

Summer, 2002

# JAPAN HARVEST

Japan Evangelical Missionary Association



**April 6, 2002, at the age of 90, Dr. Koji Honda, Japan's senior evangelist, went to be with the Lord. In honor of his life and ministry his friends, Neil Verwey and Siegfried Buss, share facts and special memories.**

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February 14th, 2002

President George Bush  
Washington D.C., USA

Your Excellency,

Greetings in the name of our Lord.

On behalf of the executive board of Japan Evangelical Association, the national association of evangelical churches of Japan which comprises 55 denominations and churches plus 39 interdenominational organizations, we hereby express our deep concern about the part of your schedule in Japan which is an open participation in the act of worship to the Shinto god at the Meiji shrine.

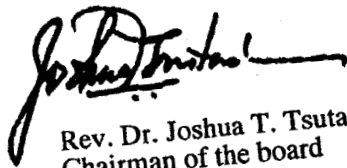
We came to know that when you visit our country next week, you will visit the Meiji Shrine with Mr. Junichiro Koizumi, our prime minister. We are informed that you will wash and cleanse your hands at the well of the shrine and bow before the shrine though you will not clap hands in the Shintoistic way.

We are deeply concerned because to bow before a shrine is considered to be a manner of worship, though you would not clap hands. So to a Christian it is worship to an idol if you bow before the shrine where the Meiji Emperor, a human being, is considered to be a god. As you may know, many Christian leaders who rejected worshipping at the Shinto shrines during the World War 2nd were arrested, put into jail, and tortured. Some pastors were martyred because of the torture.

So this is to earnestly request and strongly advise you in the name of our Lord not to practice any idol worshipping acts when you come to our country. It would minimize our witness in our society as Christians.

We really wish your visit to our country would be blessed by the Lord, and would contribute to the peace of the world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Joshua T. Tsutada  
Chairman of the board



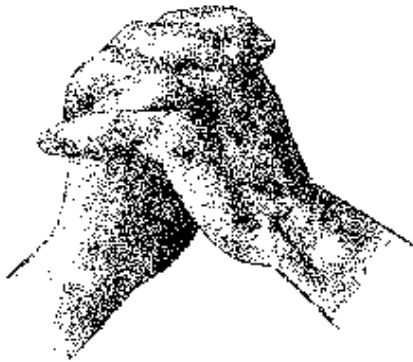
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cc. Dr. Edward L. Foggs, Chairman of the Board, National Association of Evangelicals  
cc. Dr. David Detert, Chairman of the International Council, World Evangelical Alliance

The letter written above was composed and sent by our sister organization, the Japan Evangelical Association. Before President Bush's February visit, JEA's leadership wished for the President's understanding of traditional Japanese religious practice. We have printed this letter for the following reasons: First, the Church in Japan struggles with issues of religious freedom. Secondly, our understanding of their struggle is important. Thirdly, we need to pray consistently and urgently for the Church. —Ray Leaf, Editor-in-Chief

# When a Nation Prayed

by Donnel McLean



**C**ertain stories in the Bible stand “head and shoulders” above all the rest, absolutely captivating our attention! What about the Red Sea crossing, or, Moses, Aaron and Hur praying on the hilltop bringing victory to Israel’s army? Then there is David and Goliath, Daniel in the lion’s den and Queen Esther, risking her life to save her people! Yes, and there are many others, too!

But it seems to me that one almost forgotten story of an amazing victory looms up above them all. It’s the thrilling story of Jehoshaphat’s victory over all his enemies found in II Chornicles 20. To refresh our memories allow me to relate it very briefly.

All Judah’s surrounding enemies had mobilized into one vast, superior army and had every intention of not only defeating them but, if possible, annihilating the sons of Judah! This was a formidable army motivated by relentless hatred—and they were marching toward Jerusalem!

Hearing of this terrifying confederacy King Jehoshaphat “set himself to seek the Lord and proclaimed a fast throughout ALL Judah!” Humanly speaking, this was utterly ridiculous! He should have been mobilizing his own army, mustering into action every available man, youth and even women to defend themselves. Right?

But he—they—didn’t! What they did was far, far better, and ultimately totally effective! Knowing he—they—didn’t have the answers or abilities to defeat the vast superior army, Jehoshaphat turned to God Almighty and led his nation “to seek the Lord,” calling one and all to pray and fast! Please note verses 4 and 13 where we read of Judah’s gathering of themselves together to ask help of the Lord. Out of ALL the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord and ALL Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives and their children.

The unthinkable happened! Absolutely! Who ever heard of a nation gathering to pray? No, not just a few concerned people, but everybody including the women and children of all ages! Using just a little imagination, one can visualize the endless streams of people, all heading for Jerusalem. Every road was filled with them! Although the children may have been thinking of this as an exciting adventure, the faces of the parents showed grave concern. They were fully cognizant of the imminent danger they were facing—and, very possibly even death itself. Truly it was a desperate moment in the history of the nation!

Happily, the story doesn’t end here! Not at all! When they all stood before the Lord,...then came the Spirit of the Lord and spoke through Zechariah saying, “Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God’s...Set yourselves...and see the salvation of the Lord...fear not...tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord will be with you.” And listen to this! Jehoshaphat appointed men that should praise the beauty of God’s holiness. As they went out before the army singing and praising the Lord, He set ambushes against their enemies and they were totally routed! It was an awesome victory. Literally—in answer to the united prayers of the nation—God Himself

came and scattered their enemies!

This is a passionate call to every born again, committed Christian, and especially to every missionary and pastor in Japan, yes, to united, even desperate prayer for this nation literally in the grips of the enemy himself! Jehoshaphat and his people were desperate! We must be the same! Let us learn from the powerful example of these, our godly forefathers, as recorded in II Chornicles 20! We read in I Corinthians 10:11 that “all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for instruction...” Jehoshaphat and all Judah were absolutely desperate! Happily, they fully recognized that without God’s help and intervention there was no hope whatever! Their backs were up against the wall—and that’s exactly where God wanted them to be! But, why? So they would look up, cry earnestly to Him and experience His power and glory!

Beloved, this is precisely what God wants us to do today in and for Japan. Nationwide prayer is vital. Yes, every Christian gathering together to “ask help of the Lord!” Let us “set ourselves to seek the Lord and proclaim a fast,” too, with Christians all across this land responding! Although we have experienced limited blessing on our ministries in this land of terrible darkness, still the masses remain under the control of Satan and his cohorts. Today the nation is still less than 1% Christian even after over 50 years of postwar ministry! IF we pray, we too will experience a nationwide visitation! It is guaranteed! Just read Joel! We can get excited about a total outpouring of God’s Spirit for it is promised by God Himself.

We all need to be keenly aware that our sinister enemy is even now making strong advances to tighten his grip on the millions sitting in unimaginable spiritual darkness. *World*, a conservative Christian news weekly in the United States, April 2000, reported that “Shintoism and emperor worship

that "Shintoism and emperor worship retake postwar Japan's naked public square by force...Cultural shifts are moving just beneath the surface of Japanese society, almost like irreversible lava flows. To encourage a more patriotic spirit, the Ministry of Education has steadily pressured schools to honor the traditional Japanese flag and sing the national anthem, although neither has had legal status in postwar Japan. The Sun Flag, called *Hinomaru*, is a historical symbol of the reign of the so-called divine emperor. The anthem, *Kimigayo*, is a hymn of praise to the emperor. Both traditions recall the Japanese hegemony that led to World War II. For pacifists, who are well represented in the teaching profession, the link between these imperial symbols and wartime nationalism is unacceptable. For Christians, the idolatrous connection of the flag and the anthem with emperor worship violates the conscience. As a result, many teachers are resisting the government directive."

Resistance is not new. Between 1985 and 1995 over 900 public schoolteachers were punished for exercising their constitutional

rights...the situation has worsened. In 1999 the principal of Seirei High School in Hiroshima ended up committing suicide and his death galvanized national attention to this issue...Legislators rushed a bill through the Diet granting legal status to the *Hinomaru* and the *Kimigayo*. This bill requires government employees, which includes teachers, to honor the flag and sing the anthem...For missionaries, the current battle is a forceful reminder of past persecution. In the 1930's the government used subtle measures, whittling away the resolve of Christians and acclimating them step by step to eventual participation in blatant Shintoism and emperor worship..."

Christians are under attack! The enemy is on the march to further blind the millions of this nation! Our only and right response is to do what Jehoshaphat and all Judah did centuries ago---ALL gather to unite in prayer! A nationwide time of fasting and praying are essential. In the Biblical account the direct response to fasting and praying found the formidable enemy totally routed. What a glorious victory was theirs—

and it will be for us, too. Allow me to appeal to every Christian leader in this nation! This is absolutely urgent! The eternal destiny of millions literally hinges on our response! Let's call our people to prayer, beginning today...this month. Let's overcome denominational barriers and differences to unite under the banner of the cross. Let us call upon Almighty God to grant a nationwide visitation!

(This is the first in a series of articles majoring on PRAYER for Japan.)

Donnel McLean, along with his wife, served as a missionaries to Japan from June 1953 to December 1994. With hearts burdened for Japan's rural areas, Donnell writes, "Countless times...our hearts were moved to tears both because of the unending need and our inability to reach all the Japanese. It did not matter which ravine or mountain plateau we went to, we were constantly overwhelmed with sorrow because virtually all were still not being reached, and very possibly never would be."

**If you can't change  
a situation—pray;  
but don't waste  
time or energy  
worrying about it.**



## Memories

by Siegfried Buss

When word reached me in Colorado Springs that Koji Honda had been promoted to glory, I grieved at the loss of a dear friend. Now I have but memories to cling to.

