While some of the Life Center bookstores are in the black and some are not, most are growing stronger and increasing in sales. We did close our Nagano store, but our WINGS Service mail order department serves towns and villages without stores. We have even given advice and training to help pastors in Kumamoto and a Christian businessman in Gifu to open stores without the Life Center name.

New Programs and Ministries

WLPM continues to create new programs and ministries. In November 1999, for example, staff distributed tracts and announcements throughout Karuizawa in preparation for Megumi Chalet Karuizawa's (MCK) December events. Staff discovered that many residents did not under-

stand what MCK offered or that they were welcome. Some believed MCK was only for Christians.

Along with the tracts and announcements, newspaper articles helped to attract non-Christians to events such as the evangelistic concerts, dinners and dramatic outdoor illumination. On Christmas Eve, 300 cars (about 1000 people) and three TV stations came to see the special illumination of 50,000 lights. Also, there were 240 people who attended a concert given by Yuri Mori. Many local residents came to the events.

So far in 2000, WLPM's income is about the same as last year's and our profit/loss figure is better than it was at this time last year. We seem to be well on the road to ending the year in the black. So we continue with the ministry to which God has called us. Thank you for your prayers for WLPM.

Praise God with us for His blessing on WLPM for the last 50 years and the blessing God has allowed WLPM to be to the Body of Christ in Japan.

Raised in Hobart, Indiana USA, Don grew up in the Gary Bible Book Center, run by his family. Don was a short term missionary here from 1970-72. In 1980, Don returned as a career missionary with his wife, Martha. After a church planting ministry Don became a part of the Word of Life Press Ministry and is Director of International Relations.



A man's highest good would be and truly is, that he should not seek himself nor his own things, nor be his own end in any respect, either in things spiritual or things natural, but should seek only the praise and glory of God and His holy will.

-Selected



New Life League: Major Supplier of Bibles and Evangelistic Materials

by Roald Lidal, Director

For many years the story of New Life League, Japan could best be described by old printing equipment, inferior quality and a low standards. The, beginning was certainly not impressive, but God has used what was insignificant for His honor and glory. Today, NLL, Japan has become a major supplier of Bibles for countries where God's Word is not easily available, and a substantial provider of evangelistic materials for Japan and many other nations.

Since printing and publishing became the main area of ministry in 1959, NLL, Japan has experienced a steady growth. A few highlights are:

* The construction of a 1390 square meter building in 1972.

* In 1978 the very first brand new Bible press was purchased, and Bible printing for China and other nations was started.

* A major step was taken when a new multi-color web press at the cost of 280,000,000 yen was installed in 1986.

* In 1995, the facilities in Niiza had become too small; a new building with a total floor space of 4400 square meters was erected. At the same time another large Bible press was installed, greatly enhancing the production of Bibles and Gospel materials.

Along with new equipment came an awareness of the need for top quality at low cost. As more and more Bibles and Gospel literature were sent to spiritually hungering nations

throughout the world, it became increasingly clear that the need was overwhelming. God gave a renewed burden and vision to do something about the need. He blessed the ministry with prayer partners, donors and faithful, capable and dedicated workers from many different nations. He has seen fit to use NLL, Japan to bring the light of the Gospel to numerous nations, and to Him belong all the honor and glory.

Today, approximately 2000 tons of Scriptures are being printed on a yearly basis, yet this is still only a beginning.

During the first half of 2000, more Bibles were delivered to China than any previous full year. In addition, substantial amounts of God's Word are being printed for Russia, Romania, Kazakstan, Ukraine, Myanmar, Mongolia, the Philippines, and a number of African nations, etc. Modern, efficient presses are being

kept running on two and three shifts, yet the demands for Scriptures are not being met.

Another major agony is the slow advance of the Gospel in Japan. Publications like NEW LIFE have reached a total sale of more than 12 million copies.

Regular tracts and other evangelistic tools have also reached high sales figures, but the vast majority of Japanese are still untouched by the Gospel. This led to the major step of a planned monthly "manga" (cartoon) magazine. The vision is to reach the hearts of hundreds of thousands of un-churched, un-reached, non-interested souls on a regular basis.

In order to meet far more of an urgent need at home and abroad, New Life League, Japan has taken another major step of faith by ordering a press that represents the very best and fastest within printing technology. The burden and the aspirations of what this new piece of equipment can help accomplish is probably best expressed in NLL, Japan's new vision statement.

It reads: *Our vision is to see all nations saturated with the gospel, and desiring every Christian throughout the world to have a copy of God's precious, transforming Word, we believe God is calling us to double our capacity by installing another large web press, to annually deliver in partnership with others at least 5 million Bibles and 15 million gospel booklets to those who are lost without Christ.*



CHURCH INFORMATION SERVICE SPECIAL REPORT

This article is based on my interview with CIS Director, Mr. Yukio Hanazono & the paper entitled "History of Church Information Service"—the editor



Q: Mr. Hanazono, just exactly who are you?

A: I was led to Christ as a college student almost 40 years ago. My father was born into a family line of Shinto priests, but since he was the "san nan" (3rd son) he did not succeed to the priesthood. My father had faith in the Shinto gods both before and after the defeat of WWII.

As I watched my father's daily lifestyle, I gradually became atheistic in my thinking. I could find no god, but I knew that people said they believed in one.

As a 3rd-year college student, I knew I had to make a decision about the direction of my life. Having felt sad much of my schooling years, I was on

the search for joy. In connection with my agricultural studies, I went during the summer to the rural area of Mie Ken to live on a farm with my "sempai" (upper classman). I was there for 4 weeks. In my tatami room were many books and as I searched through them I found one written by a Christian. It was the testimony of Junichi Kotani entitled, *Ai no Kai* (Love agriculture and Save Mankind). I felt something as I read, so when I returned to school I entered a Bible class led by Florence Miller, who started pioneer evangelism in the same city as my college. Then I started attending worship. In March I was taken to a conference for university students. Well-known evangelist Koji Honda was the evening speaker. He noticed, I guess, that I had attended the seekers meeting that last afternoon and it seems he perceived my interest and need for Christ. He found me while I sat waiting for the evangelistic hour to begin and invited me to his room. That's where he led me to Christ!

