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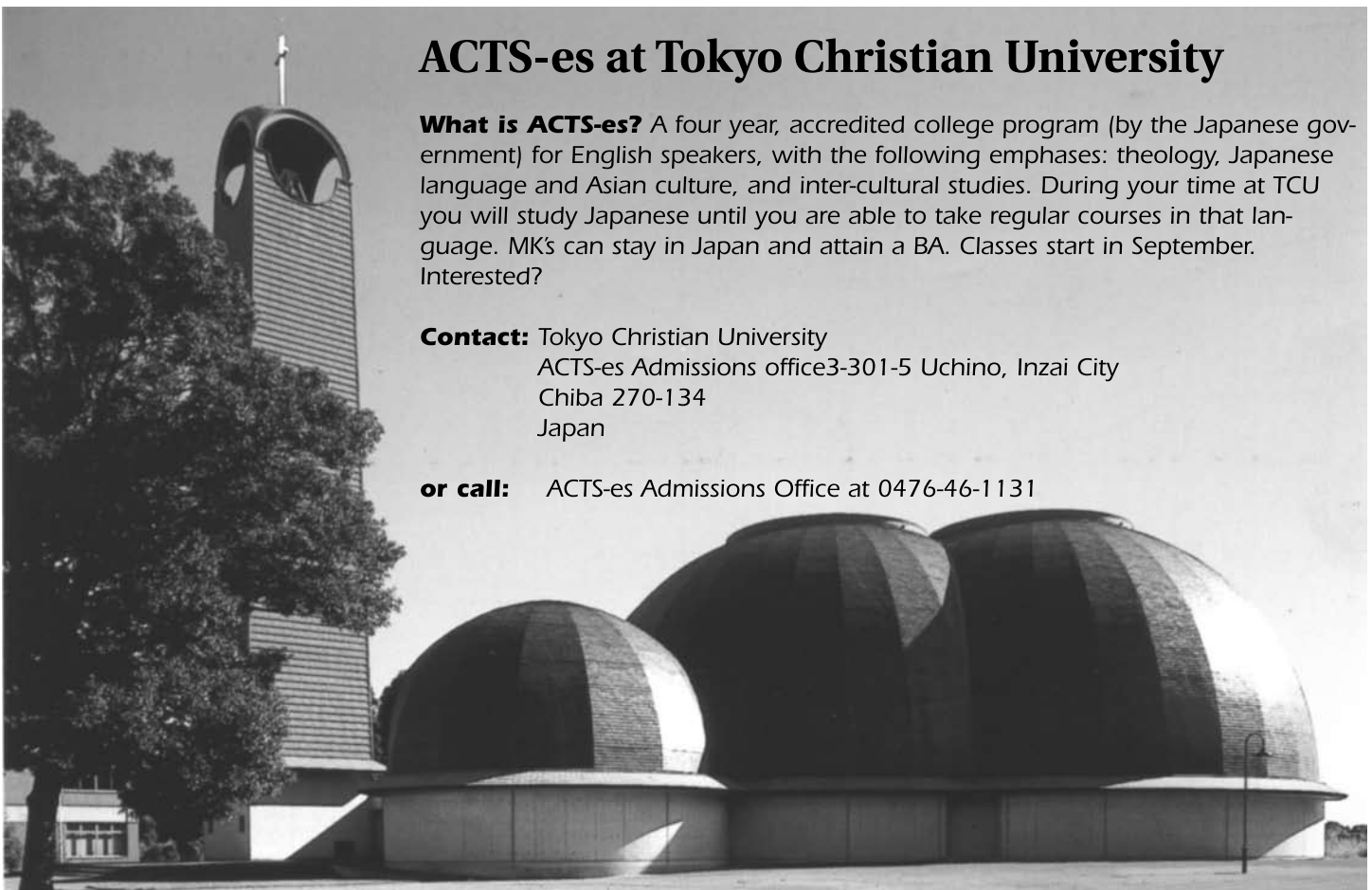
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Karuizawa Union Church

(since 1906)

We warmly welcome you to the historic resort town of Karuizawa for a summer of spiritual renewal . Please join us for special guest speakers and music ministry teams and many opportunities for fun and fellowship for the entire family.



2004 Karuizawa Union Church

Summer Conference (Sunday August 1st-Sunday August 8th)

Conference Theme: *The Glory of Christ in Ministry*

This year we are very privileged to have Rev. Todd Augustine, pastor of Congregational Life at College Church in Wheaton, Illinois, (USA) as our main speaker. Todd brings a wonderful blend of a strong love for God and his Word and a tender heart for His people. His ministry emphases include pastoral as well as overseeing numerous mercy ministries and small groups. He and his wife, Cindy, have two daughters.



Ministry Team: Todd is bringing with him a ministry team from College Church in Wheaton which will be leading music, the children's program and doing evangelistic outreach at the KUC Gospel House.

Children's Program: In addition to the weekly children's Sunday School program, a special children's program for both English and German speaking children ages 4-12 will be held during the morning sessions of the conference. The annual Youth Conference for Jr. High through college age youth will be meeting for three days from Monday, Aug. 2-4. Each year the young people have a great time of fellowship, spiritual guidance, barbecues and various fun outings. In addition we will also be having a *Film Night, Ladies' Buffet, Men's Prayer Breakfast, Church Picnic, Special Music and Concerts.*

Karuizawa Union Church Summer Schedule

(Sunday, July 25th- Sunday, August 29th)

Sunday Services:

Prayer Service: 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School for English and German speaking children ages 4-12.

Evening Service: 7:00 p.m.

If there is any way we can be of service to you, please contact Mark Magnusson, KUC Committee Chairman, e-mail: markhansmagnusson@ybb.ne.jp tel. (0561) 72-1166/73-5323, or Ron Stoller, Summer Conference Director; e-mail: stoller@japan.e-mail.ne.jp tel. (052) 736-0341. You can also visit our web site at <http://church.ne.jp/kuc/>

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All
Our
Hope
and
Trust
Is to Be
Fixed
in God
Alone

Thomas a Kempis



Lord, what is my confidence which I have in this life? Or what is the greatest comfort that all things under heaven do yield me?

Is it not thou, O Lord my God, whose mercies are without number? Where hath it ever been well with me without thee? Or when could it be ill with me, when thou wert present?

I had rather be poor for thy sake, than rich without thee. I rather choose to be a pilgrim on earth with thee, than without thee to possess heaven. Where thou art, there is heaven; and where thou art not, there is death and hell.

Thou art all my desire, and therefore I must needs sigh, and call, and earnestly pray unto thee. In short, I have none fully to trust to, none that can seasonably help me in my necessities, but only thee, my God.

Thou art my trust, and my confidence, thou art my Comforter, and in all things most faithful unto me.

All men seek their own gain, thou only settest forward my salvation and my profit, and turnest all things to my good.

Although thou exposeth me to various temptations and adversities, yet thou orderest all this for my good, who art wont to prove thy beloved ones a thousand ways. In which probation thou oughtest no less to be loved and praised; than if thou didst fill me full of heavenly consolations.

In thee, therefore, O Lord God, I place my whole hope and refuge; on thee I cast my tribulation and anguish; for I find all to be weak and

inconstant, whatsoever I behold out of thee.

For many friends can not profit, nor strong helpers assist, nor prudent counselors give a profitable answer, nor the books of the learned afford comfort, nor any precious substance deliver, nor

any place, however retired and lovely, give shelter, unless thou thyself doest assist, help, strengthen, console, instruct, and guard us.

For all things that seem to belong to the attainment of peace and felicity, without thee, are nothing, and do bring in truth no felicity at all.

Thou therefore art the End of all that is good, the Height of life, the Depth of all that can be spoken; and to hope in thee above all things, is the strongest comfort of thy servants. To thee therefore do I lift up mine eyes; in thee, my God, the Father of mercies, do I put my trust. Bless and sanctify my soul with thy heavenly blessings, that it may become thy holy habitation, and the seat of thine eternal glory; and let nothing be found in this temple of thy dignity, which shall offend the eyes of thy Majesty.

According to the greatness of thy goodness and multitude of thy mercies, look upon me, and hear the prayer of thy poor servant, who is far exiled from thee, in the land of the shadow of death. Protect and keep the soul of me, the meanest of thy servants, amid so many dangers of this corruptible life, and by thy grace accompanying me, direct it along the way of peace to its home of everlasting brightness. AMEN.

Don't let the old English keep you from the richness of this piece. Simply change the "thee, thine, and thou" to "you" and take the "est" off some of the words.

Taken from *Imitation of Christ*. Edited by Paul M. Bechtel, Moody Press Chicago, 1980. **H**



Certainty in an Uncertain World

By Jim Reapsome

Psychics fill our television screens late at night. They bid you call them for advice about your love life and your business affairs. Their popularity testifies to people's needs to know the future. When they are uncertain, they call up a psychic.