My first encounter with the evangelist was in Chicago in the late 1950's while serving as associate pastor of a large Japanese church. Koji Honda addressed a rally sponsored by the Association of Japanese Churches. Edith and I found a seat near the front and it didn't take long for the evangelist to win the audience with his humorous introductory remarks about his first impressions of

America. Suddenly he stopped and announced that he had discovered two gaijin and that he had to bring his remarks about America to a close. At the reception after the meeting I confronted Honda Sensei (teacher) and reminded him that he was the *gaijin* (foreigner) in Chicago. Honda Sensei bowed politely and from his lips fell the words that I was to hear frequently in years to come, "I am sorry."

Little did I realize that I would be closely working with Koji Honda, especially at the Ochanomizu Christian Center where he was board chairman. His office was frequented by visitors from around the world and he was kind to invite me for a cup of tea. I was struck that he had a deep personal interest in every person he met. At the door when parting, he would ask if he could pray for the individual. It didn't matter whether it



was the president of MacDonald's or head of the nearby bank. He was unapologetic about his faith. A strong camaraderie also existed on the board level. The annual prayer and strategy retreat was an event I always looked forward to with much anticipation. Prayer was always the priority item on the agenda. I came to realize that herein lay the secret of his success as an evangelist. At one retreat in Hakone I had the misfortune of slipping on the ice and broke my ankle. It was a serious multiple fracture. As the stretcher was lowered, Honda Sensei reached for my leg and prayed, "Lord, help this brother in this hour of need, Lord, heal him right now." I vividly remember joining Honda Sensei in the prayer in Japanese, but closing with, "Sore wa muzukashii desuga, yoroshiku onegaishimasu." (This is difficult, but we beg of YOU to work.)

I had some wonderful moments with Honda Sensei in different parts of the world. At the congress in Amsterdam Honda Sensei was invited to open the plenary session in prayer.

It was a special honor extended to distinguished leaders. I never heard him pray like this in Japanese before. The whole arena shook and the technicians didn't have time to adjust the volume. There was quite a commotion when the prayer was concluded. The brother from Africa seated next to me summarized the prayer well when he stated, "that was powerful."

At the World Prayer Congress in Seoul Honda Sensei was invited to speak at the all-night open air prayer meeting. All the Japanese delegates attended that session. An enormous crowd had gathered. I envied the few who were sitting on the elevated stand. I envied them for the panoramic view. Just then there was a tap on my shoulder. I was asked to come to the platform to interpret for the Bill Brights. Honda Sensei was introduced, but before he began his message, he prostrated himself on the platform and asked the Korean nation to forgive Japan for the crimes committed during Japanese occupation. It was a stunning moment even more effective because of its spontaneity. It

brought tears to my eyes. Then Honda Sensei began to tell of his childhood days, of his stern father who mercilessly hit him on the head. "I think that's what stunted my growth," Honda quipped. Bill Bright laughed out loud. It didn't take long for the evangelist to hold the audience in rapt attention as he spoke of God's constraining love and reconciliation in Christ. Ah, memories.

At the end of summer I will be returning to Colorado Springs. The first thing I will do is reach for that beautiful red vase that Honda Sensei brought back from Germany to present to me. I shall walk to my flower bed and pluck from it a white rose... and place it in the vase from my dear friend and brother in Christ, Koji Honda.

Siegfried Buss served in Japan as a TEAM missionary for 35 years (1961-1996). Especially in later years, he taught at TCU and was involved with Ochanomizu Christian Center. He also served as JEMA president for several years and was editor of the *Japan Harvest*.

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# World Affairs

## Where do our sympathies lie?

by Harry M. Taylor

In our present world the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not only extremely confusing and dangerous, but also is without a human solution. Both the combatants appeal for sympathy. On top of this, there is a countdown to consider. What dies more slowly than old hatreds and prejudices? This war and its causes are about four thousand years old! The battle between light (God's Divine Purposes) and the darkness of this world (Satan's Domain) will only end when the Lord Jesus, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, takes the Throne to rule this world. Precious Lord Jesus come soon!

In the meantime we can live in the Divine Grace and Understanding that is ours only through the "Word of Truth" and the "Spirit of Truth"!

About twenty-five hundred years ago the prophet Zechariah prophesied in chapter 12 verse 4 (KJV), "Israel (the recently restored nation of but a few years) will be a heavy stone for the nations to carry." The NIV says, "All who will attempt to move this stone will injure themselves. The present existence of Israel and God's dealing with her is both a mystery and a miracle. We need to keep heaven's viewpoint in our reasoning!"

My wife and I proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan for some seventeen years. We have found the Lord's church more numerous by far among the Arabs in the Near East than in Israel. It is apparent that Israel is no friend of Christ, but we must remember, "God is at work!" Let us keep on reading in Zechariah, "They shall look upon Him whom they have pierced." Hallelujah! What divine blessing lies ahead for Israel!

If Israel's rejection is our (Gentile) salvation—what a glorious event it will be when Israel, as a nation, is restored (Romans 10:15).

To be sure, Israel is "God's Timepiece" as we behold these mysteries of the final days of this age. The book of

Revelation reveals this!

Obviously, we need far more than the reports of the news media and human sympathies to instruct the reasoning of the Christian believer in these confusing present day events!

My advise is—Don't consider ourselves to be on either side! **Be on God's side!** See world events in light of Bible Revelation!

Indeed, a glorious event is coming for Israel, i.e., "looking on their Lord whom they pierced at Calvary!" What an event! What a change! What remorse will take place in the Nation of Israel when world events will hone them into the needed heart attitude!

Our only safe position is, Lord, be pleased to awaken both the Arabs and the Jews to the glorious redemption that is ours in Christ for all peoples. God's LOVE is still holding out His nail pierced hands to welcome all who will come to Him in

repentance!

We rejoice over what God has done and is doing in the Arab—the Moslem world today!

In 1966, as newly arrived missionaries in Lebanon, the Lord, in a unique way, brought us into contact with Sami and Joy Dagher. A very distinguished looking couple in the natural, Sami and Joy were not likely material for church workers. BUT GOD! Sami was manager in the Phoenicia Hotel, the largest and most luxurious hotel in all the Near East! The life-style of the Daghers was worldly, their marriage was in trouble and their religious background lacking. BUT GOD! Our Lord can take any human and make something wonderful out of him/her when the heart and life is turned over to Him! Hallelujah! Our Lord can do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think!!

In an endless line of miracles through fifteen years of revolution in Lebanon, Sami became one of God's outstanding and most broadly known Christian preachers and leaders in all the Near East.

When we arrived in Lebanon there was, in the C&MA work, only one small rented chapel filled with Hauranese from south Syria. There were no Lebanese in this fellowship because the cultures were incompatible! In this situation the Lord gave us a burden to start an International Church, targeting the Lebanese and English speaking people of any and all nationalities of which there were many in Lebanon. We had the privilege of ministering to seventeen different nationalities during those years.

At the start of this church we had no money. We were almost unknown in our new field of ministry. Again, BUT GOD!

In a long string of miracles, Sami eventually became our associate pastor for the Arabic-speaking congregation while we led the English language church. Now, after just a few years Sami has the largest evangelical church in Lebanon! Also, he has started and built up four other con-

gregations including structures for worship. Lebanon is a country famous for religions—nominal Christianity and Islam—hard tough soil for the Gospel seed. BUT GOD!

In God's time, Sami was a featured speaker for the Billy Graham World National Leadership Conference in Amsterdam 2000. He stood the test. The burden for the Muslim people weighed heavily on his heart. After the flaming guns of Desert Storm subsided, Sami led several 18-wheel trucks, filled with food, medicines and other supplies for the needy in Iraq. Added to this, he distributed a large number of Bibles to the populace. The people listened. Fourteen Moslems came to Christ. Added to this, Hussain permitted the "Jesus Film" to be aired on Prime Time TV throughout Iraq. Following this venture Sami received a word of appreciation from the office of Saddam Hussain for his help to the needy. Sami answered with the testimony of his heart change when he accepted Christ and told how God had replaced his hating heart with a loving heart to help the needy and suffering. Saddam Hussain was so impressed with Sami's letter that he had it published on the front page of the newspaper in Iraq. Too numerous to mention, the list goes on. The glory he gives to God!

Later on, when Sami returned from one of his foreign speaking engagements to 1600 Russian church leaders on the theme of Bible Evangelism, he was surprised to hear from the Iraqi Embassy in Jordan inviting him to come. They had been trying to contact him saying that they had heard from Saddam Hussain asking them to invite Sami Dagher to Jordan to receive a special message from the Iraqi leader. The very next day Sami boarded the plane for Amman, Jordan, where the Iraqi Ambassador gave Sami a "red carpet" reception --- an elaborate banquet. He was also given a special citation from Sadam Hussain and a gift of a beautiful watch that had been made especially for Sadam Hussain himself.

During our last term of service in Arab Lands, the Lord brought us in contact with an unusual Iraqi

couple, living in Amman, Jordan. The husband's name was Taha and his wife was Fatua. They were provided, among other things, a palatial home and a new car every year by King Hussain of Jordan. Realizing the unique qualities and giftedness of Taha, the king hoped that the heartless and threatening Bathist Regime in Iraq would be deposed and that Taha, with his upright character and unique leadership ability, would lead the country. Taha, a graduate of the War College of USA, had been the number two man in Iraq, actually the top General of the Army—the confidant and protector of the king. Then the Bathist party took over the country in a bloody coup and they killed the king and imprisoned all the leaders of the country, eventually murdering all of them except Taha. His survival was a miracle of God's Grace. This experience, I think, is when Taha's confidence in Christ began. (A more detailed account is written in our book, *Edge of Conflict*, Published by Christian Publications Inc. Web site: <http://www.christianpublications.com>).

Taha came from a long line of Moslem enthusiasts, but the wonderful grace of God touched his life. As we often went to Jordan on mission business, Taha requested me to call him upon arrival at the airport and he would drive to pick me up. Taha's motivation was that we meet together for prayer and Bible study. Taha especially loved the New Testament as he had discovered Jesus to be the light of the world, the only Savior of mankind. After we retired from the Near East field, we received word that Taha had cancer, then a short time later he was taken by death.

Taha is only one of a great number that are seeing the light of the world to be Jesus, Creator, Savior, Eternal Lord of Lord and King of Kings.