(As the interviewer, my heart rejoiced in this shining testimony of the receptivity of the "hearer of the Word" and in the sensitivity of the gifted human agent who gave that Word!)

Q: Where did CIS get its start?

A: CIS grew out of JEMA, so there is the feeling of a mother/child relationship. We have always been grateful for wonderful support.

From the "History of Church Information Service" paper I gleaned the following:

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In 1969 Donnel McLean researched church information and produced a map of Japan clearly showing the as yet unchurched cities and rural areas. His purpose was to locate a needy area where he and his mission (AofG) could begin a long-term church planting project. When JEMA became aware of this research, they offered to reproduce both the tables and the maps for *Japan Harvest* magazine. This survey and map stirred quite a bit of interest in the missionary community.

JEMA then set up a Pioneer Evangelism Commission to handle such research and help missionaries.

1980 was the official opening of the CIS office, sharing space with JEMA at Ochanomizu Christian Center.

When the 2nd Congress on Evangelism was announced for June, 1982, CIS decided to compile a Survey of Postwar Church Development to present to the Congress. This was a huge undertaking going back to as early as 1950 for statistics.

Outgrowing JEMA office space, CIS moved to New Life League.

Miss Mio Kaneko, who had worked in the Billy Graham office, became invaluable to the work of CIS as her artistic abilities gave visual meaning to hard statistics.

It was in 1982 that CIS was able to computerize all data. It is with gratitude that special help was received from Mr. Toyoshima of Toyoshima Business Company, who worked out a contract to provide the first computer for CIS office use.

CIS has called several different places "home," with the present location in Kiyose rented in partnership with Japan Church Growth Institute. Deep thanks to Roger Hederstedt, Rob Gill and Bill Tribley for the part they have played in helping to get set up electronically. This has not been without its own excitement and stress.

In 1993 CIS officially organized and convened with a new Board of Operations, to which three Japanese and three missionaries gave leadership. Office staff has not been easy to come by, and when Millie Morehouse retired the need for her replacement was urgent. That was when the Lord

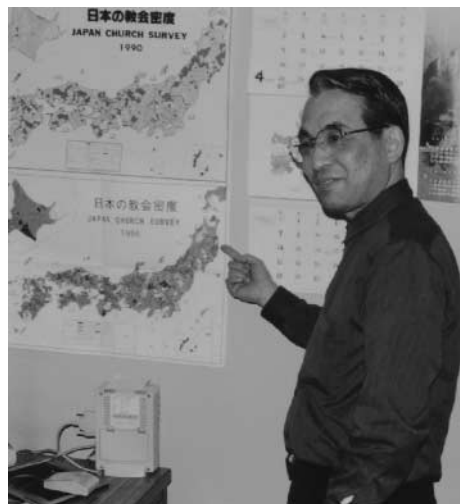
brought Mr. Yukio Hanazono in as a volunteer. He now heads up this valuable resource center for church information.

Q: What is the aim of CIS?

A: Our aim is to be supportive. We locate all existing churches and even make suggestions as to where new churches should start. Until now we have been helping missionaries more than the established Japanese church. My desire is to seek ways to help BOTH.

We gather church-related information, i.e., regions/prefectures, city populations, number of churches in each area, percentage increases during specified decades, density of population per church, church member numbers, Sunday attendance, number of Christians in populations, unchurched areas, etc.

We map churches. We constantly update our information. We spend much time on the telephone and in



preparing mailings. We receive calls even from non-believers asking questions about churches or what is proper for Christian funerals, etc.

Referrals are a big part of our ministry. In one year there were 54 pastors, 88 missionaries, 127 believers and 45 non-believers: total 314 referral calls.

Q: What keeps you going, Mr. Hanazono?

A: The surprises! Recently we

Continued on page 23



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THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

There are very few Christians or Jews who have not heard about “The Year of Jubilee.” The word “jubilee” has become synonymous with something that is very good, something that is worth celebrating. In fact, modern dictionaries give as synonyms for jubilee: celebration, anniversary, season of rejoicing, festival. A 50th anniversary is called a Golden Jubilee.

Something special happened after Israel completed seven cycles of seven years (49). A special bonus year, the 50th year, was introduced by God—“The Year of Jubilee.”

The Hebrew word for jubilee is *yovel*, whose original meaning is “ram” or “ram’s horn,” and commemorates the shofar blown to announce the beginning of the Jubilee year. *Yovel* became associated with the Latin term, “jubilum” (from jubilaire—to rejoice, to exalt) and so entered

our Bible as jubilee. On all other years, the shofar is blown on the 1st of the Hebrew month of Tishri, Rosh HaShana - New Year’s Day. But for the Jubilee year, the shofar was blown on the 10th of Tishri, which is Yom Kippur – the Day of Atonement (Lev. 25:9). And what did the sounding of the shofar proclaim in this special year? The principal message of the Jubilee year was freedom and release, “proclaiming liberty throughout the land” (Lev 25:10).

The three main purposes of the Jubilee year were: 1) the return of the land to its original owners, 2) rest for the land, and, 3) the freeing of all Hebrew slaves to return to their families and the family properties. It was a time set aside by God when justice would be restored.

HE IS OUR JUBILEE

Hallelujah, the Year of Jubilee really was a time of rejoicing for God’s

release, freedom and liberty. It was God’s purpose to give His people and His land, Israel, an opportunity to start over and have a second chance. How compassionate of God to do this. Many of us would certainly like to have a second chance to start over, even if it were only once every fifty years.

In spiritual terms, however, we don’t have to wait for a Year of Jubilee to receive our release. We can have it today!

This new year as we pray for ourselves, let us also pray for freedom, release, restoration and redemption for the people God calls, “My covenant people,” and for the land God calls, “My land.” While we are praying for ourselves, our family, our community and our nation, let us not forget to “pray for the peace of Jerusalem,” as well.