Daniel has sometimes been compared to a psychic because he could foretell the future. But today's psychics get their visions from cards and crystals. They rely on magic, whereas Daniel relied on God.

Daniel prayed before He prophesied. He confessed that he did not have the answers, but God did. Today, modern psychics do not claim to have wisdom from the Lord. They use tricks, not God's word.

Our faithfulness to God and His word is tested by anyone who claims to be able to give us guidance for the future. Christians walk by faith, not by sight. We know God rules and that His kingdom will come.

Daniel and his companions first passed the test of diet and learning. After refusing the king's food for 10 days, they appeared healthier than the young men who had eaten the royal food. "To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds" (1:17).

Later on, however, three of them were cast into the fiery furnace for refusing to worship Ne-

buchadnezzar's golden image, but God preserved them. Jealous officials charged Daniel himself with praying to his God, despite King Darius' decree against it. For this he was thrown into the lions' den, but God shut the lions' mouths.

These stories are what most of us remember about Daniel. In one sense, they are incidental to his prophecies, although they do reveal the faith and character of the Hebrew captives.

After Daniel and his friends entered the king's service, Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that disturbed him so much that he could not sleep. He summoned his wise men and admonished them to tell him his terrible dream and its meaning. They could not do this and he ordered all of them to be executed, including Daniel and his friends (2:13).

Daniel boldly approached the king and asked for time to interpret the dream. Then he asked his friends to pray. God answered their prayers and revealed the vision. Daniel praised and thanked God for His wisdom and power, and for revealing the king's dream to him (2:20-23). His remarkable prayer shows that Daniel understood his dependence on God. His gifts of interpretation were not his own, but the Lord's. Out of his utter faith in God, and his courageous stand for the Lord, grew his profound spiritual insights.

Having received God's assurance and revelation, Daniel approached the king's executioner

and asked him to take him to Nebuchadnezzar, to interpret his dream. In front of the king, Daniel was asked to tell him what he had dreamed, and what the meaning of it was.

Daniel promptly pointed away from himself toward the "God in heaven who reveals mysteries" (vs. 28). God would show him "what will happen in days to come." Daniel disclaimed any "greater wisdom than other living men" (vs. 30) and then described what Nebuchadnezzar had seen in his vision (vss. 31-35).

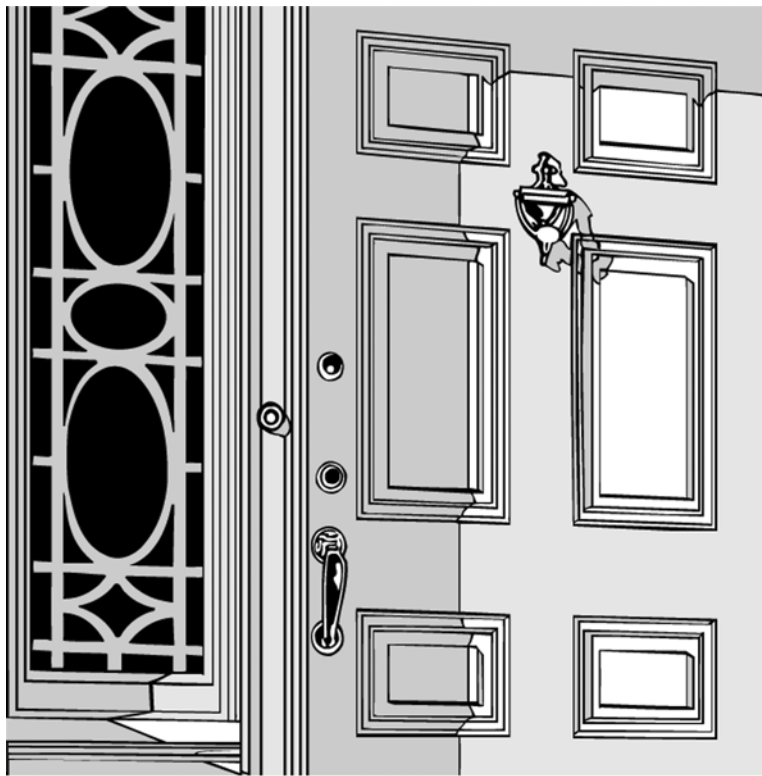
The king had seen "a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance" (vs. 31). The statue's head was pure gold, which stood for Nebuchadnezzar (vs. 38).

He was supreme, "the king of kings" (vs. 37). He reigned with power and glory over everything—people, animals, and birds. He ruled them all.

Daniel, however, also revealed the source of Nebuchadnezzar's awesome power. Three times he said "the God of heaven" had given it to him. Immediately we see that Daniel put the king's earthly reign under the supreme reign of God. Invisible though he was, this God had delegated to Nebuchadnezzar his authority on earth.

In his dream the king had seen the magnificent statue smashed to pieces—the head of gold, the chest and arms of silver, the belly and thigh

Continued on page 19



Wake Up Time

Opportunity had knocked... but the Church was too busy.

by Dr. Andy Meeko

A Parable

Once upon a time again, the Church looked back with regret. The opportunity had knocked, and it had knocked again. It had even banged the door. But the Church had been too busy with business. Business as usual; comfortable business; business that hadn't worked for a very long time.

Now the entire nation was thick in the pursuit of relief—a way to medicate the pain, the fallout of families dragging around unresolved issues for generations and feigning it didn't matter—generations of stuffing, even cramming things, within. But things only stay down for so long, then they erupt with great violence. It's but mere common sense.

Now with the new atmosphere of honesty in society, people had run for relief, and industries had flooded the plain to meet them. The flashy self-help circuit from abroad, the new and improved versions of Shinto and Buddhism puckering with relevance, the human potential movements, and every other oddity that got into the arena, was jamming empty souls with sugary confections and draining the masses wallets dry.

The Church had eventually caught on to what was happening. Like a brontosaurus it had surged to a gallop to catch up with the stallions. But it was too old, too weighted down, and forced to watch the carnage upon the misled horde. A large tear welled up and rolled slowly down the Church's wrinkled cheek, and as it hit the ground thunder broke forth. The Church awoke. It had

all been a dream, a vision of a future that might be, but yet had no substance. There was still time...

Divining the Times

It has been said that today's home is tomorrow's psychosis. If this be the case, pharmaceutical companies manufacturing psychotic drugs are set to make a killing. With over one million suffering from *hikikomori*,¹ Japan leads the world with a disorder that many believe to be more a family problem than a mental one.

Hikikomori is an extreme in breakdown of family interaction, but poor communication plagues even average families. Many men are left dumbfounded and clueless when their wives set the divorce papers before them.² And divorce though continuing its record setting year after year (at 38% of marriages as of 2002),³ will continue its surge upward as it becomes increasingly socially acceptable. For that matter, marriages of couple's in their 30's, 55%

can be labeled as "sexless" according to a leading women's magazine.⁴ Men begin to see anyone but their wives as sexually appealing, a disorder that is very difficult to rectify.

Parenting trends include an increase in anxiety. Today 71% of mothers are worried about raising their children.⁵ (The remaining 29% are in denial.) And many have revised what they are worried about. Before, with the increase of senseless violence, parents worried about their

child being victimized by a monster, but now the worry is even darker: parents fear that their own child may become the monster.⁶

Parenting problems breed child problems, and so the future looks problematic. Last year's child-consultations to government offices hit a record 24,195⁷—likely a mere tip of the iceberg. Since 1990 when police began accumulating statistics of child abuse, though they still prefer avoiding intervention, child abuse statistics have

grown an enormous 2300%. The trend is close to home. Weeks prior to this writing, a six-year-

*Parenting problems
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old boy's body was unearthed in the mountains above our city, his mother was taken into custody, his little face had a broken nose and jaw. Only compounding the sorrow of the story that was besides the agony of his treatment he suffered a physical disability as well. But such stories have become weekly fare for calloused media.

In 2001, Japan finally recognized the problem of spouse abuse and instituted laws to fight the problem—it was the last industrialized nation to do so, even decades behind its western counterparts. How relevant is the issue of spouse abuse? In 1999 the Cabinet Office did a study revealing that 1/5 of wives experience physical abuse, and one in twenty faces life-threatening violence.⁸ At a marriage seminar I did recently a woman related to me that after 20 years of brutalization from her husband she was at the end of her rope. In the early days, while she nursed her newborn son, she was knocked through a glass door, showering her and the baby with the pointy shards. But that baby is now grown, in his late teens, and intent on killing his own father. Violence has come full circle in the family.

I am also reminded of an elderly lady who hobbled up to me after a service and confessed for the first time in 40 years that her husband had regularly beat her and crippled her leg by his violence. Seeking a support group for this woman, to get the nurture and expertise of other recovering victims, I inquired among the pastors of the city. No pastor had knowledge of such a group. Last year I preached in the region again. Just days earlier a woman living near the church, and a friend of church members, had been killed by her husband. We must remember that these are no cold stats; these are those Christ weeps for, and they are all around us. Needs of marriages within and without the Church are screaming for attention yet scarcely are these needs recognized. One thing is certain, the demand is quite beyond what a few can begin to supply—but a few hundred that multiply themselves—that's another story.

