



Spring 2001

# JAPAN HARVEST

Japan Evangelical Missionary Association

**In This Issue:**

**An Appetite for Praise** *by John Harvey*

**Transplanted** *by Nancy Sorley*

**Christ, The Family & Culture**

*by Silvano Perotti*

## Main Products

- \* Margarine
- \* Shortening
- \* Lard
- \* Tallow
- \* Powdered Oil & Fat
- \* Whipping Cream
- \* Fillings
- \* Frozen Dough

Miyoshi Oil & Fat was founded in 1921 as a manufacturer of soap for the textile industry.

In 1941, the Foods and Oils Division was established and Miyoshi began producing Margarine, followed by shortening, lard and other products. Today, Miyoshi produces more edible processed oils and fats than any other manufacturer in Japan.

While diversifying the applications of oils & fats, Miyoshi has remained true to the goal it set itself eight decades ago: **to create products of excellent quality.**



## MIYOSHI OIL & FAT., LTD.

66-1 HORIKIRI 4-CHOME, KATSUSHIKA-KU, TOKYO 124-0006

BRANCHES: OSAKA, NAGOYA, FUKUOKA, SENDAI  
FACTORIES: TOKYO, KOBE, NAGOYA



# Good Day Good Bread.

YAMAZAKI BAKING CO., LTD. Head Office 3-10-1 Iwamoto-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 101-0033

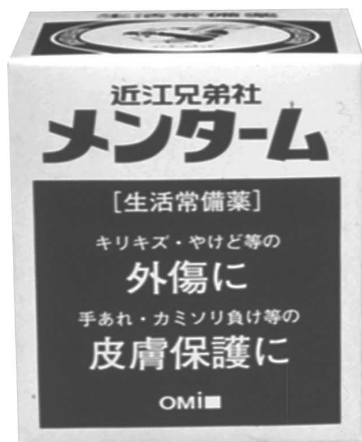




OMI BROTHERHOOD

OMI

# Total Skin Care Products



*So natural for so healthy Skin!*

Pharmaceutical Medicated Cosmetic products

Household Medicine

OMI BROTHERHOOD

## MENTURUM

THE OMI BROTHERHOOD. CO. LTD

29 Uoya-cho Moto, Omihachiman, Shiga 523-0867

URL:<http://www.omibh.co.jp/>

## This summer... 日本語

### KLS offers:

- A cool climate
- Christian teachers
- A family atmosphere
- Affordable housing
- Classes all summer till August 10



### *We all need an occasional boost in Japanese, don't we!*

Even a week of study can give you a significant boost. Why not combine it with a vacation, or the JEMA/Deeper Life Conferences?

Refresher courses are tailor-made. Just contact us and we'll work out your personalized plan together.

Summer Application Deadline: June 1

### Karuizawa Language School (KLS)

*"Equipping People for Ministry in Japan"*

For more information, phone (0267) 42-4605 or e-mail [kls@avis.ne.jp](mailto:kls@avis.ne.jp) or check out our web-site [www.avis.ne.jp/~kls/](http://www.avis.ne.jp/~kls/)

2001

日韓文化交流

日韓共同製作

イエス・キリスト  
生誕2000年記念作品

# 親分は イエス様

JESUS  
IS  
MY BOSS

極道が神を信じるとき

斎藤耕一 監督作品

誰だつてもう一度やり直せるんだ！

"Jesus is my Boss" is the true story of former gangsters (now part of Mission Barabbas) who devoted their lives to God, a major motion picture to be distributed nationwide by Toei in June, and produced in collaboration with the 2001 Japan-Korea cultural exchange. "Jesus is my Boss" is a story about prayer and healing, and about the love between husband and wife.

Please contact Eiga Oyabun wa Iyesu-sama oSeiko Saserukai(03-5450-1061 Fax:03-5358-0346)concerning advance ticket sales through your church or mission!

# Table of Contents

## DEPARTMENTS

### Prayer Focus



- 6 Asia and Kinki  
*Reporter: John Somers-Harris*

### JEMA/JEA

- 14 from The President's Pencil  
*by Paul Pike*  
15 Focus 2001  
Challenge  
*by Dr. Joshua Tsutada*

### Commissions

- 16 Training to be Like Barnabas  
*by John Mehn*

### Worship & Music

- 19 Contemporary Worship Part 2  
*by Gary Bauman*

### Translations & Language Lab

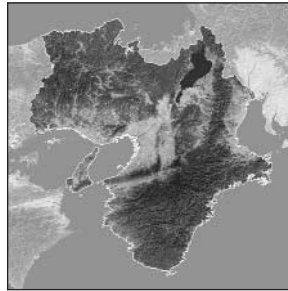
- 20 2001 Fasting/Prayer Days  
21 Japanese Expressions

### The Reader

- 22 Book Reviews

### Modern Tech

- 24 Upgrading Your Software  
*by David Scott*



### 6 Focus on Kinki District



### 7 Transplanted



### 26 Christ, The Family & Culture

## FEATURES

### Inspiration

- 3 Easter Means Batteries Included  
*by Kenny Joseph*  
4 Mind Pits—The Lion Is Hunting  
*by Jim Rew*  
5 An Appetite for Praise  
*by John Harvey*

### Kinki Feature

- 7 Transplanted  
*by Nancy Sorley*  
8 Education as a Point of Contact  
*by David Verwey*  
10 Difference Indicators  
*by Cheryl Barton*  
11 My Confessions  
*by Erick Haugrud*  
13 Kansai International University  
Academy  
*by Steve Rohrer*

### Family

- 25 Honors, News and Memorial  
26 Christ, The Family & Culture  
*by Silvano Perotti*

# JAPAN HARVEST

Volume 52 No. 4 / Spring 2001

#### Japan Harvest Staff

*Editor-in-Chief:* Paul Pike  
*Managing Editor:* Janice Kropp  
*Production Editor:* Jim Rew

**Printer:** New Life League  
(*Norwegian Shinsei Senkyodan*)

**Cover Photo:** Janice Kropp

#### JEMA Executive Committee, 2001-2002

*President:* Paul Pike  
*Vice President:* Traugott Ockert  
*Secretary:* David Scott  
*Treasurer:* Kean Miller  
*Members-at-Large:* Elke Schmitz, Harry Landaw,  
Bill Paris.  
*JEMA Office Secretary:* Mizuko Matsushita

The Japan Harvest is the official publication of the Japan Evangelical Missionary Association. It is published quarterly to promote primarily the cause of the evangelical church in Japan, and secondarily the ministry and activities of the association. Individual articles or advertisements express the viewpoints of the contributor and not necessarily those of JEMA. The editor welcomes unsolicited articles.

Price overseas is \$ 25.00 per year.  
Price in Japan is ¥ 2,800 per year,  
Single copy is ¥ 750.

Postal Transfer: Japan Harvest, Tokyo 00130-4-180466

ORDER BLANK page 31

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

JEMA  
2-1 Kanda Surugadai,  
Chiyoda Ku, Tokyo 101-0062  
Tel: 03-3295-1949 Fax: 03-3295-1354

E-mail: [jema@jema.org](mailto:jema@jema.org)

## *The Single Victorious Stroke of Life*

*As the clock ticks and moments go  
In mortal life so, in immortality no,  
In a flash all that is will vanish away  
There won't even be a moment to pray.*

*As a babe He came, as a youth He served  
As a man from His purpose He never swerved.  
My time is come brought rejection & pain  
Our Lord's crucifixion is impossible to explain.*

*The beating alone was enough to bring death.  
The walk with the cross was more impossible yet  
The nails through the wrists and nails through the feet  
Roman soldiers were sure to make death complete.*

*Finished it was within six hours  
His body hung there instead of ours.  
The work of redemption was almost done  
For last was the victory over death to be won.*

*His body soaked with spices then carefully wrapped  
The chilly grave held Him temporarily trapped.  
But only til the single victorious stroke of LIFE  
Ended death's battle and strung out strife.*

*He's risen! they said. We've seen Him alive!  
No way could such an event be contrived  
The power of God our Father in Heaven  
By the stroke of life our Jesus is risen.*

*As the clock ticks and moments go  
In mortal life so, in immortality no.  
The time is now to love the Saviour and serve  
For we now enjoy what we didn't deserve Life.*

*jak*

### FOCUS

#### **HAPPY EASTER!**

With the LIFE of Christ filling and encouraging us, we enter into another publishing year, (this is Spring No.4) our Golden Jubilee. Year 2001 is a year of celebration for Japan Evangelical Missionary Association, the *Japan Harvest* magazine, quite a few missionaries and several mission organizations. This year marks 50 years! We intend to make it a year of celebration. Throughout the next four issues we will be remembering the PAST in all its richness. We will bless those who have gone before us. We will celebrate the PRESENT sharing what you write about life and ministry. We will also face the FUTURE with all its challenges. We ask for articles that will keep us abreast with the changes sure to come in the next 10 to 20 years.

**Prayer Focus** is a new addition to the magazine. PF is an effort to keep the bigger picture, ASIA, and the smaller picture, JAPAN, before us. In the Fall **Kaiten Missionary Style** will begin. KMS will feature sayings "worth their weight in gold," your laughable moments, and unusual experiences. We welcome your involvement!

Even though I will be out of the country for home assignment, I remain in your service as *Japan Harvest* editor. My e-mail address will change from djcropp@gol.com to rkropp1@juno.com beginning in June. Jim Rew remains Production Manager at Rewster4@aol.com and Paul Pike is Editor-in-Chief at papike@attglobal.ne. Our special Golden Jubilee issue will come to you in JULY under Paul Pike's editorship. Please note FOCUS 2001 (page 15) for features, themes, deadlines, and publishing schedule. —*the editor*

# EASTER MEANS BATTERIES INCLUDED

By Kenny Joseph

How many times have you brought an electrical device home, only to find that it didn't work? You tried everything and then finally saw a little message in three languages: "Batteries not included."

I remember years ago bringing home a beautiful new calculator for my son. He was so thrilled. He'd be the first in his class to even hold, let alone own, his own personal calculator. He tore off the wrappings and started to work it...and nothing happened. The brightness in his eyes dimmed, "Dad, what did you pay for this? It doesn't work!"

"Of course it works," I said. "It's made by a great company: Casio!"

"Dad, somebody tricked you."

"OK, give it to me. Let me see."

And sure enough, there it was in plain English, Spanish and Chinese: "Batteries not included."

It looked perfect. It felt perfect. But there was one problem: no power.

Don't laugh. It happens. I never took typing in high school, so I bought a beautiful software program: "Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing." Following the purchase I asked my wife, Lila, to drive for the next 30 miles so I could learn to type. Here comes Mavis to teach me typing on my battery-operated Powerbook Mac 1400/.cs. I knew I was at the bottom of the class when Mavis encouraged me with, "Congratulations! You have now increased your typing speed to seven words a minute."

Just as I was getting up to at least 10 words a minute, the little battery on top of the computer face said, "Battery going down." And then without any warning, "This computer will automatically shut off in less than a minute." And there went my beautiful typing lesson.

Why?

This time the battery was included, but it ran out of power!

Do you ever feel in your life like batteries were not included, or if they were, they ran out right in the middle of something important? Jesus, on the cross, felt that way when He hung between heaven and hell and cried out to His Father in Heaven after six hours of agony. There He was between darkness and light, salvation and damnation, eternal life and eternal death. The weight of the entire world's sins—yours and mine—were upon Him. Six hours later He cried, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34)

*He could have called ten thousand angels...but He died alone for you and me.*

His battery seemed to have run out—or had it?

That would have been the end of any hope for you and me. But what happened? His battery was recharged. For three days and three nights He laid dead in that cold, damp, dark tomb. He was wrapped in perfumed cloths so His death smell would not permeate the stuffy space. Then His friends gave up. Peter resigned with, "I'm going fishing...going back to where I came from. This is the end."

But then God Almighty reached down from the battlements of heaven and confirmed what He said previously, "This is My Son in whom I am well pleased."

That He "arose" meant that the battery was not dead. It was recharged and Jesus came roaring back to the scene. What had been hopeless, black with despair, God turned into the world's brightest moment. Jesus came back to life and in his new self-introduction proclaimed, ***I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?*** (John 11:25,26)

That's the message of Easter...the message the early Christians heard when the risen Jesus commanded them: ***Go into all the world and preach the good news to all***

***creation...In my name you will drive out demons...speak...place hands on the sick, and they will be healed...*** (Mark 16:15-18). GOD'S POWER WOULD BE WITHIN.

In that power the early missionaries went out to every country, preaching one message: Jesus Christ, God's Son, died on the cross for our sin and then rose again.

You, too, can have this power of endless life. Take it. Believe it. Receive it and be made spiritually alive. It doesn't matter how far down you have slipped, there is hope. There is life. There is power waiting for you.

Here is an amazing story from a January 31 airline crash off the Californian coast:

John Hernandez talked with the Alaska Airline pilot involved in the investigation of the horrific crash of Alaska Flight 261.

The pilot listened to the cockpit voice recorder from the downed plane. He reported that for the last nine minutes of the flight, a woman's voice could be heard sharing the Gospel with the passengers over the plane's intercom system. Just before the final dive into the Pacific Ocean, she is heard leading the sinner's prayer for salvation.

The pilot also said that the flight data recorder indicated that there was no good explanation for the plane's ability to remain in the air for those final nine minutes. So, in the midst of tragedy, nearly 90 people had an extraordinary opportunity of getting right with their Maker just prior to meeting Him.

I was in Indonesia preaching to 1,200 people gathered in the city auditorium in Bali. Before I got up to speak an 82-year-old gentleman pulled me aside and cautioned, "Be very careful. The majority here are Muslim men. Just repeat this clearly and fully: 'My dear Muslim friends, welcome! I am so happy that you follow the words of Mohammed who said two things are important: 1. study the law, and 2. study the Gospel.'" I read for them the Ten Commandments and then I gave them the Gospel, using overheads to make my points clear.

*Continued on page 31*

# Mind Pits: —The Lion is Hunting

This last week, I was reading in Romans and once again was challenged by the verses in chapter 8. *“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires,”* Romans 8:5

I am always challenged to evaluate what my mind-set is. Is it on the spiritual-mind or the sinful-mind? Paul also writes in 12:2, *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is —his good, pleasing and perfect will.”* Definitely not a one time renewal but a continual renewing of our minds. As I thought of this I wondered, “What in Japan is a stumbling block to us in renewing our minds?”

## Anxiety

Anxiety over people at home, our children, our missing comforts. I remember this past fall as we were planning a Thanksgiving dinner with new missionaries, Bryan & Marcie Williamson. Not having a western oven in our apartment, I took the turkey down early to put in Marcie’s oven. She opened the door and there I was looking very much like what she knew her dad would look like on such a special morning and she admitted later she broke down and cried at being away from family.

## Temptation of the Eyes

One missionary commented on what he was seeing on the trains and what kinds of magazines men were reading. What are we filling our minds with? I’m sure we all have been exposed to an innocent turn of the eyes only to have them land on a neighbor’s newspaper or magazine advertising girls or cartoon characters in action. As our pastor at home always says, “I may not be responsible for the first glance, but I certainly am for the second and third!” Paul again writes in 7:21-24, *“So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God —through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.”*

Jesus said in Luke 21:14, *“But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves.”* He is obviously speaking of defending ourselves for our faith, but the word that caught my eye was “beforehand.” I used

to belong to the Weight Watchers organization and attended weekly pep meetings which taught us how to avoid downfalls and then encouraged us not to give up if we did slip. I learned an important lesson during that time. Whenever Alice and I went out for a meal or to an office party, I hardly ever lost the battle with food at the restaurant. It was usually way back at the time of getting dressed for the evening and thinking about what foods would be available and how I would respond to the temptation. I believe we will find the same true in our day-to-day walk here in Japan. After living here for a while and knowing the pit falls or temptations, we make up our mind in advance what we will do. We need to be in prayer for those who are new to Japan because they may not be expecting the uninvited and they need to be prepared for how they will react!