(Israel Teaching Letter, March 1998, No. 98-3)



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クリスチャン新聞 Gleanings from The Christian Shinbun

JAPAN GIDEON ASSOCIATION Celebrates Golden Jubilee

Over these 50 years Japan Gideon Association has given 27,555,649 Bibles to schools, hotels and prisons. "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy" was the slogan used at the October celebration. Japan Gideon Association gained independent status at the recent World Convention in Chicago, Illinois, USA. There are 157 branches with 2,600 members in this land.

2001 CHRISTIAN INFORMATION BOOK published by The Christian Shinbun records...Protestant churches are on the rise with an increase of 143 churches totaling 7,785.

Church growth is significant in Hokkaido and Kanto, but numbers are decreasing in Kyushu, with Saga Prefecture showing only one church per 30,000 people. Research shows slight increases in church growth in urban areas, while outlying areas are on the decline. Cities where church planting is not taking place are Akahira and Utashinai cities in Hokkaido, Obanzawa City in Yamagata, Shinminato and Namerikawa cities in Toyama, Ryoju City in Niigata, Mino City in Gifu, Matsuura City in Nagasaki and Kaseda City in Kagoshima.

YOUTH CONFERENCE ON EVANGELISM

Tokyo, is the venue and February 12, 2001 is the date set for The National Youth Conference on Evangelism. Similar conferences will also be held in Osaka, Nagoya and Hokkaido. With seminary student enrollment down and with few young people in our churches willing to commit to a life of service, such conferences are needed. Pastor Sugimoto of Machida Christian Center is the coordinator of the February conference. Sugimoto says these conferences will give vitality to the church and an opportunity for commitment.

PURPOSE DRIVEN CHURCH SEMINAR GETS A START

Pastor Rick Warren, of Saddleback Valley Church, recently came to Japan and talked with 50 Japanese pastors and their wives. He intends to bring his Purpose Driven Church Seminar here in the near future. More than 200,000 people have attended this seminar worldwide.

Before starting his pastoral career, Pastor Warren sent inquiries to churches the world over seeking the answer to why some churches grow while others don't. He learned that church growth was significant where the pastor stayed and worked over a long period. His conclusion was to work in one church for his lifetime.

Saddleback Valley Church, the second largest church in the United States, grew from two families in 1980 to 15,000 with 31 daughter churches. In six years 7,000 were baptized.

Rick Warren's book *Purpose Driven Church* is available at CLC.

JESUS IS MY BOSS— FILM RELEASE (Oyabun wa Iesu-Sama)

JESUS IS MY BOSS is the true story of a former Yakuza (Mafia) member. The film shows a life change from one of darkness and sin to brilliance and hope. The film's producer, scenario writer, director, actors and staff, who are non-Christians, feel this story could be a great influence on the Japanese, especially those who have "lost hope" and who are suicidal. Christians are promoting the film. It will be released to the public January, 2001.

Mizuko Matsushita has served as JEMA Executive Secretary since 1984. Her faithful service and knowledge are invaluable.



**What is Proficiency?
Part 2:
How can I reach a higher
level of proficiency?**

In my last article we looked at what proficiency is in terms of levels from Novice to Superior and what the language speaker is required to do in terms of tasks at each level of ability. Having defined 'proficiency' in these ways we now come to the all-important question, **'What do I need to do to get from my present level to a higher one, particularly when I am intermediate or above?'** It is always so encouraging to feel one's progress at the lower levels of proficiency. What you couldn't express yesterday you have learnt to express today. But once past the stage of learning basic sentence patterns **it is all too easy to get discouraged with lack of progress.** There are several reasons for this:

It is harder to assess progress at this level. Intermediate-plus levels tend to be evaluated in terms of breadth of vocabulary, fluency, communicative ability, appropriate social use of language and so on—less easily quantifiable factors than, for example, use of the past tense.

It is also true to say that **the more language you know the more potential there is for misuse.**

By the time many missionaries have reached an intermediate level of proficiency, they're likely to be on the point of leaving full time language study. **It is often very difficult to balance the desire to keep up one's language study with the demands of ministry.**

By the intermediate stage one can generally get by in life in Japan with the language one has. It is all too easy to be satisfied with **"getting by"**. This, in turn, can lead to what are known in language teaching as **"terminal intermediate learners"**, that is, speakers whose foreign language ability has ceased to develop and whose errors and limited vocabulary has become in some way "fossilized"

in their usage of it.

So what kind of practice is needed for the learner to break out of the bounds of intermediate level Japanese? Professor Makino of Princeton University in a recent lecture emphasized that **a key characteristic of intermediate speakers is speaking in sentences while the advanced learner is able to produce discourse, or sustain speaking in connected sentences on a single topic.** In other words, they are able to produce what in written speech would be called paragraphs. They have mastered the words and grammar necessary to connect their sentences appropriately (in Japanese *danwa bunpo*). Professor Makino pointed out that if the ability to do what he calls *hitori banashi* is a characteristic of advanced level speech, then the intermediate learner must practice doing just that, i.e. *hitori banashi*, if he is to progress to the higher level. In fact, giving a talk at a ladies' meeting or preaching the Sunday sermon are advanced examples of *hitori banashi*, but whether one has to speak in formal situations like this or not, most of us will be called upon even in informal conversation to do *hitori banashi*. If you are asked why you came to Japan, for example, you will need to explain using some consecutive and connected sentences. In leading Bible studies you may be drawing people out by asking questions, but at some point you are bound to find a need to summarize the teaching or attempt to explain what some Christian concept such as "grace" or "sin" means.

If you are an intermediate learner seeking to improve, find yourself a teacher willing to set you topics to speak on for a couple of minutes or more. Or choose your own topics according to your interests and needs. For example, your family, an item from yesterday's news, or Christian topics that so often crop up in conversation with Japanese, such as the difference between Protestants and Catholics. Start with simple topics

and build up to more demanding ones. You can prepare beforehand or simply do it impromptu if confident enough. **Best is if you have a language helper who can record you as you speak and then play back the tape correcting major mistakes, clarifying anything unclear, or introducing better ways of expressing something.** This is a method which has been effective in helping people to get fluency in praying too. Remember that fluency as an end in itself is no good without a reasonably high degree of accuracy, though we are not aiming for perfection. What you say must communicate.