Not far from Japan's shores the spendy self-help seminar circuit is making inroads into Asia from Beijing to Bangkok. Hundreds of thousands in these countries are finding they have issues with their parents and upbringing, and traditional ways seem to no longer meet today's emotional needs.⁹ One wonders about Japan, how long the dam, already severely cracked, can hold. Perhaps we may wonder, "Is the Church, in any way, preparing for the inevitable?"

Facing the Stuck Syndrome

In the words of George Hunter "many Western church leaders are in denial; they plan and do church as though next year will be 1957,"¹⁰ and we wonder if the same could be said here as well. Or perhaps many are only stuck in the year 1977

when English was the rage and even English cooking classes were a great idea. But though such methods may have born much fruit in the past they pose a problem. Not only do they fail as a transferable ministry model, and thus strip nationals of a replicable model of outreach, they also fail to confront today's raging hurts.

Reframing Pain as Passage

The pain of domestic breakdown may be the very passage to what we need most. But how do we begin to meet that pain? At last glance, Natural Church Development has studied 26,000 churches in over 60 countries, distilling their information to define eight characteristics which must be reasonably healthy for

a church to grow, characteristics such as "empowering leadership" or "gift-oriented ministry" or "inspiring worship." All eight characteristics are of equal importance. In bold print, however, they emphasize, "If we were to identify any one principle as the 'most important,' then without a doubt it would be the multiplication of small groups." They elaborate that these groups must be focused on the issues that are "immediate personal concerns."

It is likely time to seriously ask, "Could small

groups focused on healing hearts and homes answer both the woundedness of the times and the stuck syndrome of the Church in Japan?"

This article has been excerpted from the article "Enter the Era of Woundedness" which will appear in CPT's Japan Evangelism Journal this November. The full version will include a potent evaluation of social needs and opportunities, in both English and Japanese. A heart felt thanks is given to Japan Evangelism for use of this material. ❧

Notes

1. *Japan Times*, "Young Recluses Find Rehabilitation" 10-24-03. Hikikomori refers to a recluse disorder lasting from 6 months to ten years.
2. Aera "Batsuichi Otoko no PTSD" 6-23-03.
3. *Time* "Getting Out" 4-5-04
4. Josei Jishin 12-17-02.
5. *Mainichi* "Moms Moan About Dads' Lack of Parenting" 5-5-03.
6. Aera "Waga Ko to Hannin Musubitsuku Kyoufu" 8-4-03.
7. *Japan Times* "Child Consultations Hit Record" 6-9-03.
8. *Japan Times* "Battered Wives Battle Conspiracy of Silence" 2-27-02.
9. *Newsweek* "Finding the Asian Within" 2-10-03.
10. George G. Hunter, *The Celtic Way of Evangelism* (Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2000), 9.

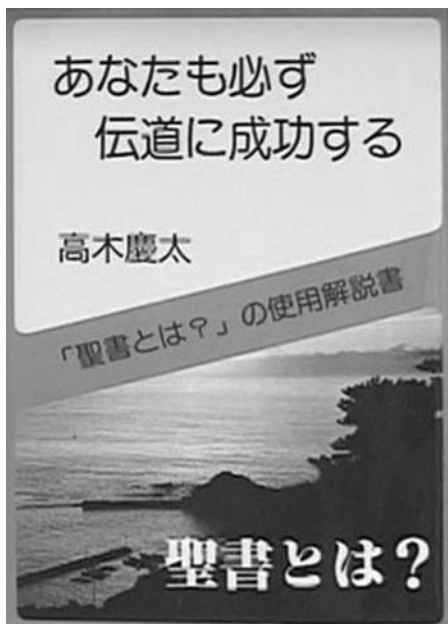


Dr. Andy Meeko is a second generation missionary to Japan whose parents arrived in 1947. Author and conference speaker he also directs Family Life Japan, which seeks to strengthen and bring healing to homes. He lives with his wife and four children in Yamagata.

Note:

Look forward to FamilyLife's Marriage Power-Rom due out the end of August. A VCD-Rom containing a myriad of tools for marriages including three new HomeBuilders small group studies edited for Japan.

A father wanted to read a magazine but was being bothered by his little daughter, Vanessa. Finally, he tore a sheet out of his magazine on which was printed the map of the world. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to Vanessa, and said, "Go into the other room and see if you can put this together." After a few minutes, Vanessa returned and handed him the map correctly fitted together. The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly. "Oh" she said, "On the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got Jesus back where He belonged, then the world came together."



Need a Simple & Effective Tool for Winning the Japanese?

By Don Thomson

12-year-old son, to the Lord. You might ask, “So what is the approach?”

Takagi points out that most Japanese have no foundation at all in Christianity. Therefore, to start off with “heavy” subjects, such as sin, the cross, the resurrection, or even creation (which all require a certain amount of faith), can be counterproductive. To the Japanese, all these subjects are completely outside their frame of reference and sound more like fairy tales—similar to the Japanese myths that no ordinary Japanese believes. Furthermore, we have to abandon the Western notion of the “one-shot approach,” that is, presenting the Gospel and asking for a decision all in the first encounter. This style rarely works in Japan, where even basic business decisions require time. However, this does not mean one never asks for a decision. So how in the world does one get started and eventually lead a Japanese to Christ?

Takagi believes that the first step is to establish the credibility of the Bible. This presumes, of course, that you already have some sort of credible relationship with the person, either as a friend or have been introduced by a mutual friend or relative, all so important in Japan. Takagi points out that Biblical prophecy—prophecies about the Jews and their fulfillment, the prophecies concerning Christ and their fulfillment in the New Testament—are important facts to present. From this basis we can go to other subjects, which may appear more “fairy-tale-like.”

Essentially, Takagi’s systematic personal evangelism approach goes like this:

A personal contact or couple is invited to do four Bible study lessons. All they have to do is the four lessons at time intervals convenient for them (i.e. once a week, once a month, etc), and that’s it! No further obligation.

Q: Have you ever found sharing the Gospel one-on-one with the Japanese a dead-end street?

Have you essentially dealt with every subject from Genesis to Revelation expounding sin, the cross, and the need for salvation and been met with a blank look?

Do you have those perpetual “seekers” in your church, who for one reason or another never ever seem to come to that place of decision?

Do you think, “Is there any effective or efficient way for personal evangelism in Japan?”

I too experienced these frustrations. Being raised in Japan and having worked along side my parents in *dendo* since the age of six, I know the difficulties of working here. For me, the conventional wisdom was that winning Japanese was difficult and only successful with those whom the Holy Spirit had indeed been preparing over a long period of time. This was my outlook until one day, about ten years ago, I was introduced to a book by Pastor Keita Takagi of Osaka. This was a handbook on personal evangelism entitled, *Anata mo Kanarazu Dendo ni Seiko Suru (You Too Can Succeed in Evangelism)*, along with its corresponding “approach booklet” called, *Seisho To Wa (What Is the Bible?)*.

I gave the approach, outlined by Pastor Takagi, a “go,” and to my amazement found I could lead Japanese to the Lord in a very short period of time! In fact, the success rate has been 100 percent.

Using this method I have been able to lead all kinds of Japanese, including a *yakuza*, drug addict, couples getting prepared for a Christian wedding, ordinary *salariman*, a video cameraman at a wedding chapel, and a couple, along with their



LESSON 1:

The individual is given a general introduction to the Bible—some

basic facts and what makes the Bible different from other books (i.e. world’s bestseller, most translated book, most persecuted book, most influential book in history). This lesson concludes with looking at statements by some famous personalities in history who revered the Bible, such as Abraham Lincoln, Isaac Newton, etc. The Japanese know of these individuals. The goal of Lesson 1 is to leave the impression that the Bible is no ordinary book. Takagi emphasizes a short lesson—30 minutes at the most without getting sidetracked into subjects, such as the differences between Catholics and Protestants, etc. Also, one doesn’t want to unload everything at once. It takes time to digest small morsels of truth, and it also leaves the person wanting more.



LESSON 2:

The lesson begins by looking at when the Bible was written and by whom. It points out that the Bible, though written over a period of 1600 years by 40 different authors, living in different areas

with different occupations with no communication between them, deals with one central theme—SALVATION. It has one main character—CHRIST—all without contradiction. The question, “How can a book, written by so many

different ‘authors,’ who have had no contact, be so cohesive?” is asked. Here the learner is introduced to the concept of divine inspiration and is told that Christians believe the Bible to be the Word of God, but we do not believe this blindly. We have logical reasons for believing this to be true, with the fulfillment of Biblical prophecies throughout history being the easiest to understand! “See you next time!”