The religious system of Islam has no answer for a sin-plagued world of humanity. Jesus is the only name under heaven given among men whereby we can be saved. Oh, may the Spirit of the Living God, in these last days, enlarge our vision, empower our witness, and anoint us to pray for

the millions of Muslims held in eternal darkness!

The Taylors began their ministry planting a church in Norfolk, VA (USA) in 1935. That church today is called Norfolk Tabernacle Church. In 1938 they left for French Indo- China (its name before WWII) via eight months of French study in Paris, France.



Just before Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, they went to Manila Philippines for the birth of their second child, Janice Taylor Kropp. They completed 28 years of service in Cambodia at which time the Cambodian government refused visas to all Americans. In 1966 Harry and Miriam transferred to Beirut, Lebanon for residence and served as director of C&MA work in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. They are now retired and live in Good Samaritan Village, Kissimmee, FL (USA).

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# Salt to

*Koji Honda entered into God's presence on April 6, 2002. A brief account of his three hour memorial service may be found on page 12 under The President's Pencil.*

**K**oji Honda was born in 1912 in Maruoka, a small town known for its idol worship. In those days, the central building in town was the restaurant, which interestingly enough was owned by Koji's father. Even though much ungodly drinking took place there, his father sought daily the blessing of Buddha. Early every morning he would call his family together to kneel with him before the god-shelf in the home. After lighting the candles and ringing the small bell, he chanted Buddhist scripture. There was no breakfast for anyone who didn't first worship before the gold colored idol. This same ritual was repeated again at night!

When Koji was still small, his grandmother made him wear a good luck charm to ward off evil. He wore it even while swimming. Then, when he was eight years old, he attended a Sunday School one day. When he returned home everyone rebuked him severely. They were afraid of the evil forces he might bring into the home, so the family ran to the kitchen to get \*salt, which is regarded as the best detergent against defiling spirits. They purified Koji by sprinkling salt all over him and sternly demanded that he never go back to that "dirty Jesus church."

As Koji grew he learned how to entreat the gods, but superstition and fear filled his heart. He was repeatedly told never to have anything to do with the Christian's God, so he frequently visited temples and shrines to worship. With the same dipper used by hundreds of others, he drank "holy

temple water," believing he would thereby receive special blessing and do well at school.

Koji's first real contact with Christian teaching was as a high school student. Along with his friends, he went to church to learn English. Taking turns, the students were asked to read verses aloud out of the Bible. When his father heard about all this he was furious, and to purify him from the foreign devils, again Koji was given the "salt treatment." His father just could not reconcile himself to the fact that Koji was interested in the activities of the church. He even went so far as to gather eight relatives to discuss Koji's obvious interest in Jesus. All urged him to cease contact with the church. With folded hands and tears his father pleaded with his son to quit or "I will kill you if you don't." Koji remained silent, for he had already determined in his heart to follow Jesus. The family put him under great persecution as they burned his Bible, beat him and even threatened him with complete severance from the family. All this for an upright life would have been hard enough, but Koji felt that his life was far from what God would have desired, so it made Koji's pain even greater. Tormented by his weak will to do what was right, his pastor convinced him that if he were baptized everything would change and he would be able to live for God. Koji was baptized, but no obvious miracle took place. Koji was deeply disappointed and thought that he was simply a baptized sinner and continued in his own strength to be a Christian.

Under much severe persecuting he had to get away from home so he went to Tokyo to find work. One day he walked into the Tokyo

Ginza Methodist Church and there truly repented of his sins. That day he believed that Jesus could save him from his distress and his sin. The date was July 22, 1932, exactly one year after his baptism!

Rev. Honda persevered through many trials during the war years and eventually became one of the greatest soul winners Japan has ever know.

His parents, by the way, who had resisted him so bitterly, turned up one day at one of his crusades. When he gave the appeal he was deeply moved to see his parents going forward with others who wanted to choose Jesus. They became faithful followers of the same Jesus they had once so deeply resented.

## 5000 COFFINS

"There are real advantages to being short in stature," was how Rev. Koji Honda described himself. "When it rains you get wet later than tall people!" he would tease. Koji often joked about himself and had the audience in fits of laughter, and that was when he would turn dead serious and hammer home the truths of God.

Rev. Honda was Japan's leading evangelist and soul winner for many years!

When he first met Billy Graham, Koji was introduced as the "Billy Graham of Japan," to which Dr. Graham very humbly replied, "Then I am the Koji Honda of the USA."

Rev. Honda was famous, but he remained humble. He had a deep love for missionaries, too. Once when I attended a Japanese ministers "get-together," when Dr. Honda was the speaker, I noticed him dropping off to sleep. (One needs to know Dr. Honda to fully grasp the significance of his "naps." One of the secrets of his vig-

# Purify

orous schedule and evangelistic zeal was his ability to take five-minute naps at any time, anywhere.) While Rev. Honda was nodding in sleep, a Japanese pastor stood and raved about overseas missionaries “coming to take over Japan.” He reckoned missionaries were unnecessary and complained they made the Japanese pastors, *kaban mochi* (carriers of briefcases). My being the only foreign missionary present, I was sorry I had come to the meeting at all. When suddenly the pastor finished speaking and sat down. Just as suddenly, Rev. Honda, who I thought was fast asleep, jumped up to the podium where he thundered, “Missionaries are essential to Japan. If they did not come to Japan, I would not have been saved! If they had not come, no one in Japan would have known God. I admire missionaries and I love them. I want them around, and I would consider it a privilege to carry their bags.” You could have heard a pin drop!

Missionaries and pastors loved Dr. Honda and they rallied around him. In his first eight years of soul winning crusades, it was especially hard going. It was then that Rev. Eddie Karnes of World Harvesters, helped set up citywide campaigns. In the late ‘50’s crusade funds were not available to rent halls, so he went to the parks. Night after night, people stood for hours to hear the Gospel, and from that very point people were saved.

Of the 1959 September Nagoya Crusade Eddie Karnes gave the following scenario:

God sent Koji Honda to the third largest city in Japan, Nagoya. It is an indifferent and prosperous city where the famous and rich have no time of Christ. We rented the newest and fin-

est hall in the city for 10 nights.

Nagoya is a wicked city! God led Koji to the city. Thousands of gospel tracts were given out and a gas-filled ad balloon marked with the cross filled the sky for three days (there wasn’t enough money to fly the balloon for more.) At the last meeting Dr. Honda declared that God was going to visit Nagoya in judgment if they did not turn to Christ. Six days later Nagoya was struck by typhoon, Vera, which swept across the city, broke down the sea wall and within minutes swallowed up 5,000 men, women and children. A memorial service was held in the very auditorium where the crusade had been.

When an earthquake struck Niigata following Koji’s crusade there, other cities were fearful to have Honda for meetings with the excuse that judgment might come to them. Honda kept them on the “hook” with, “Certainly, God will judge your cities if you do not follow Him.”

In 1988, at the age of 76, Rev. Honda was awarded, with honors, a doctorate degree in theology from Biola University of California (USA). This seemed to inspire him with new zeal.

One of Dr. Honda’s secrets for success as an evangelist was that he strongly believed that all people have a God-consciousness. As he spoke to unbelievers, he believed that God had already been working in their hearts and that if they just would yield to Him, they would be saved.

Another secret was that he was a tremendous man of prayer and he liked to pray aloud in a thunderous voice. During one of his campaigns, he found a hut in a rice paddy where he went every day to pray with his voice echoing through the rafters.

The farmer who listened, from that time on, thought of his little shed as a gateway to heaven where the man of God prayed!

At the age of 90, on April 6, 2002, our beloved Billy Graham of Japan crossed over into heaven. Many in Japan have reason to call him blessed! So many found Christ through his dedicated ministry. When I think of him, he still inspires me to do exploits for my God in this very needy land!

\*(SALT is regarded as the best medium to protect against evil spirits. Very early every morning shop owners pour salt at the strategic entrances and corners of their shops to discourage entry of evil spirits, otherwise the spirits could play havoc with business.

When an unwelcome visitor finally leaves a house, the old-fashioned housewife will take a pinch of salt and scatter it at the door where the visitor had come in to make sure no ill omen would bring harm to the family.

When coming from funerals, some Japanese purify themselves with salt so the evil of the dead might not enter their homes.)

Neil and his wife, Peggy, came to Japan in 1951 and 1952 respectively. They serve with Japan Mission.





# *Passing the Baton: from Father to Son*

*by Neil Verwey*

**I**n my life I have seen many cases in which fathers were too reluctant to pass the baton to their sons, with tragic results. I have seen it in the business world and I've seen it on the mission field.

We became friends with the mayor of a very big city in the United States of America. He was in the real estate business. Without his wife's knowledge, he was going completely senile and could not function in his office anymore. Every morning he left the house in his big Cadillac and arrived at his office where his secretary made him some tea and he sat around the office doing absolutely nothing until it was time to go home. It was only three years later when the tax collectors came around to sell their house that his wife and their children woke up to the fact that he had become so senile that he could not function anymore, not even to take care of paying his taxes. What an upheaval it was for that family.

I saw the same thing happen on the mission field. A missionary couple with whom we work very closely, were looking forward so much to the day that their son would graduate from Wheaton College and come and join them. When the son finally did so his ideas were so new and so differ-

ent from his father's that they argued just about every day. Exasperated, the son finally left and joined TEAM. His father died and a precious work that he began for Jesus Christ also died with him.

I did not want something similar to happen to the Japan Mission. Since its inception in 1957 God has used this mission. In the early sixties we were known as the 'hospital mission,' as we had some 50 hospital evangelists working in the tuberculosis hospitals of this country. We also started the Voice of Joy broadcasts and had a response from some 100,000 people. In our newspaper evangelism outreach we also had close to a 100,000 people contacting us. The Japan Mission still continues to work effectively in various fields and I did not want this mission to die with me.