Miriam Davis came to Japan in 1975 from the UK and taught English in schools and universities in Nara Prefecture, Nagoya and Osaka for 8 years. In 1986 she joined OMF International and moved to Sapporo to do church planting and English teaching. Since 1990 she has been Language Advisor to OMF.



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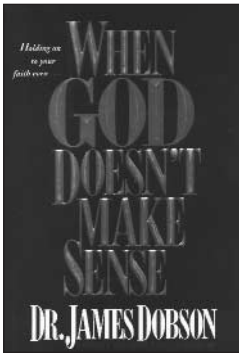
Listed in order of difficulty

- 1. My Body Book #2 (large letters) ¥1000
- 2. Your Good Words ABC Book ¥1000
- 3. I Learn to Read About Jesus ¥1000
- 4. Workbook for I Learn to Read ¥1000
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When God Doesn't Make Sense

By James Dobson

(Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1993), 250 pages.

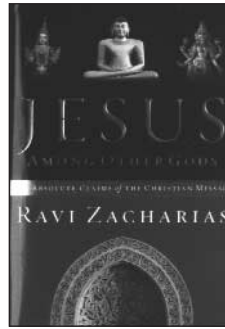
Japanese title: "Konnan na toki ni mo"

When my husband was diagnosed with cancer and going through months of chemotherapy, this book brought everything back into focus for us. There are times in life when we all ask the "why" questions. Even on the cross Christ asked, "Why have you forsaken me?" How do we reconcile the problems we face in life with the promises of God?

Dr. Dobson's purpose in this book is to help those disillusioned by life's problems and confused by the reality of it. Dobson's down-to-earth illustrations, and clear writing style make this an easy book to read in spite of its heavy topic. Dobson's balanced biblical approach leaves the reader with a sense of God's love and compassion even in the most difficult of life's situations.

Recently, a young Christian Japanese couple was facing a life-and-death situation. We discovered Dobson's book in Japanese and quickly presented it to them. They were so helped by it that they ordered more to give to family and friends. This is an excellent resource for a church library, for Christians going through one of life's trying experiences or for any Christian who might be asking the "why" questions.

Reviewer: Nancy Sorley and her husband are with the Baptist General Conference, planting a church in Nara City. Nancy came to Japan in 1976 as a single missionary with SEND.



Jesus Among Other Gods

by Ravi Zacharias

(Word Publishing, 2000), 195 pages.

Evangelist and apologist Ravi Zacharias tells the story of a philosophy professor who approached him after a lecture at an American university. The man offered to bring his class to the next night's lecture if Zacharias would talk about why he is not a Hindu. Born and raised in India, he would be well qualified to discuss the subject, but he refused to do so. Zacharias said, "When you throw mud at others, you're either going to lose a lot of ground or get your hands dirty in the process." Instead, he offered to tell the audience why he is a Christian.

In his latest book, *Jesus Among Other Gods*, Zacharias again avoids a polemical approach by presenting the differences between Jesus Christ and others who claim divinity or prophetic status. Asserting that "... truth is not only a matter of offense, . . . It is also a matter of defense," (55) he presents the claims of Christ in comparison to those religions which have the largest following: Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

Readers should not, however, expect a point-by-point comparison between Christianity and these three religions. Instead, Zacharias structures his argument around questions and statements made by or about Jesus Christ. For example, in Chapter Two he begins with Andrew's question to Jesus: "Where do you live?" He concludes in Chapter Seven with the risen Christ's question to Mary in the garden: "Who is it you are looking for?" Perhaps one of the most interesting chapters deals with Christ's silence during his trial before Pontius Pilate. Zacharias interprets His response to Pilate as "the silence of a

fulfilled mission" (156). He notes that Jesus "died in prophetic fulfillment, demonstrating that you cannot kill the truth" (164).

For readers who have heard Zacharias speak, his rapid speech and frequent references to philosophers can be daunting. However, his writing in his latest book is, for the most part, easily accessible. The style is highly narrative and often punctuated with personal examples and references to well-known individuals. Only in Chapter four—"A Taste for the Soul"—did I find myself reading more slowly. In this chapter Zacharias responds to a young Indian student's accusation that "Christians are cannibals!" He begins by discussing the symbolism and truth in the Communion and concludes with the consummation of worship.

Jesus Among Other Gods is a book Christians should read. Weekly I meet both Japanese and Westerners who are eager to discuss "religion" with me. Some claim they cannot believe in a god who allows innocent children to die in wars. Zacharias deals with this very issue in his chapter entitled "Is God the Source of My Suffering?" Others obviously have never really read the Bible and seem to be ill prepared to discuss the beliefs of the religion they claim to follow. After reading this book, I feel better equipped to answer them.

In a pluralistic world where many believe that sincerity and tolerance are all that matter, we can no longer depend upon emotion and personal testimony to convince people of the claims of Jesus Christ. Peter pleads with his readers to be committed to the truth of God's Word and to be ready to give an answer for why they believe (1 Peter 3:15). *Jesus Among Other Gods* can help us understand some of the basic tenets of major religions and prepare us to present and defend the truth of Christ more convincingly to a lost world.

Reviewer: Susan Shibe Davis has a Ph.D. in English with an emphasis in Rhetoric and Composition from Arizona State University. She is a professor in the Department of Modern Communication at Baiko Jo Gakuin University in Shimonoseki City.





If you're involved in outreach in Japan, it is almost certain you've used or are currently using either the Sambika or the Seika, and most probably both. However, there are a number of contemporary music resources available as well. The two most widely distributed are the *Living Praise* and the *Michtam Praise & Worship* collections.

Living Praise (www.wlpm.or.jp)
The *Living Praise* series is a project of Life Productions (Word of Life Ministries) that in the late 1980's began publishing a series of devotional songbooks with an accompanying recording for each book. Most of the selections are contemporary songs translated from English, although there are some original Japanese songs.

Following the release of two successive volumes, in 1995 a single songbook was produced containing a total of 223 songs. Note that this collection (identified by its blue cover) added a number of Christmas songs not included in the earlier collections, but does not include the original devotionals. This distinguishes it from the earlier two volume set (white and light green covers) with devotionals.