By now the learner is getting the sense that the Bible is no ordinary book, and his/her curiosity drives him/her to want to hear more about fulfilled prophecies. Japanese know what prophecies are. They have heard of the false prophecies of Nostradama, and they are somewhat familiar with such phenomena from their own religious traditions.



LESSON 3:

Lesson 3 jumps right into Biblical prophecies concerning the Jews and their fulfillment down through the ages—slavery into Egypt and eventual deliverance, captivity by Babylon and their

return, dispersion among the nations, and the reestablishment of the state of Israel in 1948. The lesson points out that Biblical prophecies are specific even down to numbers (i.e. 70 years of Babylonian captivity), and are not like the vague false prophecies that are sometimes popularized in the media.



LESSON 4:

The lesson takes a look at the prophecies concerning Christ as found in the writings of the Old Testament prophets. The learner sees that prophecies about

Christ become more specific over the course of time, from the broad mention of the Messiah’s being born of a woman in Genesis, to His identification with the Jews, and then the Davidic line. He/she also sees that specific details about Christ’s death on the cross and the surrounding events were all prophesied hundreds of years before they happened. This fourth lesson concludes by asking the question, “What does all this mean?” Well, all this means is that the Bible is no ordinary book, and Christ is no ordinary Person.

Here the learner is asked if he/she would like to do another four lessons. Most everyone who

gets this far will not say “no.” He/she is usually intrigued with the objective facts that have been presented about the Bible and is keen to know what else the Bible talks about. The Bible has found some level of credibility in the mind of the learner, and he/she is now ready for the Gospel.

LESSON 5:

A simple Gospel presentation, about how we can experience God’s love, is given. The learner is told that there are three things we need to know in order to experience God’s love. 1) We are sinners. 2) The penalty for sin is death. 3) Christ paid the penalty by taking our place on the cross so we are no longer under condemnation. The learner usually feels a sense of relief knowing that Christ paid the penalty for him/her, and at this point he/her is invited to pray thanking the Lord for His provision. Many accept the invitation to pray. Takagi points out that this “gratitude” toward the cross constitutes faith and “accepting Jesus.” At this stage, there is no mention of becoming a Christian or having to go to church. If the individual has prayed this prayer of thanks, he/she is shown the Scriptures which show that those who accept Jesus are now children of God, and now they now have a new relationship with the Father.

Sometimes the learner is not quite ready to go so far as to accept Jesus and thank Him for His provision. So the “soul winner” needs to be sensitive to any hesitation and maybe even encourage another lesson.

LESSON 6:

This lesson presents the Gospel message on the secret to happiness, which is to know God and be in right relationship with Him. Most participants will make a decision by Lesson 6, unless they have some absolute reason not to.

LESSON 7:

The lesson assumes that the individual has accepted the Lord, and it teaches possessing eternal life now—in this life.

LESSON 8:

As the last lesson, the learner is taught the need for regular Bible reading, prayer, and Christian fellowship.

Once an individual gets this far, if he/she has not already done so, he/she may start attending church services, joining home groups, or Bible study groups for more in depth study and growth. And, of course, many, though not all, will follow through with baptism and fruitful Christian living.

My suggestion to you as my reader is, why not give it a “go”? I highly recommend this approach for both the seasoned soul winner and for those just starting out. The lessons are easy to present. If you feel uncomfortable or a bit timid about making the plunge, Takagi recommends first practicing the lessons on a fellow Christian. Also, you don’t have to present these lessons alone. Having someone else with you, to provide prayer support and fill in any gaps, can also be helpful. Takagi does point out that nothing can be accomplished without prayer, the leading of the Holy Spirit, and His conviction in a person’s heart. Also, he says that nothing can really replace the witness of a Christian through lifestyle and personal testimony.

I believe that this systematic, non-threatening, objective and focused personal evangelism approach is a gift from God. It all allows the Holy Spirit to bring revelation and conviction to the learner. I believe if more missionaries and Japanese Christians would be proactive in personal evangelism, using this approach, we would see many more Japanese come into the Kingdom yearly.

Takagi’s handbook is available only in Japanese and may be purchased in Christian bookstores. God bless you as you seek to win the Japanese to Jesus! **H**



Don Thomson is a second-generation missionary to Japan, having grown up in Hokkaido with his parents Lionel and Eileen Thomson in his early years, and later in the Tokyo area. Don operates Faith Media, an audio/ video production/distribution ministry, and has recently started a new church outreach in Shiki, Saitama. He is married to Carol, daughter of Richard and Connie Goodall of Hokkaido, and has three children, Alecia (12), Christopher (10), and Joshua (8).

Seven Wonders Of The Word

1. The wonder of its formation—the way in which it grew is one of the mysteries of time.
2. The wonder of its unification—a library of 66 books, yet one book.
3. The wonder of its age—most ancient of all books.
4. The wonder of its sale—best seller of all time and of any other book.
5. The wonder of its interest—only book in the world read by all classes of people.
6. The wonder of its language—written largely by uneducated men, yet the best book from a literary standpoint.
7. The wonder of its preservation—the most hated of all books, yet it continues to exist.

Speaker’s Sourcebook

Worldwide Prayer-Walking Partnership March 2004



Free Japan

<http://www.freejapan.org/>

An Open Letter to Participants of FREE JAPAN 2004

God worked mightily during the month of March as prayerwalks took place all over Japan—from Hokkaido to Okinawa. Japanese, volunteers from other countries, and missionaries were involved.

Many blessings have been the result of this grass roots prayer movement. Let me mention some:

THE LORD'S KINGDOM HAS BEEN ADVANCED

As Christians prayed their friends were saved. Prayer meetings went longer but felt shorter. Victory for future spiritual blessing was won! A perfect example was the coming of the film, *The Passion of the Christ*. For weeks prior to its arrival, there had been doubts about bringing the film to Japan. When the decision for over 100 venues was announced, God answered prayer.

Japan needs more Christian authors to reach the masses. When three young adults told me recently that God wants them to be writers, God answered prayer. The unified prayers of many, around the world and in Japan, have advanced His kingdom for future generations.

GREATER UNITY WAS EXPERIENCED AMONG CHRISTIANS

Many made comments about the sweet fellowship they had with other Christians while prayerwalking. (Someone said before Free Japan started that we should wait for unity to begin. That might have been a long wait!) As we walked and prayed we experienced a bit of heaven. One pastor with whom I walked expressed his surprise at feeling like brothers and sisters in the Lord. (We had met for the very first time.)

MANY WERE INTRODUCED TO PRAYERWALKING

Many Japanese have never prayerwalked. I found them to be “naturals” at it! One woman with whom I walked said she was going to take her Sunday School class out to prayerwalk on the following Sunday. She was sure it would make a difference in how the youth viewed prayer. An elderly woman promised to continue prayerwalking. She never knew one could pray and walk at the same time. She loves the outdoors and was quite happy to learn that prayer can be taken to the streets. Even some volunteers from other countries were prayerwalking for the first time. They returned home with a greater burden for Japan. Many will continue to prayerwalk as a discipline.

THE SPIRIT OF BOLDNESS AND EXCITEMENT IS FLOURISHING HERE

On a Friday I was talking with two young Japanese ladies in their twenties who had seen The

Passion. They had organized a 15-minute noon prayer time by text messaging their friends by cell phone. Afterwards, one said, "I prayed that God would increase the percentage of Christians in Japan to 50%." "Wow! That's good!" the other exclaimed. "I prayed that He would make Japan 100% Christian!" Both were raised in Buddhist homes. One became a Christian about five years ago and the other has been a believer only a year. Have you heard of such hope recently?

Have you seen such passion for their own? God is indeed freeing the hearts of the Japanese. He is doing amazing things. The vision of a new day in Japan has been "caught"!

How do we judge the impact of FREE JAPAN upon this nation? Perhaps the best way to judge is to ask ourselves

some questions: "What impact has it had on me? Was my heart changed? Renewed? How am I different for having participated in the FREE JAPAN prayerwalking movement?"

For twenty years, at God's request, I have been a prayer warrior "standing on the wall" (in the gap) for the Japanese. It used to be a sad, lonely place. There were times when the burden seemed too great to bear and I grew weary. Now, there are so many standing together with me on "the wall" that it's getting crowded! And the mood is different now. There is great rejoicing! God is awesome in all of His ways!

God's promise to His sheep in Ezekiel 34:27b reads, "Then they will know that I am the Lord when I break the bars of their captivity and save them from the power of those who made them slaves." And, in verse 31 of the same chapter it reads, "You, my human sheep, are the sheep I care for, and I am your God, says the Lord God."