For many years I have been concerned about a person who could follow me up in this work, but I never prayed to God that David my son would become the one to take my place. I did not want it to be a 'family business'. I even made efforts in training one or two people and spent years doing so. However in the end it did not work out.

My son, David, graduated from Le Tourneau University in Longview,

with a B. A. in Missions & Bible. He also obtained a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Texas in Tyler. "You can make a success of any business you put your hand to," a businessman in the U.S.A. told David when he graduated. He was willing to back his words up with investments.

"That offer held no temptation for me," David said. "I knew God wanted me to go back to the mission field." I was overjoyed.

He joined the Japan Mission in 1987. I reckon he was about 10 years ahead of someone who starts at scratch in Japan. He knew the language and the customs and could immediately minister here.

I was determined, not to wait too long before I handed over responsibilities to him. After watching him for about five years getting used to the work of the Japan Mission, I started handing over the task and duties of the Japan Mission.

At present I am just Director of the Japan Mission in name. David is running everything from our Joy Club programs to the finances.

Believe me. Peggy and I are still very busy and involved in the work of the Japan Mission. Our combined ages amount to 154 years, but God

has given us unusual health and vitality to continue to work for him, but at present we consider ourselves as assisting David in his vision.

The bond between our children David and Sue, and us has strengthened. I would fully understand if they say to us as their parents, "We look into your faces every day as we work together. For our summer vacations we want to be on our own." However, that is not their attitude. As a matter of fact, one summer vacation we decided not to join them and made our plans. They were very unhappy about it and eventually we agreed to go on vacation together with them.

It was not easy for Peggy and I to hand over our life-long work to our children. We hailed from a time and generation that is completely different from the present. We had some very devout Japanese workers with us and they obeyed our slightest wishes to the letter. If we said, "Today we fast!" they fasted and prayed with us, no excuses were made or questions asked. Nowadays, however, people have completely changed. It seems as if everybody wants to do his or her own thing.

For many, many years, at precisely 08:30, we would gather for Bible Study and prayer before we started the activities of that day. If someone was late for that meeting, we just looked surprised and it very rarely happened again.

When David took over, however. He started to speak about flexi-time! It was a thorn in my flesh to get used to flexi-time! To think that everybody can walk into the office anytime they wanted to! I could not understand when there was a big job to be done in our office; they would prefer to work until after twelve o'clock at night and then sleep until the sun was shining down upon them! Peggy and I go to bed with the chickens but early in the morning, anytime from four o'clock onwards we function. That revolutionary change in the schedule of the Japan Mission staff was something for me to get used to. However, as I watched the flexi-time schedule in our office work, I realized that we have no lazy people in the Japan Mission and

everybody is working to the best of their ability.

Another thing I clearly had to understand was that our vision and that of David is completely different, The Japan Mission have been heavily involved in hospital evangelism, radio broadcasts, newspaper evangelism, etc.

David's vision is completely different. Although, in some small way, he still carries on some of the original projects that the Mission started, the emphasis has completely shifted. David's vision is education. David's vision is to reach the Japanese through the methods of getting to the younger generation.

For a while David was the principal of the Kansai Christian School and that gave him marvelous opportunities to reach out to the neighboring schools. Nowadays he is often invited to speak at PTA meetings and sometimes even has an opportunity to address groups of teachers.

Recently a principal of a primary school and a few of his teachers visited David in their best clothes and said to him, "My school is your school! Come and teach us English." After some prayer David decided to give them one day a week in which we go and teach them English and through that method try and reach out to the children and also their parents for Christ,

As a father, I realize more and more, that just as earnestly as I wanted to see my own vision fulfilled, I should be just as eager to see David's visions fulfilled. Therefore I give him all the support I can.

To facilitate the smooth working of the Japan Mission we have a strategy meeting every Monday, in which I also have a part to play. We have decided not to go ahead with anything, unless there is full agreement. That is probably helped us in many areas to go slow on very important decisions and in doing so, minimize our mistakes.

Although many would regard Peggy and I far beyond the retiring age, we are still active in God's service every day. As a matter of fact, we have more opportunities for God than we can really handle.

David also knows that we are assisting him and therefore he can call on us at anytime to help him in running the Joy Club Programs in churches, lead our weekly prayer meetings or help him in organizing some aspect of the work. We work for him as he has worked for us for many years.

It is wonderful to be retired: Without having to shoulder the immense responsibilities of the Japan Mission. We can now sit back and enjoy our lives in doing the things that God enables us to do. We are involved in many meetings, prayer meetings, weddings, and seminars. We also have a writing ministry on our computers that keeps us busy every day.

Many times a week, David will drop in, and discuss some phase of the work with us and ask for advice. We appreciate that more than we can ever express in words.

It also is a sign to us that we are not so far gone mentally that we cannot give him advice in some important matters. When we have our Japan Mission gatherings, David always asks me to bring a message out of God's Word to our fellow missionaries. But even so, I never take it for granted and check with him every time if that is his desire.

David now is the leader of the Japan Mission and in everything - I am his assistant.

*From left to right: David (son)*



*Neil, Sue (daughter-in-law)  
and Peggy  
Congratulations!*

*From the President's Pencil*

April 6, 2002, at the age of 90, Koichi Honda passed into the presence of the Lord Jesus. On April 26th a public memorial service was held at the Wesleyan Holiness Yodobashi Church. It was a moving service covering three and a half hours. Many tributes were given to this spiritual giant. None was more moving than Dr. Akira Hatori's words. With tears Dr. Hatori spoke passionately of his long time friend and compatriot in evangelistic ministry. Dr. Hatori said he was always amazed at the power manifested in Dr. Honda's ministry. When Dr. Honda gave the invitation people by droves stood and went forward to receive Christ. Dr. Hatori gave three reasons why he believed God used Dr. Honda so mightily. He was a man who believed in Almighty God, the Creator and in the trustworthiness of God's Word. He was a man dedicated to serve God with all his strength. He was a man who lived a pure life and this was manifested in how he lived a life of repentance. Later, after a meeting in Tochigi, someone remarked to

Dr. Hatori that if we had 1,000 Honda's, Japan would be changed. However, Dr. Honda, himself would point to Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever. Later in the memorial service Rev. Izuta remarked that there were 1,000 people gathered in the church that day and asked what would happen if we received Honda's spirit of evangelism. This was a marvelous challenge from the testimony of the life of one of God's remarkable servants.

On another subject, the week after returning from the May Prayer Summit held at OBC, I read in my devotions from Psalm 36:7a, "*How precious is your loving kindness, O God. They are abundantly satisfied of Your House and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures.*" Reflecting back over the Prayer Summit these verses put into words what I was feeling. The phrase "*You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures,*" especially struck me. Our world is frantically pleasure seeking whether in sports, theater or

in a multitude of pursuits, and yet, the best pleasures are found in knowing God Himself through the Lord Jesus. Drawing aside at the Prayer Summit allowed the fourteen of us gathered there to do just that. We tasted of the rivers of His pleasures—very refreshing and delightful!

Serving with you in the work of His Kingdom,

*Ray Leaf*



Ray and Ruth Leaf came to Japan in 1972 under SEND International. They serve in a church planting ministry in Higashi Yamato Shi.

**Deadline for  
Fall Issue  
August 15th.**

*JEMA Datebook 2002*

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>
Women's Day of Prayer	October 28	OCC, KGK room
CPI Conference	November 12 - 15, 2002	Fuji Hakone Land
JEMA Day of Prayer	October 7, 2002	Navigators
JEMA Plenary Session	February 25, 2003	OCC
Women's Spring Retreat	March 5-7	Karuizawa, Megumi Chalet
Prayer Summit East		
Prayer Summit West		



# What if JEMA Ceased to Exist?

by Harry Landaw

**W**hat if JEMA ceased to exist? This was one of the many questions that I asked those attending the Leaders' Consultation, held at Fukuin No Ie, on February 25, 2002. The JEMA EXEC, in its planning for this Leaders' Consultation, felt that the timing was right to do some brainstorming together to see if JEMA needed to do any re-focusing as it looks to ministry in the rapid changing scene around us. We began by looking at what it is that JEMA does right now. A quick look at the "Constitution of JEMA," and JEMA's advertisement in the "JEMA Directory," gave us a pretty good picture of what it is that JEMA has done and is doing right now. It is obvious that JEMA is involved in a lot of activities here in Japan. From its beginning, just over 50 years ago, JEMA has served as a vital part of the progress achieved in reaching the Japanese people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are all very grateful to JEMA for its great contributions in helping all of us as we endeavor to reach the Japanese people with the message of Jesus Christ.

It is helpful, however, from time to time, to put aside our constitutions, our by-laws, and old purpose statements, and take a look at the present scene with fresh eyes. Periodically, it is helpful to see if the needs have changed from what we perceived them to be previously. If the needs have changed, then, perhaps, JEMA needs to make some changes. If the needs are pretty much the same, maybe just some fine tuning is all that is needed. Every once in a while every organization needs to take some time out and ask itself some questions. "What do you want JEMA to be doing?" "What if JEMA did not exist?" "If, all of a sudden, JEMA ceased to exist, would anyone notice?" "If JEMA did not exist, do you think it would be worthwhile creating an organization like JEMA?" "What do you want JEMA to be doing five, ten, or fifty years from now?" "What is your 'wish list' for JEMA?" These were some of the questions that I brought before the 50 or so leaders who gathered for the Consultation.

It was the desire of the JEMA EXEC that we gather some valuable input from Mission Leaders in Japan as we look at JEMA and its role in the rapidly

changing Japan of today. My assignment from the EXEC was to help us achieve the goal of gathering that valuable input. I am not an expert, but a few years ago, I discovered a very useful tool that has helped me in a number of ministry assignments during the past five years. This tool is a book by Bob Biehl, entitled Masterplanning. My goal for the two sessions was to walk us through a bit of what Biehl presents in his book and to apply his questions to our situation here. The exciting thing about this process is that you never know how it will turn out, until you go through the process. A lot depends upon the willingness of the participants to enthusiastically participate in the discussions. I was very grateful to those in attendance at the Leaders' Consultation and would like to thank them for their excellent participation in our process. This article is an attempt to summarize our brainstorming. A more detailed report is available at the JEMA Office.