## Fellow Workers

More than once I have had reason to harbor ill feelings towards fellow missionaries for things done or said. Coming from a family and extended family that has a long history of holding grudges this is one of my challenges. Paul says in Romans 14:13, *“Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother’s way.”* Again, we need to be in prayer for one another in this area. One, that we do not hold a grudge and two, that we do not become a stumbling block to fellow workers. We should not discuss our frustrations or disappointments in one another with new comers. They will get their chance to find out what all our different idiosyncrasies are. Let’s dwell on the positives we each have.

## Little Church Growth

We need to remember what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:5-7. It was written to avoid dissension, but it also has a message as to who really does the work! *“What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”*

In her devotional at a Publishing Commission meeting, Janice said she had asked a Japanese Christian what she had in her house to remind her of God. When asked what she meant, Janice explained that in her home she had verses and pictures that reminded her of God and His Word. That made me wonder. What do we have in our minds that remind us of God.” Psalm 119:11 says, *“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”*

The Jews had a practice of setting up stones of remembrance in their land. Joshua 4:8-9 says, *“So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the LORD had told*

*Continued on page 31*



# An Appetite for Praise

## Affirmation & Encouragement from A Loving Father

By: John A. Harvey

**I**t is a consensus among psychologists that people need to be praised. They gain self-worth by the affirmation of others. Mankind has this built-in craving for honor that is food to the soul. Many have been starved of this soul food at critical periods of their lives and become emotionally deformed as a result.

At first glance Jesus' words in John 5:41 seem to contradict this perspective, but when He says, "I do not accept praise from men" (NIV), He is not denying His need or ours for praise, but rather questioning man's usual sources of supply. Paul, in Romans 2:29, says the true saint receives his praise from God instead of from men. Jesus, likewise, encourages people to "obtain the praise that comes from the only God" (John 5:44).

It is well known that men are an uncertain resource for affirmation. However, it is still sought because we think that man is the only one from whom praise can be found.

We need to hear that God praises His own in this life. It is generally understood that a "well done" awaits the faithful in the next life, but for the praise-starved soul, that seems a long time to wait. Therefore, it comes as good news that God is full of loving expressions and encouragement right now. Those who draw near to God find that one of the pleasures at His right hand is His word of favor.

Examples of God honoring His own abound in Scripture. God's angel greeted Gideon with praise and, in a similar way, our Lord's mother. God even praised Job before the devil. Jesus praised Nathanael. The Holy Spirit did the same to Stephen and, through the apostle Paul, the saints in Rome.

In our own day the same sweet Spirit uses God's Word to speak intimately to our hearts and tell us that we are the apple of God's eye.

God is not in the business of flattery, but He is a lover. The exaltation of the object of one's devotion is an essential act of love. All this is to say that God is our best resource for praise. On the other hand, man is not. People might seem more accessible, but the downside is that if we accept man's strokes, we become vulnerable to his criticism. People are notoriously fickle, and their standards of honor are warped.

More troubling is the truth that the praise of men will bring one ultimately into the bondage of the fear of man, so that obeying God will become all the more difficult. This topic is not a marginal matter, since our choice of praise has eternal results. As with the choice of serving God or money, we can't work out of two different praise bank accounts at the same time. If we find our praise from man, we will not be finding it from God.

Therefore, go to the resource where the treasures of favor abound. Man's forte is criticism. God's specialty is praise, and it is available now and forever more.



John A. Harvey is pastor of First Alliance Church in Toccoa, Ga. He has served as a missionary and as regional director for Europe and the Middle East for International Ministries of the U.S. Christian & Missionary Alliance.

Used by permission, *Alliance Life* March 2001.

If you need God's praise today, check the following scriptures: *Matthew 5; John 15:15-16; II Corinthians 3:3,6; Romans 2:28,29; Proverbs 31, Psalm 1:1-3; Isaiah 30:18; James 1:12; Revelation 1:3, 22:7, 14.*

# Prayer Focus

*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.*

## Asia



**Take time to thank God for the approximately 6 billion people on the earth. Make requests for them and intercede for them.**

...more than 650 million people around the world can now hear the gospel via radio in a language they can understand...

as of July, 111 more languages had Christian broadcasts than in 1985.

...about 44% of families in urban areas in India live in just one room. Cities with a million-plus people are expected to go up from 23 to 51 by next year...over 300 million people live in towns and cities in India.

*For kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

**Pray for the rulers and all those in authority in the following situations.**

The church is growing rapidly in Vietnam. One of the tools being used there is the Jesus film on video. The government says people have religious freedom, but the local and district officials are choosing to ignore this policy. Many attacks on Christians are being carried out.

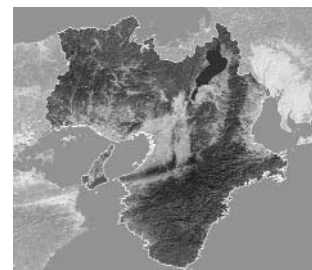
It is reported that more than 10,000 religious meeting places have been banned or destroyed in recent years in China...21 Christians were martyred last year. Christians are often arrested without warrant, beaten, and sent to labor camps just for being faithful to God...

*Finally be strong in the Lord, put on the full armor of God, and pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*



John Somers-Harris and his wife, Rhonda, serve with Youth with a Mission. They live in Adachi-ku Tokyo. John came to Japan in 1985

## Kinki



**As we focus on the Kinki Region of Japan consider these statistics as you pray.**

There are 22,400,554 people in the Kinki Region. There is one church for every 13,318 people and one missionary for every 49,017.

While every major city has at least one church there are still 9 towns with more than 20,000 population without any church at all.

The Gideons distributed about 150,000 Bibles last year in the Kinki Region and the Kinpoden Radio Ministry is, as well as reaching people, drawing together the evangelical churches.

**As we pray for those in authority, remember the governors of the seven areas of the Kinki Region.**

Area	Governor
Mie Area	Masayasu Kitagawa
Shiga Area	Yoshitsugu Kunimatsu
Kyoto Area	Teiichi Aramaki
Osaka Area	Fusae Ohta
Hyogo Area	Toshitami Kaihara
Nara Area	Yoshiya Kakimoto
Wakayama Area	Yoshiki Kimura

Pray for the local governments as they face the growing challenge of homeless people in the big cities and the large number of children who drop out of the school system.

As you pray for the Christians, pray that they too may put on the full armor of God, pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. That they, along with you, will be alert and keep on praying for all of the saints.

Sources: *Operation Japan*, *Operation World*, *Asian Church Today*, and the Internet. More information on the Kinki Region can be obtained at [www.japanguide.com/list/e1105.html](http://www.japanguide.com/list/e1105.html).

# Transplanted



## to Kansai

By Nancy Sorley

“Nara is so far from my friends in Tokyo. I don’t want to move there.” After spending over eight years in Kanto, I prided myself in knowing the best tourist areas in Tokyo, how to get around Shinjuku station, and where to eat in Yokohama’s Chinatown. Now I was going to be transplanted to Kansai. Help!

Arriving in Kansai after almost two years in the States, I was sure I had forgotten all of my Japanese. New words, strange sentence endings, and unusual expressions were all over the place. My first week back, one of the Sunday School teachers was using a new word over and over again. I knew it must be an important word, but I couldn’t find it in my trusty pocket dictionary. Then I consulted my walking dictionary, Bob. “You won’t find *akan* in the dictionary. It’s Kansai-ben for *ikenai*.” So began my relearning of Japanese: *kashiwa* for chicken, *nasubi* for eggplant, and *shindoi* which can mean anything from “I’m tired” to “it’s just too much trouble.” I wondered if I would ever understand Kansai-ben. A veteran

missionary in Kansai says, “It sounds softer.” However, another recent transplant disagrees, “They all sound like truck drivers.”

Kansaijin consider themselves friendlier, more humorous, more talkative and less rigid. When I first went to the train station, I was frustrated because I couldn’t figure out where the lines were for getting on the train. Hardly anyone was standing in a real line. And don’t dare stop at a traffic light that has just turned red, or you may get hit from behind. Tokyoites have their stereotypes of Kansaijin, too. My Tokyo friend said she heard people in Kansai eat *okononiyaki* for meals, not for snacks, and every household owns a *takoyaki* grill. She is right about the *okononiyaki*, but according to my survey some households have two *takoyaki* grills.

One day while putting church announcements in mailboxes in an older part of Nara City, I saw the head of a fish with a sprig of holly stuck through it hanging on the wall by the door. Yuk! I averted my eyes as I reached for the mailbox. But then I saw the same dead fish head with the holly in it at the next house, and the next house and on and on. What is going on here? And so I realized that there are some different religious practices in Kansai than I had encountered before. Occasionally, young men in black *Tenri happi* coats carry a banner through town, clapping sticks together “evangelizing.” Tondabayashi City’s skyline is known by the gigantic white tower of the Perfect Liberty religion pointing towards heaven, and Wakayama has its sacred Koya Mountain. Of course I knew of the famous shrines and temples in Kyoto and Nara, where it seems every school child in Japan visits at least once. What surprised me was how many *matsuri* there are all year round, and how involved my Kansai friends are in all this religious activity. My English students are always going to some mountain-burning or water-carrying festival. On a certain day every month, chartered trains and buses take thousands of Tenri worshippers to a special ceremony in Tenri

City where the Tenri religion originated (and where the world also originated, according to them).

In spite of the many religions and traditions, the Christian Church is also alive and well. Besides the great variety of Japanese denominations, I’ve seen many Korean and International churches. Kansai has a good share of Korean, Norwegian, and Finnish missionaries, too. There is a lot of cooperation among the churches in holding big Christmas celebrations, ladies’ luncheons, evangelistic crusades, and the annual three-day Osaka Keswick Convention. Christians from all over Kansai form the Kansai Evangelical Harmony, an orchestra and choir.

The longer I live in Kansai, the more I’ve learned to appreciate its uniqueness. It’s fun to visit Kyoto and see old Japan, *geisha*, beautiful *kimonos*, and traditional sweets. But there is also the Science City, which comprises parts of Nara, Kyoto and Osaka. Here a lot of modern day research is taking place. Kobe, rebuilt since the earthquake, has its own international flair, German bakeries, and a Chinatown. Of course, every baseball fan knows Koshien Stadium. Historical Osaka Castle is beautiful lit up at night, but I know there are many homeless people living around the castle grounds. Osaka’s endless shopping streets of boutiques, electrical shops, and *fugu* restaurants now also have innumerable 100-yen shops. Then there is my home, Nara, known for the park with the pesky deer.

Each time I visit Tokyo, I realize how much I’ve grown fond of Kansai. Last year I visited one of my former Japanese tutors who had taught me Tokyo “standard” Japanese. After a few minutes her husband said, “You’re speaking Kansai-ben.” I felt embarrassed, so quickly reprimanded myself. *Akan!*



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.

# Education

as a

## Point of Contact

by David Verwey

Japan Mission is interdenominational, not forming churches, but rather linking those reached through many avenues of ministry to already existing evangelical churches.

Neil and Peggy Verwey founded Japan Mission in 1957. God gave them a son, David. He along with his wife, Sue, have been “called to serve” with them in Japan.

We are continually in search of effective ways in which to reach the Japanese people for Christ. We have found that the Japanese always want to learn something new, and we have the opportunity to teach them things that make a difference for eternity! This keen desire for education has become a very important “point of contact.”

Jesus taught us how important it is to have a “point of contact” with those we long to reach for Him. With the Samaritan woman who came to draw water at the well, He talked of the Living Water! With the fishermen, He talked about fish. With those who had a physical need, He healed them. It was from this point that He often started to share the message of Truth with people.



### English Evangelism Outreach

The Lord has guided many missionaries throughout Japan to use the teaching of English conversation as a “point of contact” with people. Japan Mission recruits Missionary / Teachers from overseas and sends them out to teach conversational English in various evangelical churches.

Every week our workers are in touch with hundreds of students who have a keen interest to learn English from a foreigner. We currently teach English in over 25 different churches all across the Kansai region.

Teachers always include a 10-minute Bible time. After class, during friendly conversations over a cup of tea, our workers are often afforded regular opportunities to share

a word of testimony and parts of the Gospel message.

This outreach program has been instrumental in changing the lives of many. Students have come to a greater understanding of the Gospel, and many have started to participate in their local church.

One recent example of a person reached by English Evangelism Outreach is that of Mr. Mizuguchi. He became curious about Christianity. He searched the internet on his computer for a local Christian church. He found that the local church offered an English class and promptly joined. About five months later, he was baptized and now prays that the rest of his family will come to know that Lord!

It is such an encouragement when someone who used to say, "I come to learn English," later says, "I come to learn about Jesus!"



### International School Outreach

Japan Mission has recently been heavily involved in outreach through Kansai Christian School (KCS),

which is a small international school near Osaka. The primary purpose of KCS is to educate children of the missionary community, from grades 1 through 12.

KCS is governed and run by five evangelical missions. Japan Mission is one of these missions, and has had the privilege of providing the school with two principals, secretarial help and about ten teachers in recent years. (For more information on KCS, please refer to the following website: <http://www.geocities.com/kcsjapan/>)

There have been many opportunities to share the Gospel through KCS, and much blessing that has come out of this outreach. Our staff has had the privilege of aiding many missionaries who are involved in church planting efforts.

They have also been instrumental in influencing many non-Christian families for Christ. A number of parents and children have made decisions. KCS staff and families have aided in the birth of a church fellowship of almost fifty people.

Gone are the days when we considered teachers of missionary children only to be, "missions support personnel"! We firmly believe that they have the potential to work side-by-side with fellow missionaries and complement their work, influencing the Japanese people for Christ!

There are numerous examples of how the teachers have been instrumental in reaching people for Christ. One of the Japanese parents trusted the Lord at a camp for the school children. A little while later at a PTA gathering, she said, "I have found the Lord and am a baby in Christ. Please help me and teach me about being a Christian." She now goes to church regularly and is praying that the Lord will save her husband.

Recently, an elementary student made a profession of faith. A while later his father, a professor at a local university, trusted the Lord. The entire family is also now attending a local church regularly.

We have found that Japanese people admire educators, and want the input of good educators in their children's lives. They want to hear from educators of the West. This has been our "point of contact" with many.

While serving as a volunteer principal of KCS for seven years, I had many chances to influence the local Japanese community. The following are just some of the types of speaking opportunities that were afforded to me:

- \* Japanese PTA meetings - Christian Child Rearing
- \* Gathering of principals of public schools - Christian Education
- \* Numerous city-sponsored gatherings - Christian Education
- \* Served on two Ikoma City Mayor's Advisory Councils for Internationalization.

It is relatively difficult for a pastor or missionary in Japan to be able to speak to people of public schools or government-sponsored entities because they are associated with a religion. Although a missionary, I was invited to these functions as the "Principal of Kansai Christian School." It is was the title that opened the door to many of these opportunities.

We believe that reaching Japanese people through the "point of contact" of education has much potential! The Lord has enabled us to get in touch with numerous people with whom we would have never otherwise made contact. (For further information, please refer to the following website: [www.japanmission.org](http://www.japanmission.org))

May the Lord help us to be willing to "become all things to all people" so that some may be saved (1 Corinthians 9:22).