Michtam
(www.michtam.com/en/index.html)
The *Michtam Praise & Worship* collection (easily identified as "the red book") includes nearly 30 original

songs by Kosaka and Iwabuchi, and a significant number of original songs by other contemporary Japanese composers. It developed in the same way as the *Living Praise* collections, with a series of books and recordings being released separately before being gathered into one volume.

Notably, several original Japanese songs published by Michtam found their way into the *Living Praise* series, making Michtam's activities a significant factor in the nationwide distribution of original Japanese worship music. Along with the *Living Praise* series, the Michtam collection of 182 worship songs should be considered a standard contemporary worship resource, despite the more difficult rhythms of some of the tunes.

Following the publication of these collections, both the *Living Praise* and Michtam ministries have continued to release new individual songbooks and CDs. Overall, the production standards and creativity found in the instrumental arrangements on the Michtam CDs has tended to be of higher quality than the *Living Praise* series, but in both cases the CDs are helpful in learning new songs.

In regards to practical use, *Living Praise* selections tend to be less syncopated and easier to use with just a keyboard player, whereas some of Michtam's inclusions are best accompanied by a church band, or at least a pianist that has good rhythmic sense. But releases from both ministries have contributed to the expansion of contemporary worship songs within many Japanese churches.

Shobokusha (www.agape-tls.com)
Although both *Living Praise* and Michtam publish their books in four parts and have released accompanying CDs, the two praise and worship collections entitled "Worship and Praise" and "Worship and Praise II" produced by Shobokusha Publishing have their own niche.

Published in a melody line/guitar chord version and a words only version, these collections are designed

primarily for use in small groups. Since Shobokusha's emphasis is small group discipleship, these books are a natural outgrowth of that ministry and the selections span the interests of the entire evangelical community. CDs are not available, but the two volumes together include over 300 songs.

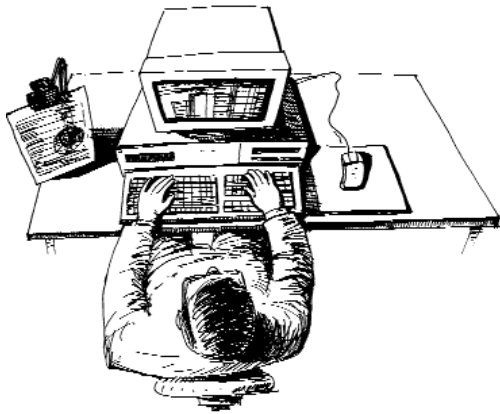
One Voice

(email: jcs@opal.famille.ne.jp)
A resource of special interest to missionaries is the *One Voice* songbook and CD produced by Gospel Music Xpress, part of the Japanese Continental Singers group of ministries. This recent collection of 17 contemporary worship songs translated from English is totally bilingual, with the book including both Japanese and English lyrics. The nicely produced CD performed by bilingual singers alternates between English and Japanese verses, with the pronunciation of each language sounding natural to native speakers. There are several gems in this collection that may be new to you, along with some better known tunes (such as "Shout to the Lord") that utilize Japanese translations unique to this project.

Although we've mentioned some of the main contemporary music and worship resources that you may want to use in your ministry, there are a number of others that also enjoy fairly broad distribution and are in use throughout Japan. In our next article we'll discuss a few more of them.

Gary Bauman has been in Japan since 1988. He serves as a worship development consultant with LIFE Ministries. He welcomes questions and comments addressed to gbauman@lifejapan.org.





Getting Wired in Japan, Part 2

by David Scott

Until recently one needed to have two things in order to use e-mail in Japan: a phone line and a computer. This is still the standard equipment, but today there are other options. The most advanced is one of the new Internet-ready mobile phones. Japan is way ahead of the rest of the world in cellular phone technology. Besides having the smallest phones, they also offer models that can send special text messages to other phones, as well as some that can send and receive regular e-mail over the Internet, and even connect to web sites. I say “connect” rather than “view,” since I recently tested a friend’s latest gadget and found that the tiny screen seemed less than adequate for most normal web sites. The mobile phone companies that sell these types of phones are also busy creating miniature web sites, so their customers can have something to look at on their miniature displays. Needless to say, most of those little sites will be in Japanese, so this could possibly be the most expensive way to practice your language skills on the train.

While sitting in a restaurant, a group of us asked my gadget-toting friend to send an e-mail to someone who was overseas. Imagine being able to shoot off a quick message to South Africa while out to dinner in Tokyo! We all felt very hi-tech, but it was depressing to see how long it took him to punch in the message on the tiny little phone keypad. As usual, the latest electronic miracle turns out to be difficult to use, and I would only

Modern Tech

recommend this as an occasional communications tool for rich missionaries who like to show off.

Another friend of mine had been in Japan for quite some months, and was still considering getting a phone line, when it was suggested he try a mobile phone. The cost of the mobiles has gotten low enough that they make a great alternative to a normal phone line, especially for students and short-termers. After getting his mobile phone, my friend was then considering what kind of computer he should get to use for e-mail, when he came across another interesting gadget, the “pocketboard.” This little item, not much bigger than his phone, opens up like a notebook to reveal a small screen and miniature computer-style keyboard. Connecting it to his phone by its built-in cable allows him to do regular e-mail, anywhere, anytime. It was also quite cheap, around 5,000 Yen. Those are the advantages. The drawbacks are that it can only do plain text e-mail: no web surfing and no attachments. In fact, he was sent an e-mail with an attached picture from back home, but all he received was a notification from his provider that he didn’t have enough memory to download that particular message. Also, while the keyboard is much better than trying to use a phone pad, it is too small for touch-typing. Finally, you need to be sure that your phone, pocketboard, and ISP will all work together.

Providers

In my previous article I listed three internet service providers that happen to have technical support in English, and offer overseas access as well. This time I will add one more that, as far as I know, does not have support in English, nor overseas access. What makes this particular company interesting is their price: free. They are also one of the very few providers that will give accounts to people with no credit card. Now, you may think that is redundant, but it turns out this “free” service still requires a credit card number (or the option discussed below) for signing up, since the free

service is a “special offer” that was only going to run until the end of 2000, and there may be some charge after that. Since I am writing this prior to that date, and being a poor prophet, I can’t say for sure what they will do in 2001. However, the standard fee is still only 500 yen per year.