Towards the end of our two 90 minute brainstorming sessions, we used the following scenario to help us define JEMA's reason for existence. "Suppose you were at a party, and someone asked you, 'Why does JEMA exist?' What would you say?" We tried to answer that question by completing the following statement. "Well, basically, the reason JEMA exists is to..." Some of the suggestions were as follows: JEMA exists...

- To assist missionaries and missions through networking, facilitating, and equipping.
- To network missions and missionaries to facilitate the equipping of missionaries.
- To network and facilitate, in order to equip missionaries for ministry in Japan.
- To promote cooperation between missionaries and mission groups.
- To provide training to equip missionaries to better reach Japanese.
- To provide information and help related to legal issues.
- To mobilize and motivate people to pray for spiritual issues in Japan.
- To disseminate information about the whole range of missionary work in Japan.
- To publish resources.

- To help all missionaries to fulfill their call.
- To continue to play an active part in summer conferences.
- To assist missions and missionaries to reach Japan.
- Foster inter-mission communication
- Facilitate big projects
- Bring efficiency by avoiding duplication
- Provide training events
- Foster networking
- To give missionaries a unified voice before the government
- To provide cooperation with the Japanese church
- To provide a psychological boost to missionaries from the structure it provides
- To inform and encourage missionaries by giving a broader view of Japan
- To provide prayer support

In order to complete that statement, the following two questions proved to be helpful. The first question was, "How is JEMA unique from any other group or organization?" Answers were as follows:

- it is evangelical and ecumenical (small "e")

- it is English speaking based
- it is international
- it is non-authoritative
- it is made up of missionaries and expatriates

The second question was, "What would we want JEMA's epitaph to be?" Biehl refers to an epitaph as a "past-tense Purpose Statement." We spent some minutes discussing what we would like to see written on JEMA's tombstone. Some of the thoughts were:

- It met a need!
- Well done!
- It helped share resources of the missionary community to reach Japan!

Obviously, in the short amount of time we had, it was impossible to come up with a complete "document" to guide JEMA into the future. However, we were able to see a little of "what we want JEMA to be doing." At the conclusion of our discussion time, we spent some valuable time to pause and pray. We stopped to ask God to continue to help us care about those things for which He cares. We asked God to help us so that

we would see the needs that He sees. We asked God to help us so that we would truly understand God's purpose for JEMA. And, we asked God to continue to work through JEMA.

Although, there is still much more work to be done in order to help the JEMA EXEC in planning for the future ministry of JEMA, the EXEC was very pleased with the information gathered at the Consultation. The EXEC was very grateful for the good ideas shared and the excellent assistance of all the participants in the discussion sessions. Please be in prayer for the EXEC as it continues to analyze this information and use it to assist JEMA in keeping a clear focus and in planning for the future.



Harry and his wife, Jane, are church planting missionaries with The Christian & Missionary Alliance and have served in Japan since 1979.

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# Why Bother Thinking Theologically About Church Planting?



by Dale Little

It was once again time to rearrange the furniture in our living room. We were required to do this neither because we had just purchased some new furniture nor because we unrealistically wanted our home to look like photos in a recent issue of *Better Homes and Gardens*. Rather, we needed to create space for some people coming over. In fact, they came to our house every week on Sundays. In preparation, every Saturday evening we rearranged our furniture. The mini-sized Japanese sofa was moved aside, the coffee table was moved to a corner making a good place for books or flowers, folding chairs were placed in every available inch of the living room and the adjoining kitchen/dining room, and a portable podium I had made was placed in the “front” of the living room. The first floor of our house had once again been temporarily transformed into a church building.

This was cross-cultural church planting in Japan, and we were in the thick of it. The myriad of pragmatic details needing attention throughout the week demanded our focus and attention. It was very easy in our church planting ministry to think mostly about urgent but practical issues. How do we have an evangelistic tract ordered and delivered? How do we find time to prepare for our next English class, Bible study, or sermon, when the necessities of taking children to the doctor’s office (requiring at least half a day), getting the van repaired, participating in field leadership decision making, or writing one more letter to our supporting churches back “home” all seem so urgent?

In the midst of all this necessary pragmatic flurry of church planting activities, perspective was often elu-

sive. Why do we expend so much of our personal and missional energy and resources on church planting in the first place? Let me try to unpack this question in an inductive manner.

Why rearrange the furniture in our home every Saturday evening? In order to hold a worship service the next day. Why hold a worship service? In order to strengthen and encourage the small group of believers. Why strengthen them? In order to equip them (and us) to do the ministry. What ministry? Reaching the millions in Japan who don’t yet know Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Why reach them? Because God has commanded us to go, disciple, teach and baptize all over the globe. Why obey that command? So that people from all nations will learn to love and worship the Lord thus bringing God greater glory.

Answers to these kind of questions can ultimately be tracked back to theology, bringing that academic discipline to the front and center. In some circles theology has an unfortunate, although not entirely undeserved, reputation for being boring and impractical. But it just might also be important. Is it not imperative for any church planter to theologically ponder topics like church, worship, ministry, discipleship, evangelism and leadership? After all, God himself is at the center of these issues. I am convinced that the single purpose of our various church planting ministries is ultimately embedded within the global vision of God himself. If it is true that church planting is intimately linked to God’s heart for the world, it follows that church planting is ultimately a theological enterprise.

It should come as no surprise, then, that theology can provide helpful perspective for church planting. I believe frantic tendencies in our church

planting can be transformed into wise church planting at least partly through sound theological thinking and deliberation about church planting. “Evangelical theology, at its best, is a matter of deliberating well (e.g., canonically) about the gospel in non-canonical (e.g., contemporary) situations.”\* If it is true that theology consists of both speech and action, as has been argued by the author of the preceding quote, then church planters model theology or perform ecclesiology in a way rarely exhibited by theologians. Church planters significantly and uniquely participate in God’s unfolding theological drama of bringing salvation to the ends of the earth.

So why bother thinking theologically about church planting? Because the ultimate theological goal of church planting transcends the daily business of church planting. Understanding, clarifying, and consciously embracing this theological goal can empower church planters to carry out the myriad of details necessary for sticking with the job and getting it done.

Dale was raised in Japan first as an OMF and then an EFCMJ missionary kid. He returned as an EFCMJ church planting



missionary in 1984. He currently leads a church planting project in Higashi Murayama Shi, Tokyo, and is a lecturer in theology at Japan Bible Seminary in Hamura Shi, Tokyo. Dale and his wife, Ann, along with their three children live in Higashi Kurume Shi, Tokyo. He holds a Ph.D. in systematic theology.

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

## Protest against the visit of worship to the Yasukuni Shrine by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi

April 26, 2002

Submitted to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi

As believers, who put before all things the importance of the principle of separation of church and state, which is guaranteed by the Japanese Constitution as the vital point of fundamental human rights, we strongly protest your unexpected visit to worship at the Yasukuni Shrine on April 21, at the opening of the Annual Spring Grand Festival. We wish to express our deep concern and regret in your participation.

Whatever the reasons, feelings, and forms your visit was based on, as Prime Minister, the supreme leader of this Nation, you paid a visit to the Yasukuni Shrine. This means that your visit was political because it was in connection with "the Yasukuni Shrine Religious Corporation," and is a serious illegal action. Was this not a violation of the principle of separation of church and state?

The present Yasukuni Shrine is the site where A-class war criminals, who were responsible for carrying out the mistaken national policy of Japan in the past, are enshrined.

Your visit of worship at the Yasukuni Shrine justifies

Japan's aggression and this seriously hurt the feelings of people in China, Korea, and other neighboring countries in Asia, who have been suffering from damages and traces of war even to this day.

As we anticipated, your visit of worship has brought about immediate protest issued by the governments of China and Korea. This visit to the Yasukuni Shrine violates Article 99 of the Japanese Constitution, which reads in part: "the Prime Minister shall assume the responsibility of respecting and safeguarding the Constitution," thus your action could cause loss of both to the Nation. We appeal to your sincere reflection on your conduct and we beg that this not occur again.

Japan Evangelical Association

Kimiyoshi Tsutada, President

Yoshiaki Yui, Chairman of Social Issues Commission



Translated by Mizuko Matsushita, jema Executive Office Secretary. She has served faithfully since 1984.

## GOAL 2002 World Cup Soccer Report

By Bryan Smith

From May 31st to June 30th the World Cup Soccer was held in South Korea and Japan, in ten cities respectively. The opening game was held in Seoul, Korea and the final game in Yokohama City, Japan.

Youth With A Mission, Campus Crusade, and many missions and church groups came together to set up Goal 2002 outreach during events in Japan. This was done in partnership with local churches, not only in the ten venues, but in other areas as well. YWAM believes these games were strategic to reaching Japan for Jesus! Prayer, intercession, evangelism, worship and unity marked the efforts.

Specifics for the events included:

- 500 volunteers from many nations served in evangelistic efforts in local churches
- Christian festivals throughout Japan had the goal of see-

ing Jesus praised and many youth reached for Christ

- Invitation to Christian soccer teams from England, Korea, USA and Hong Kong held soccer clinics, played against major university and top teams in order to share their faith
- Held Kids Games in numerous locations with the goal of seeing children reached for Jesus
- Other events, included Christian Soccer players sharing testimonies, the screening of the games in churches, the handing out 10's of thousands of tracts, the Christian television programs involved soccer teams and other believers to share their faith

For more information on what happened, please visit [www.goal2002.org](http://www.goal2002.org) or contact Bryan Smith at [bsmith@ywamjapan.org](mailto:bsmith@ywamjapan.org) OR [urban\\_ministries@yahoo.com](mailto:urban_ministries@yahoo.com)

# Language Lab

## Introducing Kanji Idioms or 4字熟語 しじゆくご

Even if you have never heard the expression '4 character-compounds', you could well be surprised at how many examples you already know. How about 单身赴任 たんしんきょにん - the husband who lives away from his family because of his work? Or 満員電車 まんいんでんしゃ (crowded trains) and 一生懸命 いっしょうけんめい (with all one's heart?) You may well possess a 携帯電話 けいたいでんわ (a portable phone) and have 国民保険 こくみんほけん (health insurance). Many kanji compounds, however, illustrate traditional characteristics of Japanese society as well as modern ones.