Neil, Peggy, David and Sue Verwey

### By Way of Application

Our culture is constantly sending the message that big boys don't cry; they are to be tough, not tender. The mistake our culture makes is seeing toughness and tenderness as mutually exclusive qualities. Two of history's "manliest" men, David and Jesus, displayed moments of great tenderness. David weeps openly with Jonathan in 1 Samuel 20:41 and repeatedly throughout the Psalms. Jesus weeps over the death of his friend Lazarus (John 11:35) and over the unrepentant city of Jerusalem (Luke 19:41). How often do your children see you being vulnerable and tender? If they don't see those qualities in you, where will they learn them? —Chuck Swindol

# The Difference Indicators: One Church's Move Towards Revival

by Cheryl Johnson Barton

**T**wenty-plus years of missionary experience in Japan have taught me many things. Among them, I quickly learned that Japan was a nation resistant to the gospel and that serving here was much more an act of obedience than a prize for faithfulness.

Don't get me wrong. My family and I love Japan and the Japanese. We love Tarumi Church of God (Kamino Kyokai), the congregation in western Kobe we have served since 1982. It has been our privilege to be a part of the Church of God Renmei, as well as to fellowship interdenominationally in Kobe.

Nevertheless, we had long wondered why nothing ever changed in Japan—at least within the Christian community. Churches were still few in number and small in size. (We averaged a Sunday morning attendance of thirty-five from 1993-97.) Christians remained weak in faith, and

seldom, if ever, did we hear talk that the future would be anything different. In our most honest moments, we feared the problem was us. I often prayed for release from Japan, but that prayer was never answered.

Thank God! Something is different today! How exciting it is to believe that this difference is the open door to revival, not only in our local congregation, but also in Japan as a whole.

So what's different? At Tarumi Kamino Kyokai, we have noticed at least five "difference indicators."

## Strangers becoming friends

Like many churches throughout Japan, our congregation has long relied upon English-Bible classes, "American cooking" classes, bazaars, and other such programming as ways to meet neighbors and encourage them to come to church. These have met with a measure of success, for some people have been won to the Lord through them. Even now, they remain part of our church calendar.

But these days—for the past two years or so—people are walking into the church as complete strangers. They do not know anyone in our congregation, nor have they had previous contact with the church through its various outreaches. While some have only visited a few times, ten have become regular attendees. Strangers are becoming friends!

## Baptisms increasing

Even more exciting than their unexpected presence, however, is the fact that four of these individuals have

lowed the Lord in baptism. Needless to say, it was with some discouragement that we visited supporting churches after fifteen years in Kobe and reported only thirty baptisms—an average of two a year. With such a backdrop, our excitement at ten baptisms in the past two years is understandable. We also have high expectations for additional baptisms this year. Baptisms are increasing!

## Fringe people coming to Christ

Among these ten recently baptized are three who have long been on the fringes of the church. One woman in her mid-forties dropped in and out of services for nearly seventeen years, generally appearing only when the weight of difficult family situations became too heavy to bear. Since accepting Christ one year ago, her formerly dark countenance has been replaced with a joyful smile. And although many problems remain in her home, she testifies that she no longer carries the burdens herself.

Another woman volunteered to play the organ for worship during fifteen years of association with the church. But at the same time, she made it clear she had no intention of ever becoming a Christian, even sleeping through most services she attended. Amazingly, this woman whose bad attitudes and sharp tongue caused many problems is now being softened day by day in her new life in Christ.

Additionally, we are also seeing the growth of others on the fringes who have not yet been baptized. Fringe people are coming to Christ!

## Disciples growing

I can remember when even begging couldn't entice Christians to join discipleship groups. No matter how they were advertised, when they were scheduled, or what materials were used, the response was minimal at best. People were always too busy and completely content to come to worship on Sundays—and nothing more.

Last fall, fourteen Christians made commitments to three discipleship



accepted Christ, have been baptized, and are now filling positions of service in the church! Others are being baptized, too. In our January 1 worship service, five people were baptized—the most ever at once in the thirty-year history of this congregation.

During our tenure as pastors here, there have been more than a few years when not a single person fol-

groups. This is the most ever to be involved in the annual sixteen weeks of discipleship. And their excitement has spawned a new monthly Bible study in which another dozen are participating, not to mention two prayer retreats that have helped Christians renew their commitments to truly being disciples. The growing recognition is that discipleship is a must for an effective, meaningful Christian life.

### Prayer becoming central

As discipleship becomes a new focus, there is a growing understanding that prayer must be central. Two years ago, our weekly prayer meeting was restructured. No longer do we talk about the need to pray—we pray. It's amazing how quickly an hour and a half goes by when one is truly engaged in prayer! Although we are still few in number, we are praying as never before for revival for Tarumi Kamino Kyokai and all Japan.

## My CONFESSIONS

By Erick Haugrud

I have undergone a momentous year as a finale to this Millennium. Last summer I underwent a crisis. I did survive, but the Lord has taught me a lot.

In writing about this crisis, my two main intercessors both told me that I was focusing on my circumstances, rather than on God. In other words, I was so blinded by my pain and the decisions I needed to make, that I didn't turn my problems over to God. Until this time, my usual response to problems had been to solve them on my own. I finally concluded this was not God's way.

First, I asked myself WHY I tended to react to crisis in this way. I then recalled what I had learned in my first seminary class. My professor, Terry S. Wise, a graduate of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, writes:

*"The scientific worldview is the standard persuasion of the Western world. This view, with its compulsion for logic and precision, has divided reality into two distinct parts, the supernatural and the natural spheres.*

More important than numbers is the fact that our new sanctuary was designed with prayer in mind. It is thrilling that the prayer rails at the front of the sanctuary are often filled with people seeking the Lord's face, worshipping, and praying for the salvation of family and friends—this despite the fact that we were advised that kneeling rails for prayer were western and that Japanese would not use them! Indeed, prayer is becoming central in the life of our church

### Where do we go from here?

More than anything else, it is our prayer that full blown, impossible-to-contain revival will sweep over Japan in the near future. In order for this to happen, we cannot be satisfied with the current situation, no matter how encouraging it may be.

Recently while walking and praying, I was stunned momentarily when I passed a certain house. Around its

outer walls, positioned meticulously every three feet or so, were small piles of black ash. It wasn't that I'd never seen such a sight before. In fact, these markers appear annually in January around homes in the Kansai. Created by burning new years decorations, they are placed as protection against bad luck for the home in the coming year.

What stopped me in my tracks was the quiet voice of God speaking to my heart. "There are so many who have yet to hear," I was reminded. "Your job has only begun."



Cheryl Johnston Barton and her husband Bernard work together in a church planting ministry in Tarumi-ku, Kobe. The Bartons came to Japan in 1976 and serve with Church of God, Anderson, Indiana.

*Everything is placed in an 'either-or' category.*

*The scientific worldview has created two separate and distinct compartments which do not interact with one another. God lives in the heavenly and humans live in this planet. God may have established natural laws to govern the physical universe, but now there is no need for Him to interact at all.*

*When something occurs in the physical world it has a logical, natural cause that can be scientifically explained and validated. It is extremely rare for spirit beings living in the supernatural domain to influence or interact with humans living in a natural, physical place. Although miracles do happen, God sits on His heavenly throne overseeing the care of heavenly functions while His established scientific laws operate the Earth below. God and angels stay put in the supernatural realm" (Wise, pp. 47-50).*

Good grief! I then realized that my mind had definitely been operating in the so-called "scientific worldview" (also called the "Western Worldview"), and that my ability to minister effectively to the Japanese had been severely handicapped right from the start.

I also realized that my Western worldview had particularly influenced me, not only because I was raised in America, but also due to my European heritage. John Wimber writes, "Most of us are not conscious of our worldview. We do not learn it so much as absorb it from our surrounding culture. It is passed on from generation to generation with minimal change, the assumption rarely being reviewed or revised" (p. 67). The so-called "Enlightenment" (what an ironic label!) from Europe produced the "Western worldview." Wimber explains, "because angels, demons, God, and spiritual gifts cannot be scientifically measured, secularists employ rationalism to explain away the supernatural" (p. 71). Thus, the Scriptural view is replaced by the Scientific or Western view. I have concluded that despite the profound effect of my inherited worldview, I cannot excuse myself from my lack of faith by simply blaming my citizenship and my ancestors. Rather, the responsibility is ultimately mine to correct.

Second, why has my faith proven to be so weak? Or, more specifically, why has my relationship with the Holy Spirit been only "skin-deep?" Well, I learned

that I am not the only one! Charles Swindoll writes, *“During my growing-up years, including my years in seminary, I kept a safe distance. I was taught to be careful, to study Him from a doctrinal distance, but not to enter into any of the realms of His supernatural workings, or to tolerate the possibility of such. Explaining the Spirit was acceptable and encouraged; experiencing Him was neither”* (p. 15). Later he writes, *“It is possible to be converted and yet not live on a spiritual plane. It is one thing to become a Christian. It is another thing entirely to become a Spirit-filled Christian. The tragedy is that so many are converted and so few Spirit-filled”* (p. 88). I then asked myself, “Have I been seeking a continual refilling of the Holy Spirit?”

Third, what must I do in order for my faith to sail me through future trials? In December’s *Charisma Magazine*, Bishop Eddie Long, pastor of the 18,000 member New Birth Missionary Baptist Church near Atlanta, Georgia (USA), wrote,

*“We jump and shout in church over themes such as faith, obedience, and fellowship, but we’re not blessed because the Word has simply become a book of amusing stories instead of life-changing truths.... If we are walking by sight, then we won’t be able to see the victory. But if we are walking in the Spirit, we know that when we get tired, He will help us. All we have to do is show up for the battle, and the Spirit of the Lord will come upon us.... You may have heard the promises a hundred times before. It’s time to start believing them.”* I realized I must begin to walk by faith. I must make the decision to change. *“Take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ”* (II Corinthians 10:5b, NIV) now comes to mind!

### **Whose plans?**

I must become truly led by the Holy Spirit, rather than make my own plans and ask God to merely bless them. John Wimber writes, *“In programmatic evangelism the attitude is that we do something and then God works. In power evangelism, God speaks and then we act”* (p. 47). Am I running the show, or am I laying prostate to the will

of God? Martin Goldsmith served as a missionary in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand. In his autobiography, he confesses, *“I came to see that mission had become central in my life rather than Christ Himself...Mission should be glorifying Christ, not Christ as a servant to promote mission”* (pp. 236-237).

### **Is prayer truly a priority?**

Have I been praying as often and as fervently as Jesus would desire? Unfortunately, I must answer, “No.” Wimber writes, *“Most Western Christians struggle with personal prayer.”* He believes this is much in part due to modern society, so concerned with time (“time is money”), and having *“little patience for activity that has no apparent material benefit, that is rooted outside of time”* (p. 73). One American Christian noted that so many books have been written in English about prayer, but so little prayer is actually done.

### **Am I overcome by technology?**

Am I truly cognizant of the effects of technology in my life? Have I arranged an array of convenient technological devices (such as a cell phone) and readily available information (on the internet web sites) to be able to feel that I am in control of my life? Perhaps I have been victim of various advertising messages, such as “take charge of your life!” Have I unconsciously shoved God away as my Lord of all things?

### **Is my goal merely to win souls?**

It doesn’t take too long before we realize that some people in our home country and in Japan who accept Christ never graduate from drinking milk (I Corinthians 3:1,2). These Christians don’t mature or become strong. John Wimber writes, *“Programmatic evangelism tends to have as its goal decisions for Christ, not disciples. Many people who make these decisions do not encounter God’s power; thus they frequently do not move on to a mature faith.”* Am I both devoted and prepared to follow-up on a regular basis with people whom I see saved?

### **Am I adequately trained?**

In addition, Wimber writes, *“Because Western Christians are inhibited from practicing power evangelism, their effectiveness is blunted. This leaves them ineffective in dealing with people who have problems with demons, illness, and serious sin”* (p. 41). He continues, *“Dr. Charles Kraft tells about going to Nigeria and attempting to teach the book of Romans to a small tribe. After a few months, they came to him very politely and said that they appreciated his teaching, but it was not relevant to their needs. What they needed was wisdom for dealing with spirits that plagued the villagers every night, something that Kraft readily admitted he was not trained to do. Under such circumstances it is not surprising that more than half of all American foreign missionaries return home after only one tour.”* Doesn’t this sound like the same culture and circumstances we face in Japan? This also answers the question why many Japanese continue to employ protection elements of Shinto, such as *o-mamori* ornaments in their cars, even after confessing sin and receiving Christ. Often, the missionaries or pastors who led them to Christ didn’t deal with the evil spirits, probably because they didn’t know how. I confess that my missionary work has displayed an invisible sign reading, “Sorry, but I don’t do demons.”

Wimber writes, *“Jesus spent more time healing and casting out demons than preaching. Out of 3,774 verses in the four Gospels, 484 (12 percent of the total) relate specifically to the healing of physical and mental illness and the resurrection of the dead”* (p. 49). I realize I need training in deliverance ministry (particularly significant in dealing with the legions of demons in Japan that continually afflict both non-Christians and Christians), as well as lots of practice in praying in sincere faith for the healing of the sick.

### **My Conclusion**

In summary, I realize that I have been living more of a superficial Christianity than a true heartfelt faith. John Wimber spoke to me when he wrote that Western Christians are *“trained to think*

*Continued on page 32*



# Training MK's to be Missionaries

by Steve Rohrer

**W**hat should I do for my children's education? Should I send them to an MK or International school so they can study in English? But I also want them to speak Japanese and grow to know and love the people of Japan, so maybe a Japanese school? Or maybe I



should teach them at home, so they would have personalized care in a strong Christian atmosphere. What is best?"

Many missionary parents have thought and prayed much about this important question, but it is hard to meet all the needs of our children. Wouldn't it be great to find one school that combines the best points of all these options? That is a school where MK's could receive a solid education in English, but also become fluent in Japanese. That is a school with a strong Christian atmosphere, yet a place where Christians could also befriend and witness to unsaved Japanese. That is a school where teachers pray and care for each of the students and work to meet their individual needs. It would be great for MK's to attend such a school, and that is why the Kyoto International University Academy was founded.

KIU Academy is a branch of the Kyoto International University, which, under the direction of International Chapel Ministries, has been providing

Japanese and internationals with a bilingual, Christian education since 1995. Located in southern Kyoto Prefecture, just thirty minutes east of downtown Osaka, KIU Academy began its bilingual junior high school in April, 1999 with six students. An upper elementary class was added the following October, and last April, it expanded to grades one through twelve, with a total enrollment of 80. Texts from A Beka Book form the basis for the curriculum in the elementary, with materials from other publishers being used more frequently in the secondary school, along with original instruction in Japanese Government, Language and History.

Missionary and other International children, returnees, and nationals who were not pleased with the Japanese system are excited about the bilingual program. Some who had refused to go to school now eagerly come as teachers encourage them to think and express themselves. MKs who had had little contact with Japanese children now talk to



Japanese friends every day and learn to share Christ with them.

Josiah is the thirteen-year-old son of Chris and Nancy Momose, who have been missionaries in Japan since

1983. Josiah was home schooled and although he had studied Japanese was hesitant to use it. He had a few Japanese friends. Since entering KIU Academy his reading and writing ability have improved greatly. Now with his new friends at school he speaks Japanese with confidence. Yet more important than his academic achievements, for Josiah, evangelism is no



longer only his parents' work. It is something he does, too, in the supportive atmosphere of KIU Academy. Josiah has begun praying for his unsaved friends, and he has had the joy of seeing God at work. Several friends have come to church and have begun to read the Bible. Two have made decisions for Christ.