If you’ve ever tried to find a provider that will give you an account without using a credit card, you may know how few there are. ZERO has an interesting alternative, which we used at the JEMA office to get our account. You go on-line (using someone else’s computer and account, of course!) and visit the ZERO web site. During the sign-up process, you can choose between using a credit card, or using a prepaid card. Taking the prepaid route will eventually display a special form that you need to print out. You take the form to a convenience store or a bank, and pay them 2,000 yen in cash. You might also be able to get ZERO to mail you a similar form, if you don’t happen to have access to a computer. Finally, ZERO has a long list of access points around Japan, at least in the area codes from 027 to 0799.

ZERO 0120-522-555
www.zero.ad.jp

Asahi-net 03-3569-3522
www.asahi-net.or.jp/en
(Continental USA access is free)

GOL 03-5334-1720 home.gol.com
(Overseas access: 30 Yen/min.)

ATT 03-5561-5789
www.att.ne.jp/indexe.html
(Continental USA access is free)

David Scott works in Tokyo as a computer-consultant tentmaker, and is currently serving as the JEMA Executive Committee secretary. David came to Japan in 1983, and had planned to stay for one year.



Men's Prayer Summit Reflections

Michael Lessard-Clouston

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective,
James 5:16b.

Over the last several years there have been a number of JEMA-sponsored Men's Prayer Summits, at Okutama in Kanto and at Hiruzen in western Japan. Perhaps you read of various people's experiences at these events in past issues of this magazine. If your reaction was like mine, it might have sounded something like: "Sounds great – I'm glad you had such an experience. But I can't be away from family and work for four days." Well, in the spring of 1999 God did enable me to take four days out to attend my first prayer summit, and it was a marvellous experience. So this past spring I made sure to find time to attend my second summit, once again at Hiruzen Bible Camp in Okayama. I hope that after learning more about these special opportunities to spend time with God and other Christians, more men will make time to join us next year.

The prayer summit has been called a "mountaintop experience". Basically, it is four days when missionaries and pastors get away from the everyday demands of their work and ministries in order to spend some uninterrupted time focussing on God. Rather than *talk* about praying, the emphasis is on *praying*. Each of my two summit experiences was unique, but common to both were wonderful morning, afternoon, and evening times of prayer, with scripture reading, worship, silence, singing, and just 'basking in God's presence' along with the other men who came.

As a foreigner living in Japan, I believe these prayer summits are pre-

cious because each person who attends is reminded that no matter how marginalized we may feel, God not only loves us but He also welcomes us into His awesome presence, where we may be encouraged, healed, renewed, corrected, forgiven, and blessed through special fellowship with Him and His people. More specifically, despite our different denominations, backgrounds, and languages, God moves in the prayer summit sessions to reveal Himself to us and to grant us some perspective on ourselves, our relationships, and, of course, our work as pastors or missionaries here in Japan. The fellowship in these prayer times spills over into meals together and free time, but is perhaps most memorable as we share the Lord's Supper each evening. In addition to these group times, however, there are also individual "bush" times for each of us to go off and talk with and listen to God alone as we deal with particular aspects of our own lives or relationships.

It seems to be a paradox that Christians in various types of leadership often talk *about* the importance of prayer, but we actually find relatively little time to pray. For me, the men's prayer summit each spring helps correct this situation. One fellow missionary described the summits as his opportunity for an annual 'spiritual check-up'. By putting aside four days each spring to pray, those who attend the prayer summit often find that their prayers and attitudes towards prayer are, not surprisingly, positively affected by the experience.

At the end of the Hiruzen summit this past spring we were given a chance to write down our comments and reflections. Consider these excerpts from a number of missionaries and pastors noting God's goodness and faithfulness:

God has called me closer to Him during these days, and lighted up a path for me where I, on a daily basis, have received a renewed hope in that He will meet me, and walk together with me, listen to me and fill my deepest needs.

God has been good to me this week. It has been wonderful to take time out to be in God's presence and have fellowship with His people. The things that He has revealed to me go a long way to help stabilize my growth in Christ.

God has renewed in me a love for Him! He has shown me His forgiveness and given me His strength to resist temptation and sin. I feel a stronger passion for both God and the people of Japan.

What I learned from the prayer summit: 1) Deep fellowship with God as a group. 2) A style of prayer that is a response to prayer. 3) Different ways of celebrating communion that are an effective way to break out of a 'rut'. 4) The style of meeting without a program is 1 Cor. 14:26 in practice.

Hopefully these thoughts on the men's prayer summit will communicate something of how God is using these events to draw us closer to Him, and to equip us to serve and honour Him more effectively when we return to our various ministries throughout Japan. As I once did, you might think that you can't afford to take time away from your work and family. But perhaps you really can't afford *not* to miss this time with God and His people. Please seriously consider joining one of the 2001 men's prayer summits next spring, May 15 to 18 (Tuesday through Friday) in Kanto at Okutama or May 21-24 (Monday through Thursday) for western Japan, at Hiruzen. I know that it will be time well spent.

Michael and his family live in Nishinomiya, Hyogo, and he and his wife Wendy have served as missionaries at Kwansei Gakuin University since March 1995.



Family Issues— *More Important than Ever* by *Tim Cole*



The Tim Cole Family

Nationwide Conferences for Health Workers and Educators

Endorsements from First Ladies of a Dozen Nations

Weekly Briefings Before Parliament

If these sound like part of some United Nations project or Hillary Clinton's latest crusade, think again. Rather, they are part of what God is doing around the world through Focus On The Family's abstinence-based sex education curriculums, "Sex, Lies, and the Truth", and "No Apologies".

It all began when God placed an ambitious plan in the mind of the Latin American area director for Focus On The Family. As a former missionary to Latin America, he caught a vision for reaching Latin America for Christ through sex education. Armed with prayer, he began knocking down bureaucratic doors

seeking for just the right spark to get the fire burning.