以心伝心 <small>いしんでんしん</small>	telepathic communication (from one heart to another)
男尊女卑 <small>おとこをうやまつ</small>	male chauvinism (men respected, women despised)
亭主関白 <small>ていしゅかんぱく</small>	a despotic husband (husband and chief advisor to the Emperor)
他力本願 <small>たうりきほんがん</small>	reliance on others (fulfill one's wish depending on others' power) Originally this was a Buddhist term meaning salvation by faith in Buddha.
三日坊主 <small>みっかぼうず</small>	someone with no staying power (a 3-day priest)

A number of 4 character-compounds can also be found in Biblical contexts:

天地創造 <small>てんちそうぞう</small>	creation (神の天地創造)
全身全霊で <small>ぜんしんぜんたい</small>	with all one's heart and soul
二階座敷 <small>にかいざしき</small>	the Upper Room
無神論者 <small>むしんろんしや</small>	atheist



Miriam Davis came to Japan in 1975 from the UK and taught English in schools and universities in Nara Prefecture, Nagoya and Osaka for eight 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.

In a recent pamphlet from Inochi no Kotoba press there was an advert for a Bible concordance and the words 自由自在に聖句検索 じゆうじざいにせいごけんさく. In other words, here is a concordance in which you can look up Bible verses to your heart's content. In the next issue we will take a look at a few more 4 character-compounds like 自由自在 in common use. In the meantime here are two resources I have found helpful.

1. "Kanji Idioms" by George Wallace and Kayoko Kimiya. Kodansha International ¥1,200  
This has full explanations in English and lots of sample sentences. The only disadvantage is the lack of an index. You have to search for idioms in their あ、い、う、え、お order.

2. くもんの四字熟語カード- 第1集&第2集 くもん出版社  
Kumon's Yojjukugo 2 sets of 31 cards for children with pictorial illustrations of each idiom on one side and the meaning and examples on the other. Each set is ¥900. These are excellent for visual learners but, of course, there are no English translations although there is 'furigana' on the kanji.

### Worship & Music:

#### A Fresh Approach to Music in Worship

How would you describe the music in your worship service? Traditional? Contemporary? Blended? These are some of the categories we normally use to describe our service. But for the longest time, I've had a problem with identifying our worship times based on musical styles. Why? Because it unfortunately creates division rather than unity in the church body. When you put people in "camps," then it is only a matter of time before you have "worship wars."

And so, the reality is, we do the church and our members a disservice when we label our services based on style or genre. Adding to the worship music dilemma are specific issues and needs that are unique to the churches in Japan. *Shikaishia* (leader) acts as worship leader, *sambika* and *seika's* (hymn books) influence in song selection, songs are mostly imported, translation problems, etc.

It is also important to remember that how we identify the music in our services has a direct impact on strategy and song selection and can also reflect a philosophy of ministry. The quest for a new paradigm is always a challenge and requires time to formulate.

The following is a fresh approach to music in worship: Rather than use labels based on musical styles, think of categories in a continuum. What is good about this approach is that depending on each church's target audience, available resources, and ministry needs, each pastor or worship leader can have the freedom and

creativity to do what is necessary. As a result, you have a dynamic and flexible approach.

When planning the music of your worship service, avoid thinking in musical styles (e.g. traditional, contemporary, etc.) or having quotas or percentages (e.g. 40% choruses, 60% hymns). Rather, try to think, explore, and meditate on the following categories:

#### *Head centered versus Heart centered*

The truth of the Scriptures and the words of songs flow from our head to our hearts. It is our heart that responds to God. However, we must challenge our thinking by God's word. This is also the balance between heat and light. We need in worship to have our heart heated by the light of the truths of God. Light alone is not adequate neither is heat alone. There must be content in order for us to respond to God.

#### *Transcendence versus Immanence*

Worship songs should reflect a balance emphasizing God's transcendent (non-communicable) attributes (e.g., His eternity, immortality, holiness, omnipotence, etc.) and those highlighting His immanent (communicable) attributes (e.g., His love, grace, mercy, comfort, etc.).

#### *Reflective music versus Celebrative music*

There are upbeat, energetic and intensive songs. There are contemplative, meditative, and reflective songs. And there is what is called the "musical pause" which is an intentional use of silence. It is important to understand these concepts and the impact it can have in the worshipper's response.

#### *Hymn content versus Chorus content*

Have a basic understanding of what the song conveys through its lyrical content (not musical style). For example, hymns are usually reflections on deep theological truths while choruses are more affective and personal responses to God. Understand

that one is not better than the other. Rather, depending on the message you want to convey, use each song purposefully and intentionally.

Note: The above was developed for CPI conference after several years of dialogue between CPI leadership, Gary Bauman, Tim Johnson and myself.

*Come and participate: We hope to apply this philosophy of worship music in the upcoming CPI conference on Nov. 12-15 (contact the JEMA office for details).*

*Come and learn: We will be teaching some of these principles at the Celebrate Jesus Worship Leaders Seminar on September 14-16 at Megumi Chalet Karuizawa. (call 03-3353-7448 or 0267-42-2302. Ask for the special discounts for missionaries or taking 3 or more from the same church).*

Ken Taylor has served with CBI since



1997 specializing in worship, music and the arts. Involved with CAN (Christian Artists Network) Ken will be writing in place of Gary Bauman, who is on home assignment. Ken's e-mail address is: ktaylor@interlink.or.jp

Website: [www.kenandbola.com](http://www.kenandbola.com)

#### Two Singing Religions

Judaism and Christianity are singing religions. Atheism is songless. It has nothing to sing about. The funeral notices of Robert Ingersoll, the noted agnostic stated, "There will be no singing."

The psalm-singing of Christian martyrs going to their deaths in the arena alerted the Roman Empire to the fact that a new and revolutionary force was coming into being. When the pleasure-bent populace saw the Christians singing as they fearlessly entered the amphitheater where hungry lions awaited them, they were filled with awe.

Heaven is vibrant with song: "And they sing the song of Moses...and the song of the Lamb" (Revelation 15:3).

Written by: Walter B Knight



# Computer Viruses

A few weeks ago, JEMA president Ray Leaf lost everything on his computer, as did fellow missionary Bruce Young. Both got a computer virus via an e-mail, sent from the computer of another missionary, that erased everything on their hard drives. Computer viruses are one of the most serious threats to computer users today, and no matter how diligent you think you are about making backups of your important files, you'll never have everything you wish you had. Even if you have all your data backed up, you'll spend at least a couple of days reinstalling software, and looking for all those driver disks that you can't find.

I put off installing anti-virus software for several years, because it can interfere with other programs, but now, I would not be without it. There are just too many viruses flying around, and sooner or later, you're going to get infected. Here are a few general rules:

1) You will probably get computer viruses from someone you know. They usually come as an attachment to an e-mail. Just because you know the person, doesn't mean that the attachment is safe. Most viruses spread by going into the address book on a computer, and sending the virus to everyone listed in there. Therefore, usually they'll come from someone you know-- someone who has your address in their address book. The

## Modern Tech

first three times I received viruses, two were from supporting churches, and once from my own child.

2) Never open a file attachment where the file name ends in ".vs.exe", ".bat" or ".com". For instance, the last one we got at our mission office had a file attachment named "whatever.exe". Basically, I never open a file attachment unless someone I know sends me an e-mail and says, "I'm sending an attachment."

3) If you use Outlook Express for your e-mail, you should click on "View" and then "Layout" and then uncheck the "show preview pane" box. This will prevent an infected attachment from opening automatically. This is how one of our office computers got infected. I clicked on the e-mail, and when the e-mail text appeared in the preview box, the attachment opened immediately, and installed the virus.

4) Keep alert for reports in the newspaper, or on the radio about the latest viruses going around. If you know what to look for, you can delete them when they arrive.

5) Probably everyone needs some kind of anti-virus software. However, by the time you get it home from the store and installed on your computer, it's out of date! You have to be diligent to download the latest updates. This is a really good reason to have a broadband internet connection. If the connection is fast, and you know you're not paying "by the minute" charges, you're much more likely to keep your virus software updated. Don't be fooled into thinking that the anti-virus software that came with your computer three years ago is doing you any good. You'll only get a false sense of security. Most of the virus software comes with free updates for a year. After that you have to pay another fee. Basically, it has to be repurchased every year. If you don't pay again, it means that after a year it does you absolutely no good against the latest virus going around. Just bite the bullet and pay the next year's installment, or buy a new pack-

age. There are two companies that sell the most popular anti-virus software, and allow you to purchase it on-line, McAfee ([www.mcafee.com](http://www.mcafee.com)) and Norton ([www.norton.com](http://www.norton.com)). There are also at least two free programs ([www.grisoft.com](http://www.grisoft.com) and [www.free-av.com](http://www.free-av.com)). However this is not a good place to cut corners.

6) If you get a virus on your computer, it's not going to go away by itself. You have to get rid of it. This year one of our missionaries called me and said, "several of our friends have been telling us that our computer is sending them a virus." I asked how long this had been going on, and they replied, "Oh, a few weeks ago now, but we aren't sure what we should do." Pretty soon, you're not going to have any friends left if you don't do something to get your computer cleaned up. McAfee allows you to download their software as a free trial for 30 days, so if you don't have anything installed, and you think your computer might be infected, then download it, and run a scan.

7) Beware of virus hoaxes. Last night my daughter, and another of our missionaries deleted a necessary file from their computer because they got an e-mail telling them some obscure windows file was a virus. I checked on this by typing in the file name into a search engine, and quickly found out that this is the latest hoax.