Many MKs grow up in Japan but have no desire to stay and join in the work. The goal at KIU Academy is to train MKs as well as Japanese nationals not only to have the language ability and education to serve the Church in Japan, but also to have a heart that desires to reach the Japanese and the world for the Lord Jesus Christ. Maybe KIU Academy is just the school you have been praying for. For more information: call 0120-23-5931; e-mail: [kiu@kyotoiu.org](mailto:kiu@kyotoiu.org); website: <http://www.kyotoiu.org>



Steve Rohrer is Vice Principal of KIU Academy and has been serving in Japan with International Chapel Ministries since 1990. He lives in Nara with his wife and four young children.

## From the President's Pencil

As we enter the fiftieth year of JEMA and the publication of the *Japan Harvest* what are we to make of the way the Lord has lead over the past years? I suppose it all depends on one's view of history. Modern man, and I suspect many modern missionaries may have their view of history shaped more by Kevin Costner than by the Bible.

"History is a constant tragedy in which we are all involved, whose keynote is frustration and anxiety, not progress and fulfillment," so says Arthur Schlesinger Jr., and many people see it that way. For those of us who believe the Bible, the words of a well known Bible commentator says it best, "The realism of the Bible consists in its close attention to the facts of history...these are the facts of God."

We must avoid two opposite extremes when we look at God's leading in the past and how He has used JEMA over these fifty or so years. In the first place, we should not look back or wish to live then. Things were different, and personally I feel that there were giants in the land. Men and women, whom God used to start useful and significant ministries, have played important roles in the Japanese church. Looking back we give thanks for all God did through these dedicated and willing workers. What the

church in Japan owes to the unsung quiet work of an army of missionaries will not be fully known this side of heaven. Those who have labored here for over 20 years are able to look back to see churches in places where there were none before. Now, however, we need to press on, expecting the Lord to bring further fruit as we faithfully carry out our duties. Now, we need to be prepared to do things new and differently. If we do what we have always done won't we see the results we have always seen?

How prepared are we to get the Word out in new ways? Consider such questions as: Must everything be centered on the church building? Is God calling us to radically rethink how we do ministry? Does worship only take place on Sunday?

My recent observation leads me to conclude many Japanese are looking for something, and they know not what or whom. Truly, the fields are white to harvest.

It would be bold and perhaps foolish to try to predict the future, but let's consider some modern trends.

We shall have to learn to live with the IT revolution. By this I mean, as missionaries how are we making use of the computer in general? As the boon continues, we face its dangers. I wonder if with the possession of more information there very well might be a loss of communication. What I mean is, I meet missionaries who use the computer for language study and find relating to real

Japanese very difficult, not to mention their fellow missionaries. We need to remember that all witness, preaching, and teaching is enshrined in dedicated personality. We must spend time with the people we are trying to reach.

Another trend is partnership in church planting—Japanese pastors and missionaries working together. Will the day come when Japanese leaders determine where and with whom missionaries work?

Protestant church history in Japan is relatively short, 150 years is a generous estimate. Let us remember that it took about 400 years for the Roman Empire to bow the knee to Christ. The evangelical church here is finding its feet, casting off old defensive attitudes and beginning to look outward. The steady trickle of nationals leaving as missionaries and volunteers is evidence of this.

We live in exciting times. Let us take the opportunity of 50 years of God's grace and faithfulness to rededicate ourselves to the task before us expecting the Lord to use each and every one of us for His praise and glory!

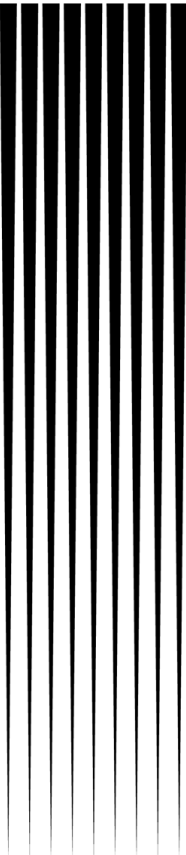
Paul Pike



## JEMA Datebook 2001

Event	Date	Place
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
CPI Conference	November 6-9	Lakeland Hotel, Kawaguchi-ko

# Harvest Focus 2001 & Beyond



<b>Summer Issue:</b>	<b>Golden Jubilee, Special edition</b> Deadline for articles: May 15, 2001 Publication: July
<b>Fall Feature:</b>	<b>Shikoku</b> Theme: Church Growth in Rural Japan Short term/Long term missionary service Deadline for articles: June 1, 2001 Publication: October
<b>Winter Feature:</b>	<b>Honshu/Tohoku Region</b> Theme: Working Together Missionary with Nationals Missionary with Missionary Deadline for articles: September 1, 2001 Publication: January 2002
<b>Spring 2002 Feature:</b>	<b>Honshu/Kanto</b> Sub-feature: CPI
<b>Summer 2002 Feature:</b>	<b>Honshu/Chubu Region</b>
<b>Fall 2002 Feature:</b>	<b>Honshu/Chugoku Region</b>

## CHALLENGE *from JEA Chairman, Dr. Joshua T. Tsutada, to JEMA Plenary February 27, 2001*

**W**e are one in the redemption of Jesus Christ! Let's be encouraged as we work together!" challenged Dr. Joshua Tsutada, whose words set the tone for the day.

Speaking from Isaiah, Dr. Tsutada drew parallels to modern day Japan. Today there is more anxiety and fear for the future than ever before. Dr. Tsutada reminded us of what the prophet saw. The year Uzziah died who could ever have filled the throne? Then Isaiah saw another THRONE and it was there that the Living God sat and He still sits there. The glory Isaiah saw not only surrounded the throne, but it also filled the whole earth! With serious issues facing us today, we must remember that the Glory of God fills the whole earth.

After seeing the throne, Isaiah saw himself (chapter 5) and how sinful he was. We, too, need cleansing. The blood

of Jesus still flows.

Following his cleansing, Isaiah saw the people and three distinct things about them. 1. They were in need of a prophet. You and I are standing among the people. 2. These people were a hard and difficult people who rejected the truth. These were people who would not listen. These were people who resisted the prophet's message and in the end crucified the Savior. Japan is unresponsive. 3. There was a remnant and it was they who accepted Isaiah's leadership and followed faithfully in God's way.

God has a plan for Japan! As His people are renewed, Japan and Asia can and will be reached!

Dr. Tsutada called on us to pray with and for the Church of Jesus Christ here. JEA is placing more emphasis on prayer and is working for this vision to spread throughout Japan. The more we, JEA and JEMA, come together the better,

were Dr. Tsutada words spoken with deep emotion.

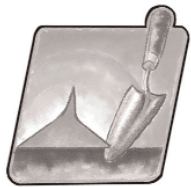
Coming events are the World Evangelical Fellowship May 1-10 to be held in Malaysia and the 1st Global Congress on Church Ministry and Mission, October 1-5. August 2003 will be the 1st Youth Congress on World Mission Japan. Dr. Tsutada encouraged missionary participation in all events! (The JEA Office will help you get information.)

*With the beautiful and gentle spirit of Dr. Tsutada we entered into our Plenary session. Although a very busy leader, I noticed that Dr. Tsutada stayed for lunch and fellowship. His words to us and his actions amongst us rang true. Dr. Tsutada does what he suggests! May the blessing of the Lord rest upon us all as we enter the 21st Century.*

*Reported by: Janice Kropp*

# Training to be like Barnabas

by John Mehn



As the word “coach” conveys a negative meaning in Japanese, JCGI (Japan Church Growth Institute)

uses the term “Barnabas Ministries” for what CPI terms “coaching.”

“Coaching is the hands-on process of helping someone succeed.” Or to put it another way, “Coaching is the art of helping someone to do what they don’t want to do so they can accomplish what they do want to accomplish.” “Coaching is not supervising. It is coming alongside someone and giving of yourself to help them in the growth process,” is the way a Japanese brother put it.

In February over 165 people were trained in coaching by Dr. Tom Nebel and his team from the US. Four two-day regional seminars took place in Hokkaido (Sapporo), Kanto (Okutama), Kansai (Osaka), and Okinawa. These seminars were sponsored jointly by JEMA Church Planting Institute (CPI), Japan Church Growth Institute (JCGI) and in the Kansai region with Research Association for Contextualization (RAC).

National (Japanese) participation was very high reaching 75% in some regions.

How does one person coach another?



All participants are trained in the two coaching tools: 1) ask good questions, and 2) use of the GROW method. One learns the value of empathetic listening versus pathetic

listening in the development of leaders. (Many missionaries and nationals shared that they need to listen more, especially to their spouses and family members.)

The GROW method is a series of strategic questions, 1) What is your Goal? 2) What is the Reality of your situation? 3) What Options do you have? 4) What will you do? After learning these tools every participant takes turns coaching one person, being a coach and being an observer. For many the highlight of the seminar was being able to practice what had been taught. Almost everyone present expressed they had been helped personally when coached.

“I know I need to be more of a truth-teller,” one missionary shared. Japanese, as well, mentioned that they needed to speak with more truth. Most of us find it easier to encourage



and suggest than to be a truth-teller. Sometimes “hard words” are appropriate.

Attendees were encouraged to develop coaching systems within their organizations and denominations. All were challenged to build accountability, quality control and to continue coaching.

Dr. Mitsuo Fukuda, who shared in Kansai, commented on 12 things that make coaching difficult. Three of those included, 1) Not listening to the other person, but merely talking about one’s own agenda. 2) Not spending as much as even an hour a week with the people one loves, such as one’s family. 3) Some of

us are not good at making new friends.

Evaluation time brought out interesting observations. One area was in finishing well. Gordon Bates and Paul Mitton, trainers in the Hokkaido and Okinawa sessions, were impressed with the last session on “Finishing Well.” Many Japanese attendees were deeply moved by the need of ending life and ministry loving and serving Christ more than ever before.

One CPI Core Value is the mentoring, developing, empowering, equipping, and coaching of leaders. These coaching seminars have given us better focus as to how we can accomplish that.

Other CPI regional seminars will take place in the future. Training in coaching will continue to be part of our Annual CPI Conference (this year November 6-9). For more information on coaching, please contact CPI. *Empowering Leaders through Coaching* study kit and *The Coaching Logbook* are for sale in the JEMA office.

Tom Nebel is the director of church planting in the Great Lakes district of the Baptist General Conference and TeAmerica the Church Planting Movement of the BGC. Dr. Nebel is the co-author of *Empowering Leaders through Coaching* and the *Coaching Logbook*.

## Women’s Retreat Reports



“Wonderful!” “The music was uplifting in praise to the Lord!” “I was challenged by the speaker.” “The small groups were great!” These were some

expressions of appreciation by those who attended the JEMA Women in Ministry Retreat at Megumi Chalet in Karuizawa, March 7-9.

*Continued on page 30*

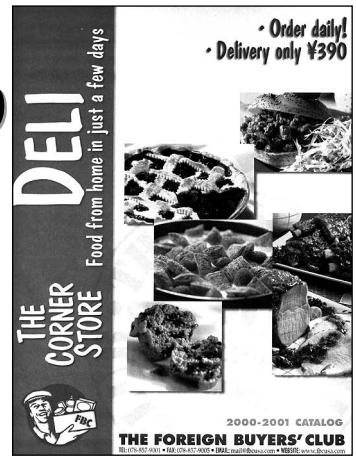
# THE CORNER STORE - DELI

Order Daily!  
Delivery from only ¥390

Delivery to your door in 5-7 days!

Food from *your* home! We've always carried a wide variety of foods but this year we've got more items that our International group of friends miss from home. And we have tons of US magazines - from ¥490!

- Full range of Mexican, Italian, Indian and other ethnic foods
- Lunch items - Peanut Butter, Cheddar Cheese, Meats, Bagels & Buns
- Baking ingredients like Yeast, Flour, Bisquick, Dried Fruit & Nuts
- Party foods like Pretzels, Popcorn, Potato Chips and Chocolate

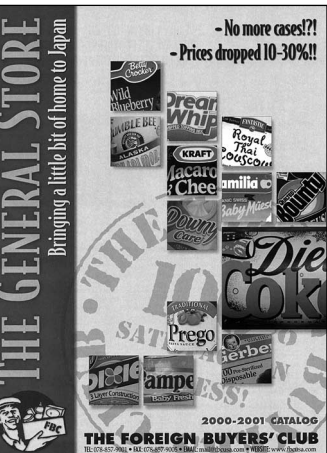
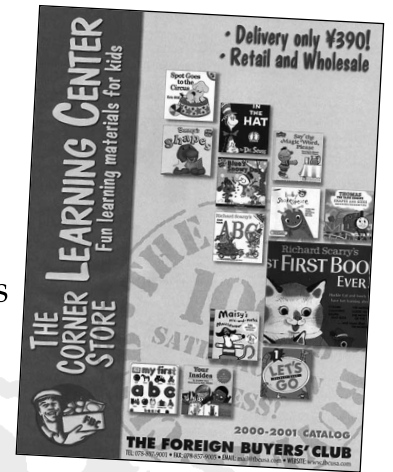


# Delivery from only ¥390 Retail and Wholesale THE CORNER STORE LEARNING CENTER

Delivery to your door in 5-7 days!

This little section of FBC has grown so much and so fast that we had to give it a catalog of its own! Check out over 1,000 of the best and most fun learning materials for kids of all ages!

- Parent reference and educational sections
- Videos from Richard Scarry, Maisy, Barney and Blues Clues
- Games for the whole family like Monopoly, Clue and Scrabble
- Parent Teacher Catalog Packet for home and school!



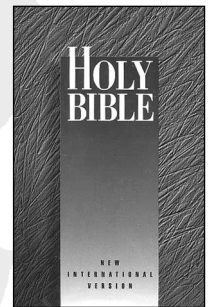
# THE GENERAL STORE

Now Single Items!  
Prices dropped 10-30%!!

From our warehouse to your door in 30-33 days!

No More Cases?! With The General Store Catalog you'll find over 1,000 items that are now available in SINGLE UNITS! Of course, you may still order by the case if you want to save 12-20% and if you do then you can choose from nearly 40,000 items!

- Cereals from General Mills, Kellogg's, Post and dozens of other brands
- Caffeine Free Coke, Pepsi, 7-Up, Dr. Pepper and lot's more - even diet
- Favorites like Starkist Tuna, Kraft Mac&Cheese and Campbell's Soups
- Essentials like Tide, Vitamins, Toothpaste and Contact Lens Solution



## SPECIAL FOR JAPAN HARVEST READERS:

During the months of April, May and June 2001 we have a special discount for Japan Harvest readers! Order the NIV Holy Bible and get a 25% discount! That's only ¥600!

Just use product code 5-00496 & write "Japan Harvest" on your order form and you'll get the discount!

Fax, mail or email for our FREE Catalogs!!

# THE FOREIGN BUYERS' CLUB

Direct to your door - anywhere in Japan!

5-15-3F Koyochonaka, Higashinada-ku, Kobe 658-0032

TEL: 078-857-9001 • FAX: 078-857-9005 • EMAIL: mail@fbcusa.com • WEBSITE: www.fbcusa.com



## Living with Israel

Since it has been over 1,500 years since the completion of the Bible, there may be many people, including Christians, who do not see the connection between modern Israel and the Israel in the Bible. Or, there may be people who think of Israel as the country to visit on a Holy Land pilgrimage. Israel, however, is the amazing nation through which God is slowly but surely fulfilling His word even today.