Our Lord is the Good Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep. He is the Good Shepherd who leaves the 99 safely in the pen to search for the one that is lost. Will we follow His example? What does He desire from each one of us in order for His perfect will to be accomplished in this land? Should the Christian community's emphasis on prayerwalking continue? Should our prayers increase so that His will be done in Japan as it is in heaven? One day a great crowd from every nation, tribe, people, and language will worship God in heaven. Millions of Japanese will be there praising Him and shouting, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb" (Revelation 7:10). His Word says in Revelation 7:17, "... The Lamb at the center of the throne will be

their shepherd. He will lead them (the Japanese) to springs of water that give life. God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." What a glorious day! Let's keep praying fervently until all of Japan is free to believe in Him and join that great crowd in heaven to praise the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

Until ALL have heard, Karol Whaley for Free Japan.

*Until ALL have heard,
Karol Whaley for FreeJapan*



Tokyo Prayerwalk on March 16th

On the morning of March 16th God blessed at the Imperial Palace. Around 50 prayerwalkers showed up to walk and pray. People came from Kawasaki, Shibuya, Higashi Kurume, Yokohama, Machida, Fuchu, Fussa, Itabashi, Hachioji, Yokosuka and a few other areas of the mega city.

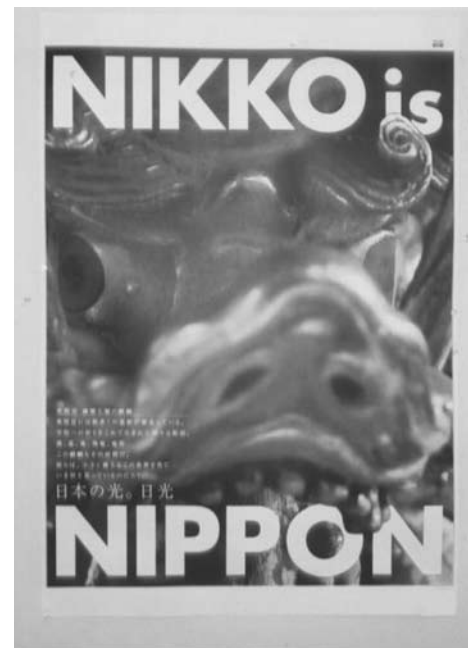
Volunteers came from Georgia, Texas, California, and Hawaii to participate. Praise the Lord for the

wonderful warm weather on that Tuesday. Thank the Lord for the sweet unity we experienced as we also gathered to pray at the Watauga Fountain Park. Seeing the beautiful fountain reminded all of us of the words from John 4:13,14, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give will never be thirsty. The water I give will become a spring of water gushing up inside that person, giving eternal life." Praise Him for all the "gushers" we will see in the days ahead!

In the afternoon we met at the Tokyo Metropolitan Government building on the 45th floor to pray over the mega city, Tokyo. One volunteer commented (as she looked out over the mass of humanity represented in concrete buildings as far as the eye could see), "Where do you start? How do you reach them?" Someone answered, "We can't, but God can, and God will!"

Nikko Prayerwalk

"Nikko is Nippon," read the poster as we got off the train at one of the most famous site in Nikko,



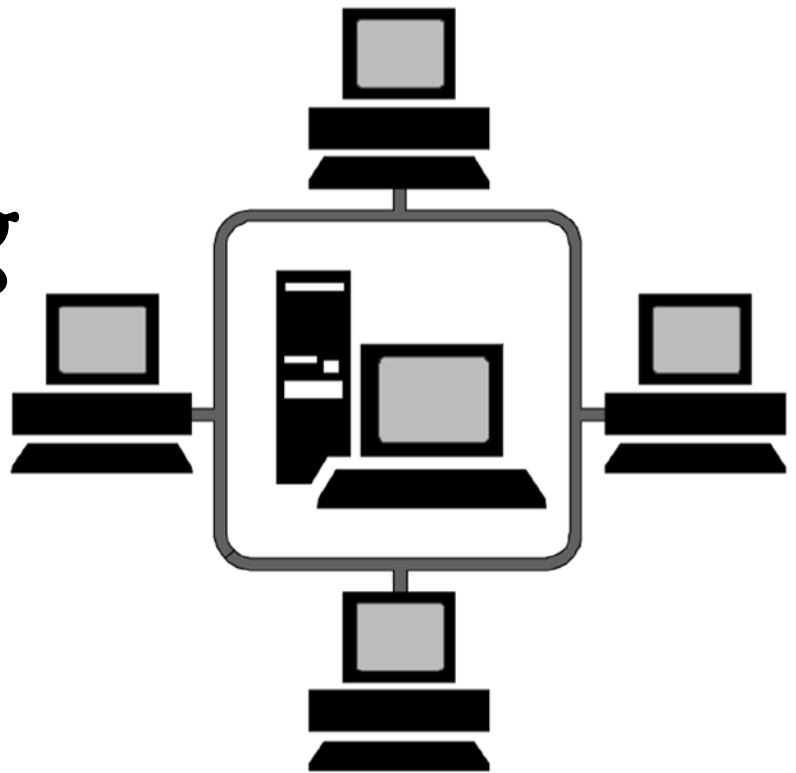
the Toshogu Shrine. This shrine is Japan's most lavishly decorated shrine complex and houses the mausoleum of Tokugawa Ieyasu, the founder of the Tokugawa shogunate. He and his grandson are the ones who hated Christians and had them martyred. Nikko has been a center of Shinto and Buddhist mountain worship for many centuries. Intense and intentional prayer "on-site" was planned for the Buddhist holy day, March 20th, the coming of spring. The following is a report of that day:

Everything was covered in white as we prayerwalked throughout the large grounds of the

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CPI Research Network: *An Important New Tool for Advancing God's Kingdom in Japan*

by Scott Parrish



A New View of Research

“Research!” For most of us this hardly seems an enticing word. Dull and full of statistics, academic and dusty, dry and disconnected from the excitement and joy of life.

If this is your view of research, I want to enlarge your definition and challenge you to see it in a new light. It is exciting and full of life. More than this, it is life-giving to our mission for God in Japan. God has, in essence, commanded that we do research! Further, I want to challenge you to do some and share it with others in the name of our Lord.

Do you remember Nehemiah? On returning to Jerusalem he set out at night on a clandestine reconnoitering of the walls. The account in Nehemiah 2:11-16 sounds a bit cloak-and-dagger, almost James Bondish—anything but boring and dull! This was research. Do you remember the men of Issachar who “understood the times and knew what Israel should do” (1 Chronicles 12:32)? Surely God had given them wisdom and insight, but this built on their knowledge of the times. This is research. Do you remember God’s command in Proverbs 23:23: “Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and under-

standing.” Of course He is speaking of spiritual truth, but I believe He is also speaking of the stuff we think of as worldly knowledge—facts about the world and peoples and cultures around us. We get this through research.

Research is practical, it develops and shares the information and insight that all of us need to minister for the Lord’s sake here in Japan. Some research will use statistics and other sophisticated techniques, but much of the really valuable research will not. Instead it consists of the daily experiences each of us has through which we are individually learning how God is working in the hearts and minds of people. We call this kind of research “Case Studies.”

Does this redefinition of “research” help you? Do you now have a different attitude towards it? Can you participate in glorifying the Lord with your own research? Have you already done research by gaining information through your own experiences and would like to share this with others? I hope so.

The CPI Research Network

To help all Christians in Japan do and share research, CPI is developing a Research Network.

The Network will be a community of people who share information, encourage one another, help one another with techniques, and continually build on the insights that others have gained. We will have a web presence in the CPI web pages. We will have access to one another’s experience and expertise so that we can easily find help in dealing with technical research problems. Eventually we hope to provide access to research documents through the web page so that all can share in what has been developed.

The goal of the Network is to help all Christians in Japan expand God’s kingdom. The insights coming from the research will be cast into practical guidance for evangelism, discipleship and church planting.

What You Can Do Now

If you are interested in doing some research or have either formal or informal results that you would like to share with others, please contact me. I will be the coordinator for the Research Network and I will take the lead role in helping you connect with others who have similar interests.

Guidance for Research Topics

Based on the input from pastors and missionaries throughout Japan, the CPI leadership team has identified the following six subject areas in which research is needed. We have included some example questions that might be addressed under each area. Please do not be limited in your thinking by these example questions, but let your heart and mind be directed by the Lord.

Training leaders and developing workers in Japan

What are the best means and strategies for training leaders and developing new workers, including lay people, for church health and multiplication? How do we train leaders right where they are leading (rather than take them elsewhere for training)? Where is God working in leadership training Japan: what methods is He currently blessing with success? What methods are working well in other church movements in Japan?

Example Questions:

What are effective strategies for leadership training?

What are good roles for professionally trained, full time, senior pastors to play in church multiplication?

How can holistic, facilitated training be developed at a grassroots level?

Facilitating church multiplication movements

How can multiple Church Planting Movements be promoted and facilitated? How does church reproduction and multiplication take place in Japan? Part of the answer to this question lies in understanding how other movements operate in Japan, whether they be religious or social movements.

Example Questions:

What would a truly indigenous Church Planting Movement look like?

How are churches effectively multiplied in Japan?

What are the characteristics of Japanese movements, both religious and social? How are these movements started and maintained?