8) Viruses are getting smarter. The newest virus going around this week disguises who's computer it came from. It gets into someone's address book, and then when it sends the virus out, it makes the e-mail seem as if it came from someone else listed in the address book. This makes it really hard to figure out who's computer has the virus.

All the Mac users that are reading this, are really patting themselves on the back because Macs hardly ever have these problems.

Maybe it's time to switch?—Nah.

Send ideas about what you'd like to see written here to:

[missionarygeek@yahoo.com](mailto:missionarygeek@yahoo.com)

# What Is a Missionary?



Somewhere between saintliness and foolishness we find a curious creature called a missionary. Missionaries come in assorted sizes, weights, and colors, but, all are sent by the one Lord who commanded His people to evangelize.

Missionaries are found everywhere: going to, lifting up, launching out, coming from, staying with, bringing around, bearing with, and standing for. Christians love them, governments tolerate them, parents pity them, pagans ignore them, and Christ protects them. A missionary is truth with a broken jeep axle in its hand, beauty with a sick child in its arms, wisdom with a Bible in his pocket, and hope with Christ in his heart.

A missionary has the patience of a fisherman, the audacity of a tightrope walker, the carefulness of a bookkeeper, the vision of a dreamer, the strength of a builder, the intelligence of a teacher, the wit of a humorist, the irresponsibility of a child, and when he attempts something, he is all prayer.

He likes letters from home, children, preaching, mission recruits, returning from home assignment,

faith promise rallies, tracts, printing presses, radio stations, translators, mission boxes, airplanes, villages, Bible studies, cities, correspondence courses, and bookstores. He is not much for high-pressure promotion, red tape devaluation of the dollar, lukewarm faith, hypocrisy and discrimination. Nobody else is so quick to care, and so slow to give up. Nobody else gets so much fun out of crocodiles, boiled rice, elephants, pet cobras, earthquakes, visa, monsoons, droughts, and conversations.

A missionary is an unusual creature: you can send him/her to a far off country, but you had better not forget him/her. You can get him/her out of your hair, but you cannot get him/her out of your heart. He/she is your servant, your right hand, your dependent, a Bible-preaching, God-fearing, God-serving, self-sharing bundle of love. When you come to church with that smug feeling that you are a pretty super Christian, he/she can shatter it with the simple words, "Come on over and help us."

A missionary needs the wisdom of an owl, the tenacity of a bulldog, the daring of a lion, the patience of a donkey, the versatility of a chameleon, the vision of an eagle, the melody of the nightingale, the meekness of a lamb, the tact of a politician, the hide of a rhinoceros, the disposition of an angel, the resignation of an incurable, the faithfulness of a prophet, the tenderness of a shepherd, the fervency of an evangelist, the devotion of a mother, the sacrifice of a martyr, and the loyalty of an apostle.

But, missionaries are not born, they are made. They are made out of the ordinary run of individuals. The basic qualification is not intellectualism, but a yielded spirit, a devotion to the will of God, and a deep sense of God's call.

Author Unknown

# How does Prayer work in our families?



by Janice Kropp

What glorious privilege to be missionaries! What wonderful opportunities we have to not only shape the lives of those we have come to minister to, but also to influence and shape the lives of our own children.

Most of us, however, would readily admit that our privilege is not simple nor without pitfalls. Just because we have committed our lives to the service of our King, does not guarantee that all will proceed well with ourselves or with our precious own. Why is it that we expect it to be so simple and easy? Several possible reasons come to mind. First, in this temporal world we learn that 1+1= 2, so why wouldn't my commitment and "sacrifice" automatically find all my children following in His footsteps and experiencing all the joys of being His own? Then I read the words of the Apostle Paul and am reminded that we deal not with in the natural, but in the spiritual. He admonishes us with, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer," Romans 12:13ff.

Secondly, could it be that we are made not for sin but for holiness. We long for that which is good, and right, and pure. When just the opposite occurs we won-



der, but may our hearts never wander. God is faithfully at work and we wait upon Him the author and finisher of our faith! I am a firm believer that God deepest desire and longing for us is that ALL our family members be saved! Could we ever imagine that after our praying for the salvation of our children God would leave that prayer, those prayers, unanswered? Certainly NOT. Salvation of mankind is the reason for God sending His precious Son to live, die, and be resurrected, but I, too, am involved!

Just completing two deputation tours while on home assignment, I found parents, pastors and believers alike, at a loss because some of their children were not yet in the "fold". I always gave them words of hope and encouragement, for it is ours to engage and remain engaged in the process of our children's salvation! Paul Billheimer in his book, *Destined for the Throne*, speaks clearly to the issue. He writes something like this: Salvation of mankind is limited wholly and entirely by the intercession or lack of it, in the church. Those for whom the church tra-

vails are saved. All others are lost. Now, this places the salvation of individuals squarely on our shoulders, doesn't it?

Spending extra time with my godly parents now 88 and 87, has been wonderful. Just this morning while working on this magazine, Dad called me into his bedroom where he sat on the bed reading. "Do you have this book?" he questioned pointing to its title, *The Seeking Heart* by Fenelon. I answered, "No," to which he said, "Sit down and listen to this." And I quote from page 100 entitled, "LOVED ONES."

***You will never take care of your loved ones so well as when you are faithfully holding them up to God. You, as wise as you may seem, will only get in the way. Only that which comes from God can solve your difficult problems. You, of yourself, cannot convince anyone to turn to God. Life is full of trouble and hard times-----God alone holds our hearts in His hand. He strengthens you as He strengthens all who trust***

***in Him. Stay continually in God's presence if you want to lead your flock safely. "Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman watches it in vain" (Psalm 127:1).***

***You will only hear God speak as you quiet yourself to listen to Him. Does this seem like a waste of time? You will accomplish more in your outward duties by completely leaning on your Lord within. If you want to do the will of your heavenly Father, you will be inwardly fed by discovering that will from God Himself.***

***"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6,7).***

***Let our AMENS be AMEN!***

## Ladies Day of Prayer

***When: Monday, October 28th 2002, from 10 am-2 pm***

***Where: The KGK room at OCC Ochanomizu***

***Who: Deb Walker will be sharing***

***Why: The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective***

***A salad lunch will be provided***

***For more information please call JoAnn Wright at 048-623-8915 or***

***Mizuko Mitsushita at 033-295-1949***



# Changing Japan, Unchanging Gospel:

The modern urban family  
by Gary Fujino and Marty Shaw

**T**he only thing permanent is change, goes the Buddhist proverb. Yet, a higher saying clearly states that “heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away,” (Matt. 24:35). Ongoing changes in our world dynamically interface with the eternal word of God, embodied in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. These same developments also confront missions in Japan today. The purpose of this article is to discern how to better relate and to minister this unchanging Gospel in the midst of a changing Japanese society at the dawning of the twenty first century.

What changes you may ask? They are legion. Here we will only address that which directly relates to ministry-relevant issues. Many of these paradigm shifts have been developing over several years, even decades. Suffice it to say that there is presently an overarching sense of uneasiness and uncertainty in the nation, which conceals an overwhelming need for security and direction among the Japanese today. A poll by the Asahi Shimbun (Dec. 2000) indicated that 73% of those surveyed had “misgivings” about their own future. Only 18% said that they had hope. Today, we will specifically look at one lynch pin related to the transformation of the contemporary Japanese society, the changing family structure, as seen in major urban areas.

## Shifts in family behaviors

### **Undisciplined, young parents:**

New parents today, especially women, seem to be lacking in knowledge and ability in basic child-rearing skills. The result has been an alarming increase in child abuse by young parents. In a number of cases earlier this year, children have died at the hands of their own parents for something as simple as not eating their meal or for crying too loudly. The secular response has been a proliferation of books and seminars on *shitsuke* (discipline) and on how to better raise one’s offspring.

### **The father is no longer the sole**

**“breadwinner”:** This is a serious change from the well-known lifetime employment system era. *Risutora* (restructuring) in ailing Japanese companies has resulted in demotions, firings, and cuts in pay, causing tremendous financial stress and burdens upon the average Japanese family.

Men themselves have suffered most. One can find, in unprecedented numbers, men who are fully dressed for work loitering outdoors, drinking alcohol midday in public venues, or who simply just stay at home. Japanese males are “available” like they haven’t been in decades. The results with much of this, however, have been tragic. Men are increasingly joining Buddhist monasteries, opening dairy farms in Hokkaido, divorcing

or abusing their wives, leaving their homes, living on the streets and on their own, having affairs, or committing suicide, which is at an all time high for the third straight year. On the positive side, men in their 30’s, 40’s and 50’s are trying to relearn how to be fathers, how to better communicate with their spouses, and are more open to spiritual matters, available to come to church as never before.

**Entrepreneurial mothers:** Also more than ever before, women are going to work in Japan. Many no longer consider their husband’s salaries a reliable source of income. In extreme cases, some married women are resorting to prostitution in order to maintain their former luxuriant standard of living, which has been so radically affected by this third period of recession in the past eight years. But, surprisingly, most of this working female population consists of mothers with children in school. Thus, rather than joining the traditional company-based infrastructure for part-time employment, Japanese women are increasingly starting their own businesses, most notably with internet-related, children’s oriented, or artistically-based enterprises. The result is that more females are owning their own small companies and are employing a largely female-staffed workplace. These women are truly in potential positions of power to influence this presently shifting period of Japanese history.

**“Freeter” children:** This age group of Japanese youth has been called variously the *keitai-zoku* (cell phone tribe), *wakaranai-sedai* (the ‘I don’t know’ generation) and “freeters” (those who are free to do what they want, when they want). Their cell phone is their own movable private space. ‘I don’t know’ is a verbal filter for social interaction, which shuts out undesirable associations. These teens and twenty year olds routinely depart on *puchi-iede* (mini-runaway from home) excursions, where they don’t come home for two or three days—rotating from home to home of friends whose parents are out of the house.