If you look at the people of Israel, it is clear that God's promises are filled with truth. Since the temple of Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman army in 70 AD, the Jews were scattered throughout the world and became a wandering people without a country. Normally, people who migrate to another country adapt to the culture of the place where they live, and the traditions as an ethnic group eventually disappear over the generations. However, this did not happen with the Jews. They preserved their ethnicity and culture. Above all, they kept God's command to "Love the one and only God." One thousand and a few hundred years since the scattering of God's people, the Zionist movement started with people fulfilling their earnest desire to return to Zion, and the modern day nation of Israel was born.

Except for two of the 66 books of the Bible, the Scripture which we know and love was written entirely by Jewish people. Furthermore, our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ was born among the Jewish people. The Jews are the brothers and sisters of Jesus. When Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem, He looked at the city and cried, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing," (Matthew 23: 37).

We can imagine how much He loves His compatriots the, the Jews, and how sad He is for them.

The compatriots of the Lord are suffering today. Israel has been richly blessed to the point of prospering in the areas of agriculture, industry and tourism. In the area of high technology, the nation has particularly achieved a top-level ranking in the world. However, the economy of Israel is about to crash because of the high military defense expenses caused by the ongoing conflicts, and the high cost of accepting the flood of immigrants. The immigrants include not only Jewish settlers, but also Arabs and Christians from southern Lebanon. Although they may not be Jews, Israel accepts these people as refugees. About one third of the children in the capital, Jerusalem, are living below the poverty level, and are suffering from malnutrition.

What should our stand be as Christians concerning the Jews who are the Lord's brothers and sisters? What does God tell us? Romans 15: 25 says, "They (the Gentiles) were pleased to do it (contribute to the poor), and indeed they owe it to them (the Jews). For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings." The "them" mentioned in this passage of Scripture refers to the Jews. The Gentiles who shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings refers to Christians like us.

In accordance with this passage of Scripture, **Bridges for Peace** distributes food, blankets, kitchen supplies and Bibles that were donated by Christians around the world for households in Jerusalem and her surrounding areas that are living in poverty. **Bridges for Peace** also restores dilapidated homes, and helps people through the Adoption Program as well. With the bag

of food distributed by **BFP**, the children are smiling once again. With the warm blankets, the elderly are able to sleep comfortably through the cold nights. And with proper sewage in the homes, the living environment has been made more sanitary.

People are not simply given material assistance. People who visit the **BFP** Food Bank in Jerusalem say things like, "For some reason, I feel very relaxed here," or "This place is filled with love," or "I have never been treated with this kind of love by Christians until now. I always thought that Christians were aiming for our lives. My image of Christians has been uprooted and changed entirely." Through the actions of the **BFP** staff members, who are serving in Israel for free, people are receiving love and comfort from Christians.

Today this ministry is more important than ever in Israel, where the prophecies of the Bible are quickly being fulfilled before our eyes. Although Israel has an economy that seems like it is about to collapse, it accepts the ancestors of Abraham who are returning to Israel at a rate of about 5,000 people per month, fulfilling the Lord's prophecy - "I will gather them...and a great throng will return." In this manner, **BFP** is helping where the hands of the Israeli government is unable to reach. This ministry plays a role in the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. We Christians have been given a wonderful opportunity to become directly involved in the fulfillment of God's promises!

"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins," (Isaiah 40: 1- 2).



## Bridges For Peace, Japan Office

OCC Bldg. 5F, 2-1 Kanda Surugadai, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0062

TEL: 03-5283-7333 / FAX:03-5283-7337

E-mail: [bfp@bfpj.net](mailto:bfp@bfpj.net)

Postal Transfer: 00290-4-77459

Homepage: [www.bfpj.net](http://www.bfpj.net) (Japanese)

[www.bridgesforpeace.com](http://www.bridgesforpeace.com) (English)

Your Israel Connection

## Church Music



In our previous article, we presented four possible sources for contemporary Christian music with Japanese lyrics: Michtam, Living Praise, Shobokusha, and Gospel Music Xpress. Here are three more:

### NOAH Music Ministry

([www.ne.jp/asahi/noah/music](http://www.ne.jp/asahi/noah/music))

Pastor Kazushi Mitani, who founded NOAH Music Ministry as an outreach of the gospel music band of Shiboku Jesus Christ Church in Kawasaki, outlines the origins and philosophy of NOAH Music in his book *Sambi no Kaifuku (The Restoration of Praise)* published by Kirisuto Shimbunsha in 1994. Frustrated by the complicated process of obtaining copyright permissions when wanting to use translations of Christian music from the U.S., he decided early in his ministry that his church would compose all of its own music and make those materials freely available for others to use for the Lord. This policy is symbolized by the “SGM” logo found on NOAH releases, an acronym for the English phrase “Sharing Gospel Music.”

As a direct result of this practice of writing original songs free of copyright restrictions, the influence of NOAH Music Ministry has spread throughout Japan during the past decade. In the early 90’s they distributed their music on audio cassettes, and they have made their more recent releases available on CDs. They have also printed a series of songbooks that they encourage church-based ministries to freely

copy. If you’re involved in work with children, there’s a good chance you’re familiar with some of the songs from NOAH, because *Living Praise* has drawn from NOAH materials in producing their *Japanese Kid’s Praise* series.

Although some of NOAH’s songs fit into the “praise and worship” category, many of the songs tend to fit into the testimony/commitment genre with volitional statements expressed by the phrase “I will.” Possessing a contemporary, personal flavor, the lyrics seem to be effective in touching the hearts of Japanese who enjoy NOAH’s distinctive musical style. Although people of all ages can find lyrical content that applies to their particular life stage in NOAH releases, in recent years it seems this ministry has focused a number of its albums toward children.

You can listen to NOAH music at their website, and although the download function does not appear to be enabled on the English side, on the Japanese side you can download pdf files of their music. (You will need to have the Japanese version of the free-ware Acrobat Reader installed on your Japanese enabled computer).

### Zawameki - “The Tumult”

([www.tsc.co.jp/~revival/jpn/zawa.html](http://www.tsc.co.jp/~revival/jpn/zawa.html))

This series seems to be quite visible in Christian bookstores that carry it in Japan, perhaps because of the ringed binders Zawameki sells for inserting their sets of songs. The first songs were birthed during preparations for the All Japan Koshien Revival Mission that took place in 1993, and the music has continued to be associated with the development of that movement.

A growing collection of material, it has tended toward issues and topics relating to spiritual warfare, and certain songs may be helpful to those ministering specifically in that area. The CDs can be quite energetic (as one would expect from the descriptive title *zawameki* taken from Jeremiah 10:13), with hard rock being used to express the passion of the spiritual battle.

Although the songs seem to be easy to learn, some have complained that over time the music all starts sounding

the same. Some of the songs are weak musically, and at times the words and music do not seem to match.

### City Praise

(email: [tokyocity@church.email.ne.jp](mailto:tokyocity@church.email.ne.jp))

The *City Praise* books are a project of Pastor Kazuo Suriya-Sano of Tokyo City Church. They include both original compositions and translations of songs written within the past 15 years. With the first book having appeared on the market in 1998, they may appear insignificant on store bookshelves, but just the opposite is true.

Pastor Suriya-Sano is a well-known worship leader, and his translations frequently are the first to be used at large Christian gatherings. With his keen sense for welding words and music, they are often quite good. His translations of the Hill songs “standards” (*Shout to the Lord* and *The Power of Your Love* included in the first *City Praise* release) are the most widely used Japanese versions. Three booklets with 10 to 15 songs each have been released during the past two-and-a-half years, with accompanying CDs available for each.

### In conclusion

There are a number of other ministries publishing their own original Japanese gospel music and these are enjoying visibility within certain segments of the Japanese Christian community. What I have given you here, however, presents a broad view of what has been happening in the contemporary music scene in the Japanese church.



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](mailto:gbauman@lifejapan.org).

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

## Gospel Boom

Why are so many non-Christians singing gospel music? How can the church make use of the BOOM?

Larry Lucker, superintendent of Lucker Gospel Ministry, has organized gospel workshops in many parts of Japan. Many Japanese are seeking to be filled spiritually and are starting to look to the church! Not only are they attending practice, but also they are coming to Larry's gospel workshops where he explains that God is the One who brought them. Larry teaches high quality music along with a Bible study to help Japanese understand the English words of the songs being sung. Each workshop ends up with a concert! "This is a good chance to sow the word of God and a good chance for evangelism!" Larry says.

## Chisa na Inochi o Mamoru Kai (Pro Life JAPAN)

Pro Life Japan celebrates its 17th year! Since its founding in 1984, it has grown to 3,000 members and continues to be very active.

The AIMS of PLJ are:

- Supporting women, and those around them, who become pregnant contrary to their will. Support continues through childbirth.
- Helping with adoption.
- Teaching on LIFE and sex from the Biblical point of view.
- Offering help and encouragement to those suffering from the trauma of an abortion.

In 1999 abortions among teens jumped three times higher than 20 years ago with 40,000 abortions. PLJ uses churches, denominational offices, mission schools, colleges, uni-

versities, nursing schools, Rotary Clubs, etc. to get the word out on the Biblical teaching of life and sex. The video, "Silent Cry" is used widely.

PLJ is found in seven regional areas throughout Japan. For more information feel free to find PLJ on the internet at:

<http://homepage1.nifty.com/PLJNAGOYA>

## Japanese Missionary to America

Roy Yamamoto, a Japanese Christian, and his wife have served as missionaries in the USA for 50 years. As a young man Roy was educated in militaristic Japan, but in 1940 he became a Christian and went to Korea to serve for a while. Later he and his wife went to the United States. His wife recently wrote a book entitled, *America for Christ - Fifty years of Evangelism by a Three Legged Race*. Among the many episodes was a story of a drunken American whose friend was killed by the Japanese Navy during the war. At first he resisted the message of salvation, but later became a born again Christian. The book concludes with the words, "our nationality is in heaven."

## Prayer in Walking

PW, an international group whose members work at the Diet Building, meets to pray regularly for those in politics and government.

A Day of Prayer was held on January 13 with the theme, "Let us start the New Year with prayer for Japanese in Politics." Songs of praise rang out in the Diet Building!

Prayers are being offered for a Prime Minister who will be a Christian as well as for politicians and their secretaries.

## 2001 Fasting/Prayer DAYS

Three days of fasting/praying were held at the Yodobashi Church. Prayer themes centered around (1) Japanese Society & Evangelism, (2) Japanese Family & Youth, (3) Japan and World Evangelism.

One of the most important topics of focus was on the Imperial System, and its influence that is felt in the nation, in education and in evangelism efforts.

The first of such fasting/prayer was held in January, 1999, sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ. The second was held in May, 2000 in celebrating the 2000th anniversary of Christ's birth. Fasting, praising, listening to messages, and praying have taken those in attendance far beyond the differences of denominations!



Translated by Mizuko Matsushita who is JEMA Executive Office Secretary. She has served faithfully since 1984.

## Little Things

Thank you, God, for little things  
That often come our way—  
The things we take for granted  
But don't mention when we pray—  
The unexpected courtesy,  
The thoughtful, kindly deed—  
A hand reached out to help us  
In time of sudden need—  
Make us more aware, dear God,  
of little daily graces,  
That come to us  
with sweet surprise,  
From never-dreamed-of places.

Helen S. Rice



## Language Lab

As mentioned in previous articles evangelistic Bible studies provide me with a rich harvest of new Japanese expressions. Here are just a few recent gleanings. The story of the 10 lepers in Luke 17:11-19 of whom 9 forgot to thank Jesus for their healing, provoked one lady into this comment:

のどもとす  
「喉元過ぎれば  
あつ わす  
熱さ忘れる。」

Literally this means that once something has passed down your throat you forget how it was. The dictionary explanation is as follows:

くる  
苦しかったことも、  
す さ まったわす  
過ぎ去れば全く忘れて  
しまうことのたとえ。  
くる とき  
また苦しい時には人を  
たの くる さ  
頼み、苦しさが去れば  
おん わす  
その恩を忘れること  
にいう。  
あん  
「案ずるより  
う う やす  
生(産)むが易し」

This expression cropped up in discussion of the story of Peter

walking on the water and how by keeping our eyes on Jesus we can tackle things that otherwise would be impossible. Literally, it is easier to give birth than one expects. e.g. Things turn out easier

あん  
than we think (案ずる=to  
じぜん  
think or worry). 「事前にあれ  
しんばい じっさい  
これ心配するよりも、実際  
あんがい  
にやってみると案外たやすい  
(easy) ことにいう。」

It is interesting to see how a non Christian relates what they are hearing to their own background and culture although the interpretation may not be exactly what we intended.

Easy to relate to Scripture is:

み ご たましい ひやく  
三つ子の 魂 百まで  
さんさい こども たましい ひやくさい  
「三歳の子供の魂は、百歳  
か も  
まで変わらない。持って  
う せいしつ いっしょうか  
生まれた性質は一生変わら  
い み  
ないという意味。」

Dictionaries quote here the parallel English proverb, “The child is the father of the man,” “三つ子の魂百まで” can be used in either a contrastive sense (for e.g. we can’t change ourselves as this proverb shows but by God’s grace we can be changed 2 Corinthians 5:17),

or to point out correlations with the Bible such as Proverbs 22:6 “Train a child in the way he should go and he will not depart from it.”

Finally, here is a saying I heard on a recent Saturday morning ‘Lifeline’ program on TV.

じじつ しょうせつ  
「事実は小説より  
き  
も奇なり」

じっさい で き こと  
世の中の実際の出来事は、  
きょこう しょうせつ  
虚構(fiction)の小説よりも  
き みょうふしぎ  
かえって奇妙不思議(strange

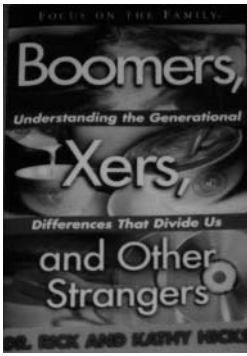
and amazing) である。

How about applying this to miracles or to Scriptures like 1 Corinthians 2:9 “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those that love Him”?



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.



**Boomers, Xers, and Other Strangers,**

By Dr. Rick and Kathy Hicks  
Tyndale, 370 pp.

Missionaries these days don't have the strong pioneering spirit missionaries used to have," complained a Japanese pastor. Maybe you too have found yourself shocked at the values of your own children or of a new missionary in your mission. The "generation gap" is still alive because the world is constantly changing. In their book, the Hickses attempt to build a bridge across the generation divide.

As missionaries living in another culture, we have developed many cross-cultural skills. In the same way, the more we work to understand other generations, the more we can work together in harmony. We will be better able to communicate with our own children, our younger/older colleagues, and members of those churches we only visit while on home assignment. Though this book is packed with information that shows the great extent of the authors' research, it is easy and fun to read.

The key time for value development in a child is around the age 10. Children develop their own set of values by observation, modeling and socialization.

Stages of development include first the strong influences of home and family, then out and beyond to school and society. Help is given on how to most effectively influence a child at each stage.