That spark turned out to be the first lady of a certain Central American nation, who saw the dire need for a biblically based approach to sex education for her country's youth. Persuading her government's minister of education to cooperate, several other first ladies and ministers of 11 other nations were persuaded to do likewise. Hundreds of Christian workers and educators have since been trained by Focus On The Family to take these curricula, including a clear Gospel presentation, into those nation's schools and to present them to hundreds of thousands of teens. Among the results 170,000 decisions to believe in Christ, and 315,000 pledges to embrace abstinence until marriage were made.

Fueled by this explosive success in Latin America, Focus has approached and been welcomed by a score of other nations in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Pacific. The governments of

many nations are waking up to the disastrous consequences of the "Safe Sex" doctrines being pushed by the United Nations, Planned Parenthood, and the Clinton Administration, and are looking for effective alternatives. This issue has become a powerful tool to point millions of people to the salvation and answers to family issues which God has provided in the Bible.

In Japan as well, sex education may turn out to be a tool to open doors to the Gospel. Family Focus Japan has been receiving increasing numbers of requests to provide speakers for conferences, PTA meetings, teacher training workshops, and neighborhood association meetings on the subject of sexual ethics and education. This past summer I was asked to address all the female public school teachers in the Kashiwazaki city vicinity (Niigata Ken). The information I provided was almost totally new to them, and ignited some vigorous discussion afterwards.

At one elementary school in Suzaka city (Nagano Ken) two 6th grade boys, who had been watching their fathers' pornographic videos, molested a female classmate. As a result, a Christian on the PTA board arranged an invitation for me to speak to the parents at a time when they were earnestly looking for credible answers. A health teacher at Kanto Gakuin Sr. High School was so impressed by Focus' subtitled video *Sex, Lies, and the Truth* that it is now required viewing for all classes, and other so-called "mission schools" are inquiring about using it in their classes as well.

Family Focus is now working on two "voice over" versions of the video—one specifically for public schools, the other suitable for churches, camps, and schools with a Christian orientation. Once these are completed, along with the accompanying curriculums, Focus hopes to apply for Ministry of Education endorsement of the materials, and to devise a plan for nation-wide distribution. How such a vision will actually develop is in the Lord's hands.

But sex education is only one of many issues which affect families, and about which Japanese families are vitally interested. In Nagano Ken, Family Focus has been sponsoring a 90-second broadcast entitled "Dr. Dobson's Family Column".

The broadcast has been received with considerable enthusiasm, so much so that Okinawa's largest radio station took note and has offered to let Focus air the same program there during the morning rush hour. One listener wrote in: "I'd never before realized there is a right and a wrong way to conduct a marital argument. My husband and I have always tried to destroy each other when we argued before. Now I hope our arguments will lead to solutions and reconciliation."

Another wrote, "I have been inspired to invest time in my children before they grow up and are gone." Interestingly enough, the broadcasters do not view this program as religious in nature. But one listener asked, "These family principles resonate as truth. Are they from the Bible?" We pray that many will look into the Bible for further truth as this program whets their appetites.

Family issues are a great way to open doors for the Gospel. But don't think it can only be done by specialized ministries like Family Focus. Why not host a mini "Family Life Seminar" in your home or a slightly larger version in your church or neighborhood? You might use videos, such as Dr. Dobson's *Kofuku Na Katei Semina-* (Focus On The Family Seminar) or *Yusu Semina-* (Life On The Edge Seminar) for four to six weekly sessions with a discussion followed by a teatime.

For a longer, more ambitious approach, try Campus Crusade's excellent workbooks, *Michiafureru Kekkon* (Overflowing Marriage) and *Shorai No Tamashii* (Souls for the Future). For a one-time meeting, consider using the video *Sei, Sono Uso To Shinjitsu* (Sex, Lies, and the Truth) and its accompanying discussion guide. All of these are available in both English and Japanese.

One missionary woman was shar-

ing informally with some Japanese friends. She was shocked to hear that many of them were just as happy to have their husbands' sexual needs met by prostitutes because of how distasteful the sexual side of marriage was to them. This inspired her to share the Gospel through a presentation on marital intimacy in small groups, with much success.

Focus On The Family's monthly magazines, *Focus On The Family*, *Plugged In*, and *Citizen* provide excellent information on family issues, as does their extensive website at www.family.org. These could be used by anyone wanting to develop a talk or presentation on family issues.

Family Focus Japan faces a number of challenges for which your prayers would be appreciated. We need advertisers to sponsor the radio programs in Nagano and Okinawa. Pray also that God would raise up Japanese brothers and sisters who can speak with authority on family issues, and who can also effectively integrate the Gospel message into the family issues. Finally, please pray for a clear plan for how to widely promote the Sex, Lies, and the Truth curriculum in such a way that it would open doors for the Gospel.

Tim and Katie Cole have served in Japan since 1984 with The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM). Tim is the son of Frank and Evelyn Cole, who first came to Japan in 1952 with the Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society. Frank and Evelyn Cole answered the call of General Douglas MacArthur for Christian missionaries to enter Japan and served here until 1994. Their son Tim, was born in 1956 and spent most of his life in Japan. He returned in 1978 under the auspices of SEND, International to start a wilderness camping program at Okutama Bible Camp. Katie arrived in Japan as a summer worker with TEAM in 1978. Her summer became a one-year commitment and then language study. Tim and Katie were married in 1980. They have 5 children: Levi (17) and Silas (15) are students at CAJ, Emma (13) is studying at home and Amos (10) and Caroline (8) are enrolled in Japanese elementary school.

A Tribute to Mom *by Alice Rew*



Dorothea M. Grosser

My earliest recollections include my mother and her prayer partner on their knees in our living room early in the morning, earnestly praying. As a young child I used to hide behind the banister and listen to their prayers, and I heard them weep over friends, missionaries and us children. I knew that my mother had a real and personal relationship with God, and that she wanted everyone else to know Him in this same way.

I also saw this desire carried out in her actions. I saw her faithfully tell God's message week after week and year after year to children in Sunday School classes and Child Evangelism Good News Clubs. It would be hard to estimate how many children heard the Gospel under her teaching during all those years, but I believe it would be hundreds. And because I know that God's Word continues to work in hearts long after the seed is planted, I am confident that He is still using her efforts in lives today.