This is the third generation born since the end of World War Two and they are enjoying the benefits of Japanese peacetime prosperity and wealth, its emergent democracy and the benefits of globalization.

Most prominent with these young persons is their individualism but, keep in mind, that this is an individualism which exists inside a traditionally group-oriented society. Often, a dual stream of culture and commitments exists within the mind of these freeters between the dictums of their parents' groupism and the freedoms of being their own person. Freeters are more available for odd jobs but work at their leisure and as the need presents itself rather than with a thought to extended employment. Personal need takes precedent over the needs of others except when others are personally connected to one's cell phone 'circle'. They are part of the 'parasite single' generation, which lives off of its parents and acts as it pleases, without regard for the prevailing social structure or its obligations. An alarming number of young men from this generation live in states of *hikikomori* or withdrawal from society and its people. They literally stay inside their rooms and never see their parents or venture outside the house for days, even years, on end. It remains to be seen how individualism, unfettered freedoms, and the deaths of their parents will affect the future of this "free" generation.

### **General ministering principles**

**A change of mind:** Jesus talks about the necessity of not putting new wine into old wineskins. We, as Japan missionaries of the third millennium, need new wineskins. It is not a matter of the world having changed. It is more a matter of us changing, beginning with the way we think about Japan. This is not the same country that we arrived in when we began ministry. It is not even the same country from a decade ago. Japan is undergoing paradigmatic shifts in its views on education, economics, aging, business, self-image and the family, as outlined above. We must shift also in the way that we look at Japan and

its people. Every person's situation will be different but the "bottom line" is that if we cannot change we are in danger of being passed by.

**New approaches:** Alongside a mindset change, we must also change the way that we do things. This is not speaking of the content of the Gospel, which never changes, but how we convey it. For example, manga-based (comic book type) Bibles have been found to be extremely popular and well received among younger Japanese today. Musicians on the street are an instant magnet for evangelizing, much more effective than distribution of traditional flyers or pocket New Testaments. I am not criticizing such methods. However, newer and different approaches are being tested and tried in Japan now, and they seem to be working. This is not only the case in Japan but as Christians evangelize other countries as well. Who would have thought of i-Mode messaging for Gospel tracts?

**Increased sensitivity and awareness:** This third point is concomitant to what I've already mentioned. Along with a change of mind in the way we think about things and a change of method for the way we do things, we also need a change of heart for what we feel about things here in Japan. As we throw off old stereotypes, we need to be sensitive to what may be new or emerging models. Has anyone given thought to the implications of the new five-day school system (*itsuka-sei*) begun this April by the Ministry of Education? One friend was approached by a local woman who

wanted to know if the church had anything to offer on Saturdays, now that it was no longer a school day. Further conversation revealed that she was not asking for herself but for an entire district association of schools! Are we aware and proactively responding to the scale and pervasiveness of changes that are going on around us in today's Japan? This awareness is as important as we deal with the family as it is for any other sector of society.

**The message remains the same:** everyone needs the Gospel. But we must keep in mind that the college student of the 1980's is not the one we meet today. The salaryman of 2002 is not comparable to his post-World War II counterpart, who helped Japan grow rapidly during the 1960's and 1970's. The world, Japan, has changed. We must change with it in order to more effectively and deeply communicate the unchanging Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gary Fujino and wife, Lynn serve with the International Mission Board. They began service together in Japan in 1996. Prior to that Gary had served in Japan and worked with Japanese in the US. They are church planters in Ota Ku.

Marty Shaw, Jr and his wife, Denise have served in Japan since 1985 with *CBInternational*. Marty is a second generation missionary in Japan. He is the Coordinator of Internationalization for CBI.



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**Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership**

Gary L. McIntosh & Samuel D. Rima, Sr.  
Baker Books, 1997, 233 pages

The Jim and Tammy Bakker scandal was one of several events that stimulated the research and development of this book. Most of us know leaders in our own denomination, mission, or circle of friends who have gone over the edge or become involved in immoral behavior of some type. In shock we ask, "How could they do that?" What are the forces that bring down these Christian leaders? We should also ask, "Could I go off the edge like that too?" McIntosh and Rima examine leaders in the Bible, in Christian circles, and in the secular world who have exhibited behavior that eventually brought them down. "In almost every case the factors that eventually undermine us are shadows of the ones that contribute to our success," (page 22).

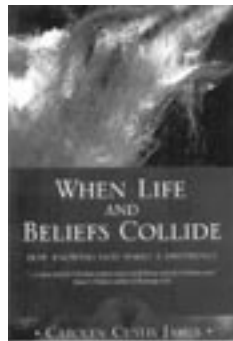
Every leader has a dark side. Though we have been regenerated, there are influences from our past and forces in our personalities that are remnants of our depraved nature. Some of the same qualities that spur us on to leadership can also unleash our dark side. High expectations, perfectionism, and compulsive behavior, for example, are assets in developing effective programs, efficient work patterns, and the respect of others. But they can also lead to abusive domineering behavior, overload, and escapism into immoral actions. Through self-testing and exercises, the authors help us delve into our own past, our present patterns of behavior, and

our hearts. By identifying and admitting our own potential for falling, we can come to grips with our own "dark side" and learn how to control it before it takes control of us. Why do some leaders like Billy Graham seem scandal free? The authors give five steps we can take to help us "redeem our dark side."

Don't read this book if you don't want to change. Its purpose is to probe into your heart and life in order to make a difference in the way you "do leadership". The clear writing style, biblical and contemporary illustrations, and the openness of the authors in sharing of their own struggles make this book a very rewarding experience. It will help you as a leader to "guard your heart."



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.



**When Life and Beliefs Collide**

Carolyn Custis James  
Zondervan Publishing House, 2001,  
256 pages

Earlier this year, I had an opportunity to attend a women's retreat in Kyushu. The featured speaker was Carolyn Custis James, the author of *When Life and Beliefs Collide*. At the end of the 3-day conference, I heard many women say, "This is the best conference we have ever had!"

The seeds for James's book were sown some years ago when she heard a professor in seminary say, "You know

there have never been any great women theologians." James maintains that all Christian women are theologians. In fact, all Christians are theologians, and it is their theology that determines their relationship to God and others. She believes that the story of Mary of Bethany and her sister Martha in Luke 10 have forced Christian women to choose between two seemingly opposing personalities. The purpose of her book is to reunite the identities of the two women in order to help women be better theologians.

In addition to the story of Mary and Martha, James uses the two other portraits of Mary—both in John's Gospel—to examine how this New Testament woman dealt with her disappointment in God and how she eventually ministered to Jesus when his disciples were unable to do so. Many readers may resist reading James's book because the word "theology" itself suggests slow, attentive study. Her book does reflect thorough scholarly research, but it is a practical book. As she discusses Mary's development as a theologian, she also interweaves illustrations of modern day women with Mary's life to help readers relate to her quest to know God. Furthermore, James's prose is highly readable and often eloquent.

*When Life and Beliefs Collide* is a landmark book in women's ministry and a strong contribution to a number of books about knowing God by writers such as Jerry Bridges, James I. Packer, John Piper and others. In fact, the author includes a recommended reading list on the subject in the conclusion of her book. Packer calls Carolyn James's book "a must-read for Christian women and a you'd-better-read for Christian men."



Susan Shibe Davis has her PHD in English from Arizona State University (USA). She is presently a professor in the Department of Modern Education at Baiko Jogakuin University in Shimonoseki City.

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## *Summer Schedule* (July 21-August 25)

- Sunday Prayer Services: 9:30-10:15 & Worship at 10:30
- Sunday School for English and German speaking children during Worship Service
- Sunday Evening Worship Service: 7:00 p.m.

## *Youth Conference* (Aug. 5-7)

- Annual Business Meeting (Aug. 7, 7:00 p.m.)
- KUC Prayer Breakfast (Aug. 10, 8:00 a.m.)
- Karuizawa Gospel Festival (Aug. 10, 1-5 p.m. at Megumi Chalet) Van Burchfield playing
- Special Jazz concert (Aug. 11) by Van Burchfield during morning service and evening concert at KUC
- Gospel Concert (Aug 25, 7:00 p.m.) by Joshua Sasaki, special music during morning service
- KUC picnic (Sunday noon, Aug. 25 at Megumi Chalet)
- Karuizawa Gospel House: (coffee and concert evangelism, 1-5 p.m. at Karuizawa Language School)

## *Summer Speaker Schedule:*

- July 21: Dr. David Ewing (Bethel Baptist Church) 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. services
- July 28 and Aug. 4: Dr. Daniel Lockwood (Multnomah School of the Bible and Seminary) 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. services
- Aug. 11: Rev. Joel Kaufman with special Jazz music, 10:30 a.m. Special Jazz concert 7:00 p.m.
- Aug. 18: Rev. Ray Leaf (President of JEMA) 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. services
- Aug. 25: Rev. Roald Lidal 10:30 a.m. Special Gospel Concert by Joshua Sasaki, 7:00 p.m.
- *2002 Deeper Life Convention* (July 31 -August 4) See ad below

*For more information please contact: Rev. Mark Magnusson, KUC committee Chairman, e-mail: markm@interlink.or.jp, tel. (05617)2-1166/3-5323*

## 2002 Deeper Life Convention Walking by Faith

Wednesday night July 31st 7 pm to  
Sunday night August 4th 7pm.



### *Convention Speaker: Dr. Dan Lockwood,*

is presently the president of Multnomah School of the Bible and Seminary in Portland, Oregon. He began teaching Bible and theology at Multnomah Bible College in 1979. He served as Dean of the Seminary from 1990 to 1997. He and his wife Jani have one daughter, Elise.

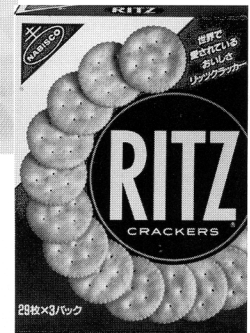
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*See You in Karuizawa!*

**For more information  
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