Section II of this book entitled,

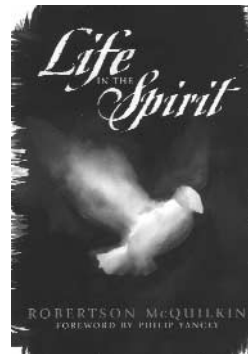
"Your Decade of Destiny" takes a nostalgic stroll down the 21st Century. The Hickses give the main political events, social events, inventions, publications, heroes, movies, economic situation, TV shows and other factors that together formed the values of young people growing up in each decade.

Definitions of the generations (the Builders, Boomers, Generation X and Net Generation) are well explained with suggestions on how to overcome differences. How to reduce conflict and encourage positive interaction is also explored. These practical "helps" are invaluable for Christian workers.

I read this book because I wanted to better understand my own children, the Xers and the Net Generation. In the process, however, I really came to better understand myself better.



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.



**Life in the Spirit**  
by Robertson McQuilkin  
Broadman & Holman, 272 pp.

**L**ife in the Spirit is a book that every missionary, every pastor and every Christian should read! Robertson McQuilkin, TEAM missionary in Japan for 12 years and former president of Columbia

International University, has written a handbook on the Christian life that will help every believer who wants to grow. McQuilkin examines "ten major activities of the Spirit designed by God to bring us into intimate companionship with Him through changing us more and more to be like Jesus" (p. 3). Seven of these activities are focused on personal holiness—Creating, Revealing, Redeeming, Indwelling, Transforming, Filling, and Overcoming. The remaining three activities—Gifting, Sending, and Glorifying, focus on the Spirit working through us to accomplish God's purposes. "All of us who have the sin barrier removed and who keep a steady faith-focus on Jesus are being transformed from one level of His glorious likeness to another by the power of the Spirit" (McQuilkin's paraphrase of 2 Corinthians 3:18, his theme verse for the book, p.122).

McQuilkin is biblical, balanced, practical and personal. He looks at the core biblical teaching about the person and activity of the Spirit. He avoids unnecessary dogmatism and focuses on what is central. He is balanced, ever vigilant of extremes that ignore truths the Bible teaches or extremes that become preoccupied with some truth. McQuilkin is practical—this is no theoretical treatise on the Spirit. Rather, it is a challenging call to action written "to help us experience the transforming work of the Spirit." He encourages his readers to develop a personal strategy for overcoming their strongest temptation and gives steps to help in developing a battle plan. He explains how we can develop our gifts and how we can equip others for their ministries. McQuilkin is personal, sharing how God has worked in his life and how the Spirit continues to change him. He doesn't pretend to have arrived—he honestly shares his struggles and his desire to grow in loving oneness with God.

Based on McQuilkin's 13-week interactive study course (in the same series as *Experiencing God*), this is a

book that will help believers to experience life in the Spirit.

Hopefully this most satisfying study will be translated and published in Japanese soon.

As one who studied under McQuilkin at CIU and in my interaction with him since then, I know him to be not only a master teacher, but above all, one who has lived out all of life "in the Spirit."

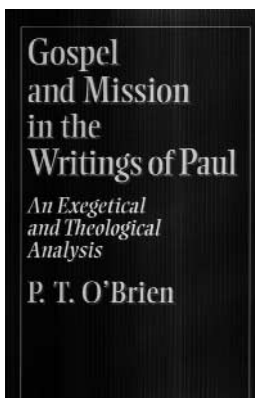
### Other McQuilkin writings:

*A Promise Kept*, Tyndale. This is a moving story of lessons learned since his wife's diagnosis with Alzheimer's disease.

*Free and Fulfilled: Victorious Living in the 21st Century*, Thomas Nelson. *Essays* edited by McQuilkin including powerful personal testimonies (Joni Eareckson Tada and John Perkins), and theological perspectives (Kenneth Kantzer and Carl Henry) on the Christian life.



Reviewer: Don Schaeffer serves with his wife, Hazel, and is with the Christian & Missionary Alliance, planting a church in Kawaguchi. Don Came to Japan in 1984.



### Gospel and Mission in the Writings of Paul: An Exegetical and Theological Analysis

By P.T. O'Brien

Baker Books, 161 pp.

Was Paul intentional about starting church planting movements wherever he

went? O'Brien defends the position that he was. Lately there have been some who have challenged Paul's intent. They ask the question of whether Paul expected the churches he started to share the gospel with others and thus reproduce themselves. O'Brien lays out carefully with clear exegesis that Paul's intent was deliberate and with a strategy thus fulfilling the Great Commission.

The encouraging part of O'Brien's viewpoint is how Paul's personal Christian walk and his passion relate to his involvement in mission. Paul's understanding of the Gospel was key and fuel for strategy.

There are some great treatments of classic Pauline mission texts, such as Romans 15 and key theological texts, Romans 1, that O'Brien connects clearly to Paul's mission. His treatment of Romans 1:15 "the gospel to you also at Rome" moves us to understand what the gospel preaching to believers means (p. 61ff). This is great sermon material!

Some great quotes from the book include:

*xiii If the gospel of the Lord Jesus is fundamental to Paul's understating of his own mission it is also basic to his teaching on mission generally.*

*p.43 Proclaiming the gospel meant for Paul not simply an initial preaching or with the reaping of converts; it included also a whole range of nurturing and strengthening activities which led to the firm establishment of congregations.*

*p. 63 The gospel is not simply 'the initial impulse on the way to salvation'. It is the message by which men and women are finally saved. The Christian life is certainly created through the gospel (I Corinthians 4:15; Colossians 1:5,6); but it is also lived in the sphere of this dynamic and authoritative message (cf. Philippians 1:27). It needs therefore to be preached to those who have already received it and have become*

*Christians. Believers do not leave the gospel behind or progress beyond it as they grow and mature in faith. They stand fast in this kerygma and are being saved through it if they hold firmly to it (I Corinthians 15:1,2), if it is in this authoritative announcement that true hope is held out to them (Colossians 1:5, 23).*



Reviewer: John Mehn is Director of CPI and serves with Baptist General Conference. He and his wife, Elaine, came to Japan in 1985 and are involved in a church planting ministry.

### CHRISTIAN CENTER BOOKSTORE

Box 14, Kanoya, Kagoshima 893

OUR SPECIALTY: TEXTBOOKS  
FOR ENGLISH BIBLE CLASSES

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
5. Basic Course for EBC ¥300
6. Jesus - 26 Lessons for EBC ¥600
7. Jesus - 26 Pictures/Scriptures ¥400
8. Jesus - 26 Lessons/Complete ¥1000
9. 2 Week Course - 26 pages ¥200
10. All About the Church - 70pp. ¥1000
11. 50 Lessons in Luke - 52pp. ¥600
12. Guide to Christ, the Church and the Christian Life - 160pp. ¥1500
13. Christian Doctrine Workbook ¥750
14. 24 Week Course for EBC ¥1000
15. Church Begins: Acts - 35 Lessons ¥1200
16. Chinese Art Calendars - from each October. Cheaper in quantity ¥150

WRITE OR CALL

FAX OR PHONE ANYTIME  
0994-42-4444

"In our families, and often from our mothers, we first learn values and caring and the difference between right and wrong."

—President Ronald Reagan

# Upgrading Your Software

by David Scott

Should you upgrade your software to the latest versions every time they are released? My answer is usually “no.” Let’s look at the reasons why you would or would not upgrade your OS (operating system) and your applications. Before we do that, it would be good to differentiate between an upgrade and an updater. An upgrade is usually a new version of a computer program, which you purchase. An updater is usually a free piece of software that (more and more these days) you download from the internet. Updaters are released to quickly fix bugs in a program, and sometimes they may also add a new function or two. If an upgrade is compared to buying a new car, an updater would be like taking the car to a mechanic for some repairs, or maybe getting a new stereo installed.

### Operating Systems

The OS is the heart of your computer. It is what you see when you first boot up, before you start any applications such as your word processor. When you bought your machine, it came with the current OS, and every couple of years newer versions are released. If you have a PC, you may be running Windows 95, Windows 98, or Windows ME. (Note that Windows 2000 is actually not an upgrade to Windows 98, but to Windows NT, which is the industrial version OS used in business environments.) A Macintosh user might be using MacOS 7.5, 8.1, 8.5, 9.0, or maybe even 9.1 if he is right up-to-date. Apple is just releasing MacOS X (“MacOS Ten”), but it is important to understand that this is a major change, essentially a completely different OS. It will take time for all the application makers to release OS X-compatible versions of their programs, so this is definitely an upgrade for the ordinary user to wait on. You might even want to wait until you buy a whole new computer, one that comes with OS X already installed and working. This brings us

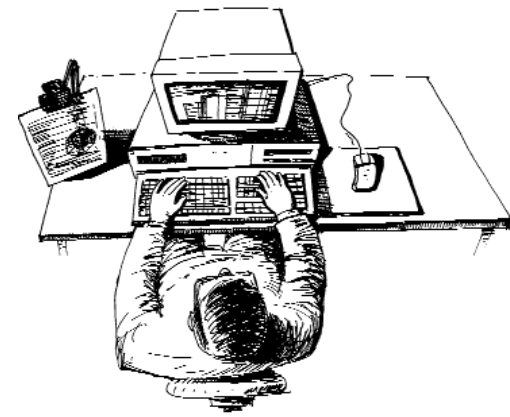
back to the original question: When should you upgrade?

Upgrades are released for several technical reasons (to fix bugs; to add new functionality), but of course they are also a way for the software companies to stay in business, since they provide cash flow. Assuming that the cost is reasonable, you might expect to find the upgrade helpful, but it is good to remember that they sometimes introduce NEW bugs. They almost always take more memory, so you might be forced to buy some of that. Finally, it is quite possible that one or more of your existing applications will have problems running under a new OS, and you may have to buy some application upgrades as well. Now you can see how what looks like a simple upgrade can result in many more problems and expenses than first anticipated.

### Applications

We generally upgrade our applications for the same reasons as the OS: to get those fancy, interesting new functions that our neighbor doesn’t have yet! However, there is another reason and that is to stay compatible. If a Mac user has Word 5.1, and someone sends a Word 98 file, one might not be able to open that file with older software. If this happens often, one may have to upgrade, which will take more money, more memory, and may even require an upgrade to her OS as well (sound familiar?). In the Macintosh world, there is an amazing solution to the problem of incompatibility with Word. Many Mac users don’t use Word at all, and have to contend with Word files getting sent to them as attachments. You can download a shareware program called icWord, which will open Word files so that you can read them, print them, and copy text out of them. If you like the program and want to continue using it, you can pay the \$20 fee. Remember that icWord is not a word processor; it does not replace Word, but lets you open and read Word files.

These days both our OS and applications are very sophisticated, and have so many functions that most of us will



never use them all. This is one good reason why we should carefully evaluate any decision to upgrade. Changes to any software will also require you to spend at least a little time relearning how to use it. If your computer system already does what you need, and works well, it is best to leave it alone, until you absolutely have to upgrade.

When you do decide to upgrade, there are some general rules to follow. First and foremost, always back-up all important files before any upgrade. Put them on floppies, zip disks, MOs, or even a CD-R. That way, if things go horribly wrong, you can at least access your files using another computer, while you get your machine straightened out. (Since a computer is a machine that can break at any time, it is always a good idea to keep backup copies of your important files anyway). Second, perform the upgrade during a break in your schedule, sometime when you do not have things that need to get done on the computer that day, or even for a few days. Hopefully, everything will go smoothly, but it is best to allow extra time to solve any problems that might occur. It is also good to wait for a while after any new version is released, before taking the plunge. Let others spend their time finding the new problems! Once those have been corrected, and things seem relatively stable, you can consider the upgrade.

David Scott works in Tokyo as a computer-consultant tentmaker, and is currently serving as the JEMA Executive Committee secretary. David has been in Japan since 1983, and is affiliated with Tentmakers Network Tokyo.



## Missionary Honor Roll

“Life is an ongoing process, a gradual growth in grace and in the talents God has placed within us. The talents we use change from season to season so there is a lifetime to develop them. God will bring these to the surface at the proper time.

As we press on in our walk with God, we realize that what He has for us is far too much to cram into the first thirty, forty or fifty years of our lives...” (taken from God’s Words of LIFE Zondervan Gift Products).

It is with great joy we bring the following names of faithful men and women who have served here from the 30’s through the 50’s. In this issue we present their names from A to G, and will continue this Honor Roll throughout this year. CONGRATULATIONS and BLESSINGS abundant from God our Father to:

Archie L & Verna Alderson (1959) NTC  
 Richard Amos (1958) OMS  
 Jacob & Olaus Arnesen (1954) FCA  
 Saara Autio (1956) FFFM  
 Robert & Kiyoko Barker (1947 & 1954) JNAC-PCUSA  
**Golden Jubilee + 4**  
 Ethel Beckman (1948) CHC **Golden Jubilee + 3**  
 Herbert Beecken (1950) JNAC-CGMB **Golden Jubilee + 1**  
 Joe & Ruth Betts (1956) CC

Dan & Lois Bishop (1953) BMMJ  
 Doyle Book (1955)  
 Lois Bostrom (1954) IND  
 John & Verneda Bowman (1953) ALMA  
 David & Mrs. Broman (1950) IND **Golden Jubilee + 1**  
 Paul Broman (1950) IND **Golden Jubilee + 1**  
 Lucius Butler (1955) BGC  
 Stuart & Marion Caldwell (1950) IND **Golden Jubilee + 1**  
 Leone J Cole (1937) CHC **Golden Jubilee + 14**  
 Ralph & Stella Cox (1953) TEAM  
 James & Edythe Currie (1949) IND **Golden Jubilee + 2**  
 R.T. Dick (1951) IND **Golden Jubilee**  
 Evelyn Eggar (1956) SB  
 Willis & Lois Ehnle (1954) ACC  
 William Elder (1948) JNAC-UMC **Golden Jubilee + 3**  
 Andrew & Masae Ellis (1951) ALMA ASSOC. **Golden Jubilee**  
 Clifford & Faith Fanger (1950) IND **Golden Jubilee + 1**  
 Richard Fanger (1952) IND  
 Bobby & Kay Finch (1959) BBFI  
 Margaret Garner (1949) JNAC-CGMB **Golden Jubilee + 2**  
 George & Yoko Gish (1958) JNAC-UMC  
 John Goto (1951) IND **Golden Jubilee**  
 John & Lucille Graybill (1957) IND



### News

Kleemanns return after 20 years. Joachim writes: “In 1981 we with our three children returned to Germany for regular Home Assignment. As was customary we all had physicals. It was one of the physician’s questions, however, that helped us realize that it is not always the body that suffers. “Is everything well with your children?” was the question we needed to answer honestly. For you

see, our eldest son had been having severe sleeping problems. He lived apart from us because he attended the German school in Tokyo and lived during the week in a children’s home. He often cried very loudly and no one could stop him. We didn’t know what to do.

Following examinations by specialists, we were advised not to return to Japan. We then served the Lord in Germany in a variety of ways, but all the while we prayed, “Dear Lord, if our children don’t need us anymore, we are willing to go again to Japan!” We prayed this prayer for 19 years. During that time I tried to keep up with my Japanese language, reading my Japanese Bible and keep-

ing involved. I was even able to organize four concert tours in Germany and Switzerland with the Evengeliums Kantorei Tokyo conducted by Goki Takedo.

Last year our family situation changed. With all three children married, we signaled our mission board that we were open to returning to Japan. After talking with our children we found that they were happy about the possibility of our return. We came back to Japan in April, 2000. An additional big joy for us is that our daughter, Sibine, and her husband, Tobias Schuckert, have also come to serve Christ here. Isn’t it great how God guides His people? We are presently ministering in the Liebenzell Church in Ushiku, northeast of Tokyo.”