My mom's enthusiasm for missions was "catching". She was personally friends with many missionaries, corresponding regularly with them and having them in our home whenever possible. Through my growing up years I met and knew

missionaries as “real” people with a deep love for God and a desire to share that with others. In fact, it was in my parents’ living room that Jim and I first heard of the needs in Japan, nearly 30 years ago. After Sunday dinner with missionaries Dr. Mabel Bruce and Dorothy and Edwin Jacques, the conversation naturally turned to mission opportunities, and we were encouraged to look into the possibilities of going to Japan.

Needless to say, her life had a tremendous impact on me. I am so grateful that my mother taught me early about Christ’s love and forgiveness, so that I understood enough to believe in Him when I was just six years old. By the time I was in junior high school I was teaching alongside her in Good News Clubs, telling the missionary story. And when I was older and began talking about going overseas myself, she always encouraged me, in spite of the fact that it would mean separation from her daughter and later her son-in-law and grandchildren also.

I am very grateful that God gave us the opportunity this past summer to spend time together. As we sat on her back porch chatting, we laughed remembering the things we had done together in our home on Oak Street as mother and child. And when it came time for me to return to Japan, although the parting was difficult, she was still positive about it. I believe it was because she was thinking in the same way as other men and women of faith, who look forward to a better place, “the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.” And today we are confident that she is there, seeing face to face the One she loves.

Alice Rew’s mother entered into the presence of her Lord on Friday, November 17, 2000.

In the e-mail home, Alice wrote, “I would like to be with you this morning, but the fact that I am in Japan instead is actually a testimony to my mother’s wholehearted desire that the Gospel be known throughout the world.”



Harry Altman

Harry Altman, loving husband of Yukiko, entered into the presence of His Lord on August 16, 2000 when he met with an accident while climbing Togakushi no Yama in Nagano Prefecture. Having come to Japan with the Presbyterian Church USA in 1972, he became a professor at Shikoku Gakuin Daigaku where he continued to serve until his recent death. Harry was 59. Raised in a Christian home where he learned respect for all peoples, Harry was always concerned about human rights here in Japan. He was active in protesting “finger printing” of aliens.

It is interesting to note that presently, in the place of alien “finger printing,” one’s signature on two label-like strips is all that is required!

CORRECTION

for the Clifford Scott’s e-mail address. In the last issue we announced the Nathan Scott Memorial Fund, JH Fall 2000, but the e-mail address was not correct. Please note the correction as: cmscott@tkf.att.ne.jp

Our apologies to the Scott family and to you for the inconvenience we have caused.

NAGOYA PRAYER DAY

is set for APRIL 3. Please contact Elke Schmitz at 052-654-5946 for location and time.

Continued from page 13

found that we were listed in the Car Navigation System. Think of it! Here is a man driving along in Osaka trying to find out how he can help a Filipino lady who had lost her mother and was in deep grief. Where does an unchurched person go to find out about a church? Knowing this lady could probably be helped by a church, he checked his CN System. Of all things, CIS was listed there. He called us immediately and while I had him on the line, we were able to check maps and locate a church near the city office where he worked. After his call, I contacted the pastor of the church letting him know the story and that there would probably be a “needy” Filipino lady coming for help!

Postscript:

What a special interview I had with Mr. Hanazono. He is deeply committed to the need for and use of CIS. I asked about equipment and found that CIS has two old computers. I asked if he needed additional ones. His answer, “We could use three.”

His heartfelt words to me included the following: “We so much appreciate the support. You (missionaries) use us and we so much appreciate that. I am so encouraged by your words.”

Please continue to use CIS for your needs. Church referral is free for member missions. A fee of 500 yen is charged per referral for non-members. Surveys come at a 50% discount for members.

JEMA SUMMER CONFERENCE

This summer’s guest speaker will be Silvano Perotti, president of the Swiss Alliance Mission. Brought up in Africa, Perotti is Italian/Swiss in nationality. The spring issue will carry his excellent article on “Christ, the Family and Culture.”

Celebrating 50 years of service to the cause of Christ in Japan

From our three Tokyo headquarters locations to our nation wide Life Center bookstores
Providing you with tools for evangelism and church growth



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Gospel for the Millions magazine
Life Productions videos, music
Living Praise Music
Megumi Chalet seminars
Word of Life Press books
Church School Growth Center
Living Bibles Japan
Creation Productions
Life Center headquarters



Hachioji Marketing Center
Every Home for Christ tracts
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Moving? Contact the JEMA office so we can update our files!

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Each area has God's Word and promises applied to encourage prayer

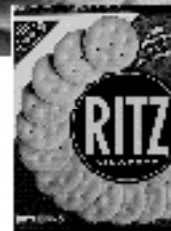
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New Books in Japanese

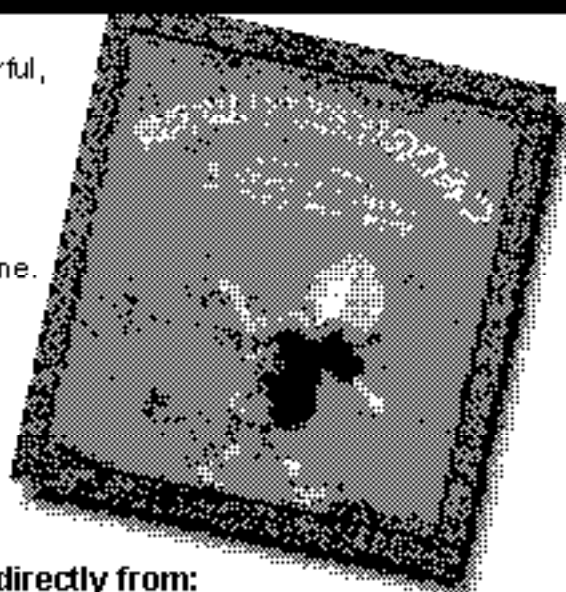
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Warm heart communication by Aunt Stella

In the later part of the 18th century, when the German settlers came to Pennsylvania, they brought with them not only their culture but also their old family recipes. One of the German families by the name of Dumble, whose daughter Stella liked to bake developed many cookie recipes which we are happy to introduce to you.