Gospel communication strategies in Japan

What is the best way to communicate the gospel to the Japanese people—both for Christians in sharing their faith and for non-Christians in receiving the Gospel? How can Christians impact the culture more with Gospel sharing? What unique approaches are effective in changing religious belief?

Example Questions:

How do you increase exposure to the Gospel to raise awareness among non-Christians?

What are effective ways for Japanese Christians to share their faith?

What are effective methods to encourage and support Japanese Christian lay people to share their faith and multiply themselves?

Which truths of the Gospel speak most strongly to the Japanese people?

Effective ministry approaches

What approaches are working uniquely in Japan for church ministry and multiplication? What methods is God blessing? This would include worship, evangelism, discipleship, mercy, small groups and so on. This also includes reaching specific target groups in the culture such as men and youth.

Example Questions:

Where is God working in Japan now?

Who is reaching men and how?

How do we reach youth?

Spiritual transformation and vitality

How is spiritual transformation and vitality developed or recovered for believers and churches? How does the gospel message impact believers and change them into instruments of grace, love, and service? How does this work practically in Japan? How do we encourage and facilitate it?

Example Questions:

What does “Amazing Grace” mean to a Japanese?

How do you transform/change Japanese society?

What does a “Gospel-driven” Japanese look like?

Understanding the Japanese socio-cultural context

What is the state of the church today? What is the state of Japanese society? How do Christians and churches impact and transform society? What is there about the culture that must be understood to be effective?

Example Questions:

What Japanese structures generate/channel/hinder the spread of the Gospel?

What are the influencers in society? How will they affect the future?

What are the present things that prevent Japanese from coming to faith?

How can Christians network effectively with

non-Christians in order to impact Japanese society?

How can the church be more creative/flexible/dynamic in relating to Japanese society and culture?

Please Get Involved

Please contact me if you have information to share in any of these areas, if you see an area in which you would like to begin some research, or if you know of information that is already available in these areas. We are especially interested in any work you have already done in these areas. Have you already done some research in these? Do you have some experience that would make a useful case study to share with others? As you reflect upon your experiences, please remember that negative experiences are as valuable to others as successes: through our personal “failures” we can help others more quickly move into successful practices.

Please also give me your feedback and ideas. What else should a community of researchers be doing to advance God’s kingdom here in Japan?



Scott and his wife Kathi are with Asian Access (formerly LIFE Ministries) and came to Japan in 2001. They will celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary this

year. Before becoming a missionary, Scott spent 30 years as an internal consultant in operational improvement with two major U.S. corporations. He and Kathi are currently coordinating a research project on effective methods of personal evangelism for Japanese lay Christians. They can be reached at skparrish@asianaccess.org

The people
who influence us most
are not those who buttonhole us
and talk to us,
but those who live their lives
like the stars in heaven
and the lilies in the field,
perfectly simply
and unaffectedly.
Those are the lives
that mould us.
If you want to be of use to God,
get rightly related to Jesus Christ
and He will make you of use
unconsciously
every minute you live.

Oswald Chambers
My Utmost for His Highest



Introduction

During the 2003 Christmas season, a multi-layered arts and evangelism project called, "The Peace of Christmas, involved over 100 short-termers, local Japanese churches, and artists from New York City and Tokyo to bring the peace of Jesus to Japan. Approximately 200,000 people were exposed to the Gospel through the special evangelistic CD, arts events and gospel music!

The project began with an invitation from Takashimaya, a major department store, to Makoto Fujimura, Japanese-American artist living in New York City. Makoto specializes in Japanese painting, and also leads a ministry to artists called International Arts Movement. Makoto was invited to Japan to do a gallery display during Christmas last year. (Makoto has become well known for his art, and was recently appointed by President Bush to the advisory board of the National Endowment for the Arts.) As Makoto and his friends/artists began to plan for events in Japan, they took on the name, Christmas In Peace, and widened their scope to include much more than the Takashimaya gallery display.

Makoto is an associate staff member of Campus Crusade for Christ. When he told the staff of his vision, they were excited about the special opportunities and set up a second group to focus on evangelism related activities. This second group

involved Japan Campus Crusade for Christ, Youth With A Mission Japan, and the Japan Baptist Mission (Southern Baptist), along with the Tokyo International Arts Movement branch. They called this outreach, The Peace of Christmas.

Christmas in Peace had events from November 25 to December 23. The Peace of Christmas went through December 27.

Materials Used

An evangelistic CD included audio tracks of Christmas music: Kosaka Chu with his pop title song, "Christmas In Peace," Bobby Lewis – Black Gospel, Steve Sacks – jazz instrumentalist, and Asiah – Black Gospel. A fifth audio track featured a children's choir singing, "Silent Night" while Makoto invited listeners to use the CD for additional features—slide display of his art, his testimony, and the Jesus video in Windows Media format, etc. Links to websites gave listings of coming events. The first 100,000 CDs quickly ran out with a second production of 100,000 being rushed from Korea.

A colorful flyer introducing the TPOC events was mass-produced (30,000) and an art detail postcard (10,000) from Makoto's main painting, "The Still Point," (with website listing), was available. In total 193,000 CDs, 28,500 flyers, and all 10,000 postcards were distributed.

Results

There were over 9,100 website hits. Most visitors had gotten the website address from the CD, though some found it through the camera present drawing on a Yahoo listing, while others found it through Kosaka Chu's music news website link. The vast majority of hits were from Japan, but there were also some from overseas. About 300 viewers read the 4 Spiritual Laws message online.

About 1,050, who signed up for the camera drawing, were sent letters to inform them of various small group activities. Additionally 180 asked for the CD through the website. There were five phone contacts and 30 e-mail contacts. Beyond this, of course, churches and ministries around Tokyo followed up an unknown number of personal contacts!

Articles and advertisements in Christian newspapers promoted the CD from one end of Japan to the other. In this case, the CDs were offered for 100 (yen). Through this national donation, 20,000 were distributed.

Approximately 800 attended the Christmas In Peace Concert and 200 attended the Peace of Christmas Concert, both held just before Christmas.

Evaluation

Among Christians, the CD distribution went very well, and the art activities broke into new areas with the Gospel. Churches all over the country were able to use the CD as presents at Christmas outreaches.

The area that needs the most work now is how to better connect people's interests to follow-up events and small groups. We are praying that several will start to form a downtown Tokyo cell church. There is already one gathering of interested artists who were contacted through this campaign. More information may be found at: <http://japanccc.org/english/cip/ecipinfo.html>

Stories and Comments on the Peace of Christmas Outreach

Christmas in Peace created a small crack in a huge dam of resistance to the expansion of God's Kingdom in Japan. (Fumie)

To me, my month long journey culminated in a clearer understanding of the Incarnation. Christ the Babe came to earth, not in might or power, but in vulnerability and weakness. One pastor in Japan said that the worldly expectation of Christ is for Him to be the King of the Universe, but when you think about power in weakness, it makes sense. For example, a baby draws people to it exactly because he or she is helpless. The greatest power in the universe—Christ the Lord—limited Himself, so that the world could be drawn to Him.

As I look back on the project, I am most grateful for the inspiration that a Babe in a Manger gave to all of us. Christ is our Peace. We can look to His Presence in our lives to be renewed and directed to the Hope of the New Year. May God work through our weaknesses for His greater Glory! May our lives and art reflect such meekness as we seek to advance God's Kingdom.

The highlight of my trip came when Bobby Lewis, a remarkable pastor/singer/musician, came to sing at Takashimaya Department Store, where my art exhibit was held. He, along with two other gospel singers, sang in the main entrance, with a huge Christmas tree in the background. Takashimaya is one of the most prestigious venues in Japan, and to have Bobby join me to draw people with gospel music was unprecedented.

A surprising event took place at The Sato Museum on Christmas Eve. IAM (International Arts Movement) was asked by the host organization (all of whom are not Christians) to organize a candle-lighting party. They insisted that I speak on the true meaning of Christmas—have some music and sing a song or two. They were the ones who requested that the candle be lit during the party (which seemed more and more like a candle-light service at church!). One of the artists asked a friend, a professional baker, to design a huge cake



as well. I am sure it's the first time that a museum in Japan hosted a Christmas Eve candlelight event. (Makoto Fujimura, artist)

On one occasion, three of us from the States along with one of the Japanese artists were having dinner at a terrific little noodle shop. Our conversation covered many topics but eventually turned to 'what is the most significant part of the trip so far.' Each of us from the West took turns sharing about different moments—the people we met and places we saw. But when the question was asked of our Japanese friend, this usually charismatic artist became very quiet. Then large tears formed in his eyes and he said simply, "You came to Japan." Soon all four of us were crying. I can only imagine what the waiter must have thought seeing four grown men in tears. He went on to say that knowing that other Christians cared enough to make the journey to encourage their Japanese counterparts was significant. (David Chatburn, artist)

I was told the Japanese we encountered over the weeks watched us to determine if we were "real" and not a cult. People came to the various events repeatedly and asked questions. Only when they were satisfied did they give us contact information and so we could call on them. As I was leaving, people, who were involved in events weeks before,

were beginning to contact the website. (Phil Carter, Campus Crusade, Singapore)

YWAM invited two full-time Discipleship Training School (DTS) teams to take part in this event, one from Kona, Hawaii and the other from Vancouver, Canada. The Tokyo DTS was also involved part-time as well. YWAM's main role was CD distribution, which went very well. Not only did we gather for the main events in Shibuya, Tokorozawa, and Ginza, but we distributed The Peace of Christmas CDs and literature in many other locations as well, including stations on the Chuo Line from Shinjuku to Ome, Shibuya and Shinjuku areas, Ayase and our gospel concert in Ikebukuro (where 30 people got saved). The response to the CD was excellent and there were many good witnessing opportunities, with people coming back and asking for more gifts for others. CDs were also sent to Okinawa, Yachiyo City, Toyama and Toyoda cities as well as additional distribution by various churches. Lives were touched and changed, people came to hear about the true meaning of Christmas, and some found the Lord or were profoundly touched by Him. A great success!