*(I had the privilege of meeting Joachim at the recent Leaders’ Consultation. His enthusiasm was contagious — editor.)*

### In Memory

Alvin VanSchooten, former missionary to Japan under the Christian & Missionary Alliance, passed very suddenly into the presence of the Lord on Monday, January 22, 2001. Alvin and Janet served with the C&MA for almost 50 years. Internment was on January 29th Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, California. Alvin is survived by his wife, Janet, and three children, Ruth, Tim and Paul. Janet’s mission family in Japan extends loving sympathy.

# Christ, The Family & Culture

**B**ecause he lives in a world that does not acknowledge God as its centre—one that has created laws to govern its citizens—the Christian is constantly confronted with the issue of “giving to Caesar what is his and to God what belongs to Him” (Matthew 22:21). Determining what belongs to God while living as a respected, acceptable member of a given society is becoming increasingly difficult.

Nowhere is this more true—and confusing—than in the area of the upbringing and education of children. What is my responsibility toward my children? How can I best equip them for life? What does this equipping entail? How can I discern when my approach to their upbringing is motivated by love for God and my children? How do I know when I’m motivated by a self-centred possessiveness? When does “parental obligation” become a pretext for disobeying God or giving Him second place in my life?

Can God’s plan for my life and ministry be detrimental to the children He has entrusted to my care? Who defines what is “good” or “detrimental” for a child’s upbringing? Can I expect my children to suffer, to pay the “price” of my “calling”? Who defines “price” or “calling”? Do I need to feel guilty for “letting God down” if I withdraw from a cross-cultural ministry to enable my children to be educated in “their own” culture? Or do I “let God down” if I don’t fulfil my duty as a parent if I keep them away from “their own” culture when they should be integrating into it? What do I mean by “their own” culture? What is God’s plan, and what is a trend?

The answers are as complex and diversified as the questions. While the Bible sets out basic principles, it does not impose one specific way to deal with this issue. Each one of us has to walk according to the light he has received. It is not for me to judge what constitutes a sacrifice, a compromise, or “serving God” in the choices of others.

Yet, my choice can condition or force the decision of others. For instance, if I decide not to serve God in a cross-cultural situation because of my responsibilities toward my children, I may force others to continue in a ministry when they believe they should “move on,” or to feel guilty if they leave and the work cannot be maintained.

If some of us choose home schooling, that may force the boarding school to close. That might oblige parents who feel inadequate to teach their children to pay the price of our choice. They may consider it wrong for children to be deprived of exposure to and interrelationship with their peer group, but they would be forced to live with our choice.

The same principle would apply if I were forced to place my children in a boarding school if I felt that to do so would be morally wrong.

We will endeavour to look more closely at the principles of life and parenthood in the context of society and God’s plan for humanity.

## Identity

What am I? Who am I? Am I a random coming-together of atoms? Or am I the sophisticated product of evolutionary forces? Am I the “centre of the universe,” accountable only to myself and free to make my own decisions, shaping my world as I please? Am I merely a genetically determined organism? Or am I a social unit that can be measured, exploited, manipulated?

Am I, as Socrates maintained, “a social animal,” the highest form of animal life? Am I one being or two—one physical and mortal, one spiritual

and eternal? Am I body, soul and spirit, created by God in His image, able to relate to Him and glorify Him?

## Relationship

For the Christian, the Word of God is determinative in answering the above questions. Scripture makes it perfectly clear that human beings were created by God in His image. If we exist, it is because of a deliberate act on His part. He made us to have a living, positive relationship with Him and with one another (Genesis 1-3). He has charged us to care for the rest of creation (Psalm 8:6-8). We cannot escape relationship with God (Acts 17:28). It may be a positive one of loving acceptance or a negative one of separation and rejection. Our type of relationship with Him will impact the kind of relationships we have with others.

We cannot exist or survive alone. We are dependent on Him and interdependent as humans. We have a three-way relationship—to God, to ourselves and to nature. I cannot divorce myself from God and function fully towards people and the environment (I John 4:7-12). If my relationship with God is not right, my relationship with others and the environment cannot be right (cf. also Matthew 22:36-39).

Our earthly relationships are defined by our relationship to God, and our relationship to Him finds expression in the way we live in our earthly relationships.

## Alienation

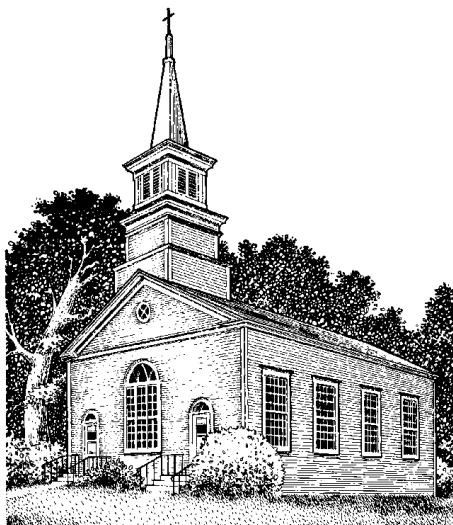
Man tried to proclaim his self-sufficiency. He decided to reject God’s Word as the normative principle for his life. He chose to determine the course of his life on the basis of his own judgement (Genesis 3:22). This resulted in alienation from God, from himself and from his environment (Genesis 3:7—4:16). If we want proof of this, we need only look at the proliferation of gods we have created to suit our desires and cover up a negative relationship to God. These gods are seen in the various forms of physi-

cal, mental and emotional slavery that ensnare us even as we loudly proclaim that we are “free,” not to mention what we are doing to our environment.

The Bible refers to this act of disobedience to God—of wanting to discard His authority and make ourselves the “centre”—as SIN (Romans 1:21-25; 3:10, 23; Ephesians 4:17; Titus 1:15; Genesis 8:21). Having turned our backs on God, we have cut ourselves off from a true understanding of ourselves and of the world.

## Redemption

Because of God’s love for us, He took the initiative in Christ to reconcile us to Himself. Through His death on the cross, Jesus removed our alienation from Him. The positive relationship of loving acceptance with God is restored (Ephesians 2:13-22; Colossians 1:15-22). This new relationship transforms all of our attitudes toward ourselves, others and the whole of creation. It touches every aspect of life (cf. Colossians 1:17; 3:1-4), and governs our total behaviour (2 Corinthians 7:1; Colossians 3:1ff; Romans 12:1ff).



The centrality and primacy of our relationship to God puts a new value on earthly relationships. Our relationship to God makes all attitude and activity the result of and the expression of His sovereignty in our lives. The restoration of a positive relationship with Him through Jesus Christ

enables us to start living in harmony with others and with the environment. Our whole lives can reflect the integrity of our humanity if Christ is our Lord. This is the “good news” of the gospel. We live in an abnormal world that can be restored to normalcy in the measure that those of us who have been redeemed fulfil our humanity in all our relationships.

## The Family

Sociologists have struggled to find an adequate definition of “the family” and even more so to establish its origin and explain its existence. The Bible starts with the positive affirmation that God declared that it was not good for man to live alone (Genesis 2:18) and that He made a partner for him (v. 21-24). God blessed Adam and Eve and gave them the injunction to have children (Genesis 1:28). The need for affection, companionship and meaningful relationship between the parents, along with the children’s total dependence on the parents for food, warmth, protection and love are the God-given criteria for the basis of a solid family nucleus.

The family may be viewed as an area of interacting personalities with each striving to obtain satisfaction for his basic desires and fulfilling those of the other members. In that model, parents are the ones who make most of the adjustments in building complementary roles between themselves and their children. Much of the economic, protective, educational and recreational role has been taken over by the state, schools, private enterprises and clubs. The family concentrates more on the affectional and personality formation functions. In the past, family unifying factors were formal, external and authoritarian (e.g., law, mores, public opinion, tradition, authority, rigid discipline, rituals and taboos). Today, families tend to be based on companionship, interpersonal relationships, sympathetic understanding and mutual affection.

Most sociologists have identified the basic background relationships that ensure balanced adulthood and the likelihood of a happy marriage as

including:

- The happiness of parents
- Contentment and security in childhood
- Lack of conflict with mother
- Firm but not harsh discipline in childhood and adolescence
- Strong attachment to mother
- Strong attachment to father
- Lack of conflict with father



The family provides for the physical maintenance of the child, offers him the first and most continuing social contacts, gives affection and other emotional satisfactions, teaches the social requirements of behaviour and directs him to outside relationships.

## Society and Community (Gesellschaft and Gemeinschaft)

Culture is concerned with patterns of norms and aspirations and their maintenance. Society deals with goals and the organisation and regulation of behaviour to attain them (e.g., labour divisions, laws, political, economical and social structures—“Western” society). “Community” usually refers to a relatively small geographical area, but can also apply to a group sharing strong convictions, devotion to common ideals, aversion to specific issues or actions (e.g., “gay” community, anti-abortion, etc.). It can be a group of individuals with strong

sentiments and willingness to take a stand. This “closeness” can be based on family ties or intellectual or emotional or religious proximity and creates a state of interdependence.

Most societies advocate stability and peace as a basic ingredient for happiness. They have established moral laws that endeavour to balance the individual’s rights and responsibilities to ensure that people can coexist in harmony.



Unfortunately, the modern “western” state, educational system, family structure, laws and code of ethics are increasingly based on the assumption that people are the centre of the universe. Humanism regards man as the summit of the evolutionary process carrying the sole responsibility for his improvement, realisation and happiness.

Having displaced God, man is now free to serve his own ends. This does away with absolutes, and “truth” becomes relative and related to specific goals. While making us tolerant, it destroys ideals and any sense of “right” and “wrong.” Communities can exist, but as their ideals are subjective and temporary, they should not judge those who do not share them. This relativism can ultimately lead to a state of total anarchy where the individual’s sole consideration is for what gives him/her pleasure at a given time

and in a specific frame of mind. (It is significant that the United Nations’ Charter of Children’s Rights, while listing many worthwhile and essential concepts, totally omits any reference to the right to hear about and worship God.)

### Implications for Today

Modern man has more to live with and less to live for than at any stage in his history. The rapid pace of “progress” and all the inventions that can facilitate our life—theoretically adding quality to it—have not left us better equipped to cope with our emotions or find real meaning.

On the contrary, we are increasingly confused and feeling less secure by what we see happening around us and what we experience inside us. There is deep-seated doubt that neither the government, schools nor society are equipped give us or our children what we need. There is an even greater doubt, coupled with fear, that WE can find fulfilment or offer it to others.

In Western Europe, almost one out of two marriages ends in divorce, and in some countries more than fifty percent of children are born out of wedlock or brought up in a single-parent environment. So we are faced with the tremendous paradox that in a society where the primary role of the family is seen to be affective, fewer and fewer children can benefit from such an environment. They have to grow up without the basic ingredients listed above that could help ensure a balanced adulthood and a happy marriage.

The following accentuate insecurity and lead to an egocentric lifestyle: the lack of clearly defined roles in the family structure, the distancing—both geographic and emotional—from the extended family, the hyper-activism of parents who find it easier to give “things” to their children instead of giving of themselves to their children, the absence of “role” models, and the greatly reduced number of siblings.

The growing incidence of sexual child abuse involving parents or close family members is a tragic expression of an increasingly sick, directionless

society without values or respect.

### The Christian Response

The Christian lives in a constant state of double tension—inner and outer. Inwardly the “new creature” is wrestling with the “old nature.” Through the indwelling Holy Spirit, I can triumph over the sinful nature, but it is a constant, ongoing struggle—Romans 6 through 8. Outwardly I live and function in a society that has discarded God and imposes its self-centred criteria on every aspect of life. Man is “free,” and this independence makes him vulnerable, confused and afraid.

The Christian needs to find meaningful expression of his relationship with Christ in this context. It is only in the measure that he can live out the implications of the lordship of Christ in his culture—even if this means a radical and critical approach to his society—that he can be “salt and light” (Matthew 5:13-16).

As we give back to God the central place and become “His slaves” (Romans 6:22), we are set free to objectively analyse trends, discard that which is evil, retain that which is good (Romans 12:9) and introduce what is missing in our culture.

Unless I have learned and practice this discernment in my society, am I really able to serve Him as a “missionary” in a cross-cultural setting? Will I not fall into the trap of wanting to incorporate my home culture into the “gospel” I proclaim or feel like an insecure displaced person in another environment (Exodus 16:3)?

The Christian response can be nothing less than the creation of a community based on His standards. Not a “monastery,” but a vibrant, living community involved in society that shows the relevance of God at all levels of life (Galatians 3:28; 5:13).

### Children

Children are the group that has been and is being impacted most by the Western world’s paradigm shift from a God-centred to a man-centred society. In the measure that “love” has become the self-gratification of physical pleasure with self-fulfilment as the



highest goal, children can become a nuisance, or worse, a hindrance to achievement. If it is accepted that children need continuity—some permanence in relationship to ensure a balanced development—but adults are not willing or able to commit themselves to a degree of permanence in their own relationships, then, having children can be irrational or irresponsible.

Because of self-centred parents, children brought up in an unbalanced environment and with a lack of adequate affection and discipline will either tend to perpetuate this trend on their own children or go to the other extreme. In both cases, the result is likely to be children who grow up believing that they are the centre of the world and that everything and everyone is there to serve them and ensure the satisfaction of their desires, yet living in a state of permanent insecurity.

The Christian parent knows that he does not “possess” anything on earth. He is a steward of God’s creation which he is to administer in such a way that it brings glory to Him. Our responsibility is to ensure that children develop in a balanced way—physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially and spiritually—so that they become adults who can glorify God and enjoy fellowship with Him.

While any upbringing that neglects one of these aspects will result in aberrations that will prevent the individual from fulfilling his potential as a human being, the basic ingredient to ensure the true humanity of people created in the image of God is the “spiritual.” This means that according

to the measure that we ensure the spiritual development of the child, he will achieve the maturity God has planned for him (Ephesians 4:13).

While we cannot guarantee the spiritual regeneration through the conversion of our children, it is our privilege and responsibility to ensure the example, teaching and environment that will expose them to His love, confront them with His claims and focus on Him as the true centre and purpose of life. The family, the local church and the Christian community must provide the environment that brings up the child in a way that is pleasing to God.

While no couple can have all the gifts or knowledge to assume this responsibility alone, God has made us members of an extended family that transcends individual cultures or languages (Matthew 12:48). We are each a part of one body, each having specific functions and responsibilities to ensure the balanced functioning of the whole (1 Corinthians 12).

### Conclusion

God created us as social beings, able and needing to have communion with Him and one another, as well as live in harmony with the whole of His creation. Sin has resulted in separation from Him, disharmony, self-centredness, fear and confusion. We all need to belong, to feel accepted, to be part of an “in” group.

Who or what is going to be our area of acceptance, our model? Will it be a tradition? A sub-culture? A trend? A language? A person or group? Or the living God who made us in His image?

Our answer will govern our

lifestyle, shape our attitudes and determine our approach to family life and the upbringing of children. The ultimate question is not one of “boarding school” or “home schooling,” of preserving or losing a particular language or culture, or the advantages or disadvantages of a multicultural upbringing.

The real issue is who or what is the basis and centre of my identity. If it is God, then my perspective to culture, education, children, society, values and achievement will be governed and determined by His centrality in my life. I will see myself first of all as a member of His community worshipping and working together with the rest of His body for His glory, for my good, as well as that of my children and of society.

May He grant us enough love for Him that we choose to put Him first and make all other choices the outworking of this relationship so that those choices may be not a burden but a joyful expression of love.