(Bryan Smith,
YWAM Greater Tokyo Area Director)

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SEND ME—SENDS Me



An Interview with Megumi who attended the SEND ME Youth Conference, August 2003

Q: Meg, you attended last year's Send Me Conference. What took place?

Meg: Well, the most important thing that happened was that Jesus touched me! Before the conference He had given me a Scripture from Matthew 5:14, "I will make you fishers of men." At first, I couldn't believe what the Scripture was saying, so I checked the passage again, but in my heart I said, "No, thanks." On second thought, I figured that if this was what the Scripture was really saying, then I should obey, so I prayed, "If this word is really from you, God, through the Send Me Conference, please talk to me."

Q: So did you get some confirmation from the Lord then?

Meg: The conference messages were exactly what God wanted me to hear. Two truths were made very clear: the necessity of evangelizing the world and the need for faith. On the last day, the very last meeting, I received confirmation from God that what He had said to me from the Matthew 5 passage was for me. Not only that, but at the conference I met a Chinese lady, we shall call her Ms E. The organization she represents has full approval from the Chinese government to meet the needs of the Chinese and works in such areas as teaching in universities, assisting in industry, and helping in the medical field.

Through the conference I heard God's voice clearly, and I told Him that I would go anywhere for Him.

Q: Was there a moment at the conference when you committed yourself and your future to Him?

Meg: Yes,

Q: When?

Meg: On the third day in the evening there was a message from Luke 5 and an invitation was given. We were asked to raise our hands as an indication of God's call, and I raised my hand after which the speaker prayed for all of us.

Q: What has taken place in the months following the conference?

Meg: My friend, Mizuka, has been praying with and for me. She is one of my new friends. Let me tell you the events leading up to my going to the conference. I had been teaching English at a school and last fall a new teacher was to come join the staff. For some unknown reason, the intended teacher did not come, but in her place Mizuka came. It was through Mizuka that I came to my present church, of which I have now become a member. It was at this church that I heard about the Send Me Conference and was able to attend. God's leading was so clear.

Q: So Mizuka has been praying for you. Then what took place?

Meg: In February, out of the blue, I received correspondence from Ms E asking if I would like to go to China to teach Japanese. I was delighted, and I am now preparing to go for a year's commitment. God's leading has been both mysterious and clear.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to say?

Meg: Until yesterday, my father had a normal life, but this week he is facing very serious surgery. In that sadness and pain I wonder how God is going to work things out. In spite of all this, I am on my way, confident that this is God's will for me!

Comment: Precious Meg is a member of our church. From the moment she came through the door for the first time, she has been a blessing from the Lord. With her strong Christian background, two grandfathers were pastors, her faith is firm and vibrant. She brings friends to church; she sings on the worship team; she is willing and ready to serve in any way she can. It is with joy and sadness that we let Meg go. We send her with our prayers and with our love. (I am confident that there are many more testimonies like Meg's.) Please write me at dikropp@gol.com

—editor

Reaching Japanese in America

By Akira Nakamura

My wife and I came to Columbia, South Carolina in the summer of 1997 from Tokyo, where we had lived for many years. We knew no one in this southern city of America. We only knew that there was a seminary for us to attend. Being students

in our 40's in a foreign land was not easy. Aki's expertise in the computer software industry didn't help him much in his studies of theology in English. We experienced isolation, homesickness and frustration because we were so far away from our home country. These hardships helped us identify with other Japanese living overseas and enabled us to find answers to meet their needs.

We see not only the spiritual and physical needs of fellow Japanese but also their tremendous potential as a presence in America. First of all, they were courageous enough to leave Japan. With young teachable minds, they are also flexible, open to different world views, and possess the potential to take the Gospel back to their families and friends. We believe that God is calling us to serve those who are transitional international students in cross-cultural situations and to encourage them to walk as people who belong to Christ. Our goal is to build a bridge to bring reconciliation between God and His people.

Currently, both of us are on the staff of HIS (Helping International Students). HIS is a local mission organization established with the purpose of reaching out to international students who study in Columbia, South Carolina. This campus ministry is beneficial to us for several reasons. Because its programs are non-threatening to internationals with no Christian background, we are able to become friends with these students and effectively communicate with them. HIS has united all of the other international ministries in Columbia to help provide effective ministry for internationals so that their various needs can be met in a cooperative manner. We can find co-laborers sharing our same vision. This is a great asset for Japanese ministry.

The ministry serves free lunches twice a week. Over 200 students come for lunch on each of these two days. Areas of service include: shopping, airport pick-up and drop-off, driver's training and licenses, English helps, short trips, American home visitation, coffee houses, etc. Through these services, we do not open the scriptures, but desire to present ourselves as the "fifth Gospel" to the students by loving and serving them.

In addition to various on-going activities at HIS, we offer bi-monthly Bible studies for Japanese on Friday nights which afford these students the opportunity to come, relax, and study the Bible in a casual atmosphere. Since many Japanese students are non-seekers, the program is carefully organized in a non-threatening manner so that students and Christian workers can develop intimate friendships without any pressure. This program is divided into three activities: Bible study, dinner, and fellowship. We wanted a meeting place where visitors could take off their shoes and their

Continued bottom of page 19



Thinking Theologically about Church Planting

Motivational Energy for Church Planting



by Dale Little

During one four year stretch of church planting here I intentionally modeled a certain style of leadership. I thought the people in my church plant had settled nicely into the way my wife and I were “doing church.” So when our church plant called its first Japanese pastor, it was with no little surprise that we watched him easily and quickly implement a style of leadership which was diametrically opposed to ours. The people of the church seemed to take to the new leadership style like fish to water.

Even after picking ourselves up from the floor, shedding a few tears, placing some time and distance between us and the newly planted church, and gaining some perspective, we still felt like we had lost confidence in our ability to church plant in Japan. Perhaps it would be easier to be a theological educator than a church planter! The leadership transition from expatriate missionary to national pastor had been painful.

Nevertheless, God opened up for us another opportunity for church planting. So we stepped out in fragile faith trying once again to implement something like the Pauline cycle of church planting.

According to 2 Corinthians 4:8-12, Paul experienced many problems and crises in his ministry of church founding. What motivated him to persevere at the task? One answer can probably be found in his conviction that, though a frail jar of clay, by divine grace Paul understood himself to be a uniquely designed vessel through which the powerful and glorious gospel of Jesus Christ could shine (2 Corinthians 4:7). Paul could testify that

God faithfully establishes communities of believers through the pain, and in Paul’s case through the danger, experienced by the church planter.

Paul must have been a highly motivated missionary. After about 25 years of difficult church planting ministry he told the church in Rome that his ambition was to preach the gospel in Spain (Romans 15:20-24). His years of sometimes difficult ministry, along with its victories and difficulties, had not stunted his vision for founding churches. In Romans 15 he stated at least three reasons for his ambitious vision. First, the churches he had already planted were adequate to carry out the gospel ministry in the eastern Mediterranean region (15:23). Second, he was eager to minister in places further west like Spain where there were no churches (15:20). Third, although Antioch in Syria had been the place from which he had launched the first phase of his church founding ministry, the Asian Minor portion, he apparently hoped the Roman church would send him off to Spain to carry out the next phase of his ministry (15:24). Perhaps Paul was trying to develop a creative partnership with the Roman church. But even if not, it is clear that after 25 years of ministry Paul still seemed to be motivated by a boundless source of energy and vision for his work of founding new churches.

Japan is a tough place to be church planting. We recognize the facts about ministry: there is only one church for every 16,000 people; some towns and cities have no credible gospel witness; and the evangelical population is half of one percent. We also recognize that most of us have a sup-

porting constituency and a mission agency which desire to encourage us toward effective church planting. Some of us work in close partnerships with sending churches and receiving denominations. It would seem that our church planting shares some common ground with Paul’s church founding ministry. Perhaps we can learn from Paul about motivation for church planting.