Silvano Perotti is president of the Swiss Alliance Mission as well as the Geneva International Liaison Office of World Vision International. Of Italian heritage, Reverend Perotti was converted in

South Africa in 1956 and studied theology in both South Africa and Switzerland. With wide experience as a pastor, church planter, and leader he presently lives with his wife, Marie, in Switzerland. The Perotti’s have two married children. English is his mother tongue. Rev. Perotti will be the speaker at JEMA Summer Conference.

We offer good taste and texture!

## Total know-how from biscuit production to biscuit-plant design.

**Food process engineering.**

**Bakery, Biscuit and Confectionery plant.**

*We offer the whole management of biscuit business, starting from oven.*

**NAICA VICARS CO., LTD.**  
 6-12, 2-Chome, Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, 104-0061, Japan TEL(03)-3562-1041 FAX(03)3564-6703

Over the entrance to an old cathedral in France, these words stand out clearly:

“He who bringeth no gift to the altar, beareth no blessing away.”

It is a rule for the worshipper; it is a rule for life.

**Retreat...Continued from page 16**

We do thank the Lord for sending Pam Farrel and Cindy James to us to be speaker and worship leader, respectively. They were both a wonderful encouragement to us all. The fellowship among the 80 ladies was especially heart warming, and that warmth returned to many parts of Japan, even Okinawa!

Next year's retreat will be March 6-8 at Megumi Chalet! Make plans NOW to come!

*Reported by Alma Oline*

On Saturday, March 10th, roughly 45 women gathered expectantly at Sapporo Bible Church. Some had come to enjoy a concert and worship lead by Cindy James, others had come for the bargain-priced books and CD's, not to mention the swap table. Still others had come for the sumptuous home-baked cooking and light lunch, while others (like myself) had come for a chat with other women in similar circumstances.

However, we had all come to hear prominent author and speaker, Pam Farrel, exhort us to be women of

influence. Pam's presentations were a colourful combination of personal testimony, historical references and Biblical truths. An engaging and inspirational speaker, Pam is truly a woman of influence.

So with our minds sharpened by excellent teaching, our spirits released through corporate worship and our hearts warmed by fellowship, we thank the committee for their hard work and look forward to next year.

*Reported by Helen Webb*

---

### **JEMA Directory**

We are very sorry for any inconvenience we have caused because of errors in the new directory. If you would like to have a "corrected" copy, please contact Mizuko Matsushita at JEMA Office. And, if you discover any further errors, please let us know. Thank you for your patience.

# Japan 2001 CPI Conference



## **November 6-9** (Tues-Fri)

At the Lakeland Hotel on Kawaguchi-ko near Mt. Fuji

- **Dozens of Electives on Ministry in Japan to help you specifically.**
- **Choose from at least THREE Different Training Tracks.**
- **Simultaneous Translation into Japanese of all joint sessions.**
- **CPI Training Manuals in Japanese.**
- **Children's Ministry Program for your kids.**
- **Guests: Steve Childers, Dr. Dan Morgan (Purpose-Driven Church).**

**FIND OUT WHY PEOPLE RETURN EACH YEAR FOR THIS STIMULATING EVENT**

**Sponsor: Japan Evangelical Missionary Association—Church Planting Institute**

**Batteries...Continued from page 3**

The change in the atmosphere was evident. I concluded my message with, "If I followed a dead Christ I would be the biggest fool in this auditorium. The Bible clearly states that after Jesus died for our sins on the cross, He rose again and proved Himself alive by eating and drinking 40 days and 40 nights."

Power of an endless life is found in the resurrection. You know, we are all like watches, with many kinds of faces. No matter how beautiful the

watch, if batteries aren't included—no go! With Christ both the cross and the tomb are empty—batteries are included—we've got the power. That's the meaning of Easter and this power never ceases to be available to us.

Amen.



Ken Jr., Bobb, Jim and Mark will host a 50th anniversary celebration in Tokyo in April.

This Easter message marks a 50 year milestone. Kenny and his wife, Lila, answered God's and General Douglas MacArthur's call in 1951 to evangelize Japan. Their four sons,

**New Release sells 10,000 copies in 14,000 secular stores.**

Co-authored by father & son (Kenny and Ken Jr.), *Japan: The Country of the Hidden Cross*, (Kakusareta Jujika no Kuni: Nihon) is on the market at last. (English version on sale this summer.)

**Mind Pits...Continued from page 4**

*Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the ark of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day.*"

I remember hearing Tony Evans say on a radio message one day, "If you don't have a history with God,

get one!" At home we had a wall filled with family member awards and certificates called *Rews' Wall of Fame*. What we need in our minds is God's Wall of Fame, reminding each of us of the work He has done in our lives!

So let us do as Paul writes in Colossians 3:2, "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things," and do as Peter writes in 1Peter 1:13, "... prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully

on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed."



ing team in Higashi Tokorozawa.

Jim and Alice Rew with their daughter, Josie, came to Japan as second career missionaries with SEND International in 1998. They manage the SEND guesthouse and work with a church plant-

**JEMA ORDER FORM**

All items postage paid except where noted  
**Please note new fax number**

QTY

<b>Membership Dues</b>	¥2,000 Single	¥3,000 Couple	_____	_____
<b>Individual Package Plan*</b>	¥5,500 Single	¥6,500 Couple	_____	_____
* Package includes Membership, Japan Harvest & Directory				
<b>Mission Package Plan</b>	¥3,500 in Japan (JEMA Mission Members only)		_____	_____
<b>Japan Harvest</b> 1 yr Sub.	¥2,500 member	¥2,800 non-member	\$25.00 overseas + \$5.00 SAL	_____
<b>JEMA Directory</b>	¥1,500 member	¥2,000 non-member	\$20.00 overseas + \$5.00 SAL	_____
<b>Harvestor's Handbook</b>	¥800 member	¥1,000 non-member	_____	_____
<b>Operation Japan</b>	1-4 ¥600@; 5-9 ¥550@; 10-99 ¥500@; 100+ ¥450@		_____	_____

If paying by check add ¥450 for Japanese non-Tokyo bank

**Postal Furikae:** 00130-4-180466 JEMA-Japan Harvest

If you itemize your order on the Furikae in the "This payment is for:" column, it is not necessary to mail the order form separately.

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

To phone, call the JEMA office at 03-3295-1949 or fax this form to 03-3295-1354

Or, mail your completed order form to: JEMA, OCC Bldg. 2-1 Kanda Surugadai, Chiyoda ku, Tokyo 101 Japan

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_



## Out in the Mountains Close to the City!

### 2001 Summer Programs

(in English)

**Joy Bible Camp #1** (3rd-5th gr.)  
June 15-18

**Joy Bible Camp #2** (4th-6th gr.)  
June 19-23

**Joy Bible Camp #3** (4th-6th gr.)  
June 25-30

**Joy Bible Camp #4** (7th-8th gr.)  
July 2-7

(in Japanese)

**Elementary Camp** (3rd-6th gr.)  
July 23-26

**Jr. & Sr. High Camp**  
July 28-31

**Junior English Camp** (3rd-6th gr.)  
July 31- August 3

**Jr. & Sr. High Adventure Camp**  
August 13-16

**Father & Son Adventure Camp**  
(4th grade and up)  
August 14-16

**Adult English Camp**  
August 14-17

Year round accommodations  
for groups up to 100 for  
Camps, Conferences and  
Retreats.

Call or write us for information or  
reservations.

## Okutama Bible Chalet

3-839 Yugi Machi  
Ome Shi, Tokyo 198-0064  
Phone: 0428-76-0931  
Fax: 0428-76-2457  
e-mail: obcjp@hkr.ne.jp

*Confessions...Continued from page 12  
that only the material is real, that the  
supernatural is fantasy" (p. 65).*

Rather, Christianity is a supernatural  
relationship with our living God. It's  
time for me to stop living by what I see,  
and instead begin believing the myriad  
of promises God has for me.

Charles Swindoll, after decades in  
pastoral ministry, realized how much of  
the Holy Spirit was missing in his life.  
He quotes Romans 11:33, "*How  
unsearchable are His judgments and  
unfathomable His ways!*" Swindoll con-  
tinues, "*We are unwise to restrict the  
workings of the Spirit to one simplistic  
system we feel we can analyze and  
explain. Let's not do that! Let's not try  
to box Him in. Move closer. Don't be  
afraid. Be open and willing to let fresh  
wonder in. Leave plenty of room for the  
Spirit to work...to move...to reveal...to  
bring new dimensions of freedom*"  
(p. 77).

I pray that all who read this will be  
encouraged and strengthened in faith  
and in relationship with the Holy Spirit  
while serving Jesus! I welcome any  
comments or questions.

### Bibliography

Wise, Terry S., *Fundamentals of  
Spiritual Warfare* (Simon &  
Schuster: Needham Heights, MA,  
1996).

Wimber, John with Springer, Kevin,  
*Power Evangelism* (Harper & Row:  
San Francisco, 1986).

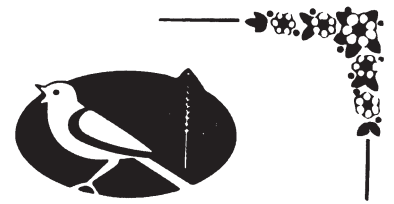
Swindoll, Charles R., *Flying Closer to  
the Flame* (Word Publishing: Dallas,  
Texas, 1993).

Bishop, Eddie L.Long, "It's Time to  
Believe" *Charisma Magazine*,  
Dec.2000,p14.

Goldsmith, Martin, *Life's Tapestry* (OM  
Publishing: Carlisle, Cumbria, U.K.,  
1997).



Erick Haugrud has been a  
missionary in Japan since  
1987, and is currently  
living in Karuizawa with  
his family and studying  
through correspondence  
with Trinity Theological  
Seminary (Newburgh,  
Indiana) for a Master of  
Divinity degree.



## MEGUMI CHALET KARUIZAWA

Beautiful  
Location

Spacious  
Facilities

Christian  
Staff

Year-Round  
Accommodations

Come to Beautiful  
Karuizawa  
& Enjoy God's Handiwork  
All Year Through!

~ For Information ~

Call: 0267 42 2302

Fax: 0267 42 4113



# 2001 Deeper Life Convention

Please join us for a spiritually refreshing time!

## **Schedule:**

August 2 Thursday - 7:00 p.m.

August 3 Friday - 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

August 4 Saturday - 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

August 5 Sunday - 10:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

## **Speaker: Rev. Calvin Bloom**

Rev. Bloom is a professor at Multnomah School of the Bible and was previously the pastor of one of the largest churches in Portland. For 10 years he has taught about spiritual warfare and the Christian's spiritual walk with the Lord. He has never been to Japan but looks forward to his ministry here.

## **See you in Karuizawa!**

Contact person: Ralph Faerber Tel/Fax 0774-65-2047



## **JEMA SUMMER CONFERENCE 2001**

Union Church, Karuizawa  
Sunday through Wednesday,  
July 29 to August 1

### **What will the conference be like?**

Dynamic Preaching

Inspirational music & worship

Annual Ladies' Tea

Ministry to your children

Daily messages will be given by Reverend Silvano Perotti, who has been serving as an independent consultant to Missions focusing on retreats, seminars, and member care. Reverend Perotti has been a pastor, director for Europe for support and development and deputy International Director of the Leprosy Mission, as well as president of TEMA (The European Missionary Association) which organizes three yearly congresses for Christian youth in Europe. He is widely used as a conference speaker.

FOR further information, please call the JEMA Office at 033-295-1949



*The taste is loved in the world.*



YAMAZAKI-NABISCO CO., LTD.  
SHINJUKU NOMURA BUILDING 40F 1-26-2,  
NISHISHINJUKU, SHINJUKU-KU TOKYO, JAPAN 163-0540

- Making products that are gentle on people and the environment—that's our goal.

We strive to produce detergents, soaps and toiletries that are good for the environment as well as for our customers who use them.

- Tapping Nature's goodness to develop products for personal hygiene.

We have a long history of vegetable-based soaps that are biologically sound and non-polluting. Please give your patronage to our line of environmentally sound, vegetable-based products.

- Offering reusable containers and refills to save resources and reduce waste.

We have introduced a refill system for all our products—liquid soap, laundry detergent, dish soap, shampoo, rinse and so on. We hope to aid you in a lifestyle of taking care of the environment.



**Tama no Hada Sekken  
Kabushikigaisha**

Sales Agency:

**Miyoshi Kabushikigaisha**  
Midori 3-8-12  
Sumida Ku, Tokyo 130-0021  
Tel. 03-3634-1341

*New book in Japanese*

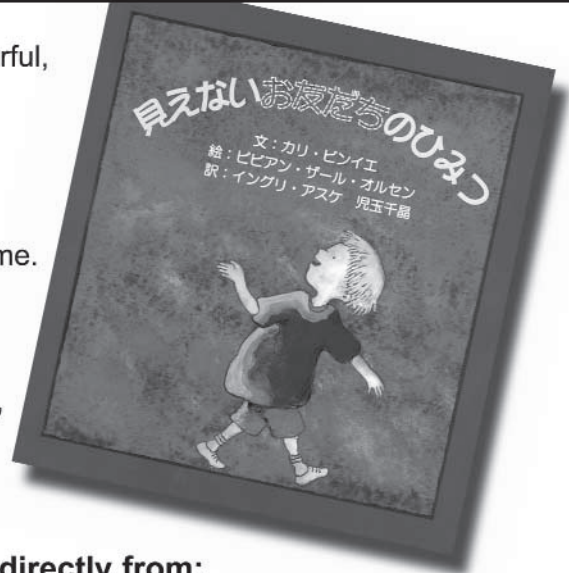
## Finally a book that explains the GOSPEL for children

“**Me de Mienai Otomodachi**” (The Invisible Friend) is a colorful, hard-cover book which truly explains the Gospel for children through an interesting story.

- ▶ Excellent as a gift for children.
- ▶ Ideal for kindergartens.
- ▶ An evangelistic tool which should be in every Japanese home.

**Price: 1900 yen** (excl. cons.tax)

Also from the same author: “**Kamilla-chan no Otomodachi**” (Kamilla’s Friend) This book also truly shares the good news through an exciting story. **Price: 1200 yen** (excl. cons. tax)



Available from your nearest Christian bookstore or directly from:



### **E-BOOK SHUPPAN - NEW LIFE LEAGUE, JAPAN**

170 Kumai, Hatoyama Machi, Saitama Ken 350-0397 Japan. Tel: 0492-96-0727 - Fax: 0492-96-6515  
E-mail: [nlljfm@alles.or.jp](mailto:nlljfm@alles.or.jp)

## **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*



*Shinanomachi Headquarters*  
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  
Wholesale Division  
WINGS Service mail order  
Life Service department

WINGS tel. (0426) 43-0800  
fax (0426) 43-1115



*Ochanomizu Christian Center*  
'The Christian' Weekly Newspaper  
Japan Bible Publishers

**"The Gospel for all in Japan"**



**いのちのことば社伝道グループ**  
**Word of Life Press Ministries**

6 Shinanomachi, Shinjuku-ku Tokyo 160-0016  
Phone: 03-3353-9345 Fax: 03-3353-6126  
email: [wlp@blue.ocn.ne.jp](mailto:wlp@blue.ocn.ne.jp) web page: [www.wlpm.or.jp](http://www.wlpm.or.jp)

## 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 Dunkel, whose daughter Stella liked to bake, developed many cookie recipes which we are happy to introduce to you.*