So when you begin to think of your church planting as moving three steps forward and at least two backward, may God give you the energy to keep going. Be encouraged and amazed that God has chosen to shine his powerful gospel light through jars of clay like you and me. Be hopeful that you will be able to testify like Paul that God has proven faithful to both you, a church planter, and to the churches He is planting through you. Be motivated by the vision for church planting which God gives you. H



Dale serves as a cooperating missionary at Sunrise Chapel in Higashi Murayama Shi, Tokyo, a church which he and his wife led through the church planting stages. He holds a PhD in systematic theology and is a lecturer in theology at Japan Bible Seminary in Hamura Shi, Tokyo. He was born and raised in Japan as an MK, and returned as a missionary in 1984. The Littles serve under the Evangelical Free Church of Canada Mission. This series of articles can be found on his website: <http://www.cpttheo.net>.

LATEST NEWS ON THE FILM, THE PASSION:

The film’s sponsor, Nippon Herald, is excited about how well the movie is being received. More theaters are lining up to start in June. The total number of theaters is up to 171. Original plans for limited showing have changed. For information check website: <http://www.herald.co.jp/theater/passion>

When the Passion opened, it ranked second in the nation. A Campus Crusade staffer answers questions from an evangelical standpoint in the souvenir booklet being sold at theaters. Other items on sale include: John Piper’s *The Passion of Jesus Christ*, Horizon Chapel pastor Koichi Hirano’s *Passion Kirisuto No Junan*

O Rikaisu Tame Ni, and Tyndale Publishing House’s English photography book *The Passion: Photography from the Movie, The Passion of the Christ* (with a Japanese insert containing Mel Gibson’s forward and the Bible passages comprising the rest of the text). Shinsei Senkyodan printed 350,000 of the tract *The Passion: Who Crucified Jesus?* by David Bruce. Every Home for Christ (EHC) printed a booklet containing pictures from the movie and two tracts, *The Passion of the Christ: True or False?* and *Experience the Passion of the Christ*, both written by Brian Mavis.

Update: A missionary wrote: “One of the church

leaders in Tokyo was riding the train home recently and noticed an article about Mel Gibson’s movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, in a secular newspaper. The article concluded with the comment, ‘In our insecure society with an unstable economy, especially after the burst of the bubble economy, the number of people, including young and old, who are interested in spiritual matters is increasing. The Passion could cause unprecedented impact on the Japanese mindset.’”

(The above information was given by Don Regier-Word of Life Press Ministries and Steve Clark-Campus Crusade for Christ.)



P R E S I D E N T ' S P E N C I L

Karuizawa Summer Conference

This summer marks the second year for what is now known as the Karuizawa Summer Conference. The conference is scheduled for August 1-8. I am excited about this year's conference because the College Church in Wheaton (Illinois, USA) is sending a 16-member choir and their Congregational Care Pastor, Todd Augustine, to minister to us. The choir brings a lot of musical talent, which will also be used in the local coffee house ministry. Todd Augustine is gifted in ministering the Word, so it is going to be a delightful week for all who attend.

Film: The Passion

Recently, a seeker, who attends the weekly ladies' meeting in our church, went with her whole family to see the film, *The Passion*. She remarked that only God could forgive people as Jesus did! Not surprisingly, reactions to the movie vary greatly. Another seeker in our church, who suffers with a serious heart disease, had to leave the film after watching only 45 minutes or so. He remarked that the music was overwhelming and frightening. We can rejoice that hundreds of thousands of Japanese have seen the movie since May 1. Though some of the Gospel seed will fall on hard and stony ground or will be swallowed up by thorn bushes, we can also expect that it has fallen on receptive ground and will bear much fruit. I am looking forward to the distribution of the Passion DVD as an evangelistic tool.

Japan Evangelical Missionary Association

What is your perspective on JEMA? You may wonder why it exists. Let me give you a brief explanation. JEMA's work is neither done by the Executive Committee nor by the Plenary Session. The work of JEMA happens mainly through its five

commissions. Have you been to CPI? This is the Evangelism Commission in action. Have you attended a JEMA day of prayer or a prayer summit? These are organized through the Prayer Commission. How about you ladies? Have you attended one of the inspiring ladies' retreats at Megumi Chalet in Karuizawa? Thank the Women in Ministry Commission members. The magazine you are holding, the Japan Harvest, comes through the Publications Commission. The recently formed commission on language and culture has opened a new access for language learning resources. Please check the JEMA website for details. The Liaison and Membership Commission takes care of planning the Mission Leaders' Consultation, held annually. In addition, there are JEMA representatives on each of the JEA committee to observe and serve the national Church. So if you have benefited from any of the above, then you know why JEMA exists! **h**

VISION STATEMENT: JEMA exists to network and equip its members to make disciples for Christ.

Ray Leaf, President

J E M A D A T E B O O K

Event	Date	Place
JEMA Day of Prayer	July 5	KGK at OCC
Karuizawa Summer Conference	August 1-8	Karuizawa Union Church
JEMA Day of Prayer	October 4	OCC
JEMA Women's Day of Prayer	November 1	OCC
CPI Conference	November 9-12	Fuji Hakone Land



May 19, 2004

In his devotional from Luke 24:50-53, Traugott Ockert reminded us of a special event on the Christian calendar that we often overlook. Ascension Day is on May 20 this year.

The treasurer is diligently working to reduce the projected deficit in this year's budget. The revised budget will be voted on at the next meeting. Much discussion was given to JEMA's financial operation. This led to a proposal to seek out a Christian business consultant who would come to evaluate our operating model and give suggestions for effective change. This consultant would be sent and supported by a church for a designated period.

The Evangelical Fellowship of Asia Conference's JEMA representative was Gary Fujino. He gave a positive report and has written an article in this issue (page 18ff).

The 10th Anniversary of CPI was highlighted in the spring issue of *Japan Harvest*. CPI purchased 300 copies. John expressed appreciation for the issue.

Seventeen attended the Prayer Summit at Okutama Bible Chalet. This was the first time for the Kanto area summit to be for both men and women.

The Language and Culture Commission now has a link on JEMA's website. It links language schools and learning resources. The office now has printable files of former JMLI church language materials. These may be ordered through the office.

Ray Leaf, JEMA president, John Mehn, and Gary Fujino will attend the May 31st JEA business meeting in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka.

Discussion on the growing use of the JEMA Internet e-mail led to the appointment of David Scott to head up a committee, of his choosing, to evaluate the service and bring policy suggestions to the Executive committee.

Another Overseas Associate member was received and accepted.

The next meeting will be June 30.

Phares graduated from Multnomah School of the Bible in 1949 and married Lucile Farwellin in June that year. In February, 1954, he came to Japan with his family where he gave his life in service until October 2002, when he was diagnosed with cancer. Phares was instrumental in starting 9 churches (Saga, Island of Iki, Island of Oshima, Karatsu, Haiki, Inari, Nagasaki and two in Sasebo), as well as being a father to about 100 children in the orphanage he directed in Sasebo. His last project was to build the Berachah Conference Center, Sasebo.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Lucile, who now lives in Portland, Oregon, and to his children, Georgia Landis, who is serving with TEAM in Karuizawa, Tim, pastoring Grace Bible Chapel in Kinkai, and Christie McLean, who lives in Portland, Oregon with her family. A memorial service is planned in Sasebo, July 10. For information please contact Tim Huggins at: huggins@eos.ocn.ne.jp

Websites for Japanese speakers:

The JCCC sponsored Passion Forum site has seen nearly 30,000 visitors with over 700 posts on the bulletin board in the month of May. Japanese are posting their impressions of the film and Christians are responding to their comments. Keiko Okano staff is featured in the Q & A section, some of which is featured on the Official Herald Filmsite. <http://www.passionforum.jp>

The Marre Ishii Committed Japan sponsored Passion Fansite is also seeing a lot of visitors to learn about "What you need to know before you see the film!" Marre is also featured in a column on the Official Filmsite, planning a Passion and Resurrection CD Bible Message set and additional outreaches. <http://www.marre.jp/passion/> **H**

MEMORIAL

Phares Paul Huggins,
HOME with Jesus.

Phares, the ultimate gentleman and lover of the Word, was born in Amarillo, Texas on March 31, 1925. Raised in Tucumcari, New Mexico, he later joined the Army Air Corps in 1944, serving as a belly gunner on aB-17 in WWII, flying 32 missions out of Italy.



2004 Asian Church Congress—Affirming Evangelical Identity & Need for Renewal

Reported by Gary Fujino

Together Asian Christians are seeking for an identity embodying a united vision and revived personal faith. The 2nd Asian Church Congress (ACC) held from April 26-29 in Sil Lim, Korea, gave strong reaffirmation to the infallibility of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the lostness of Asia (with 50% of the world's population of which 3% are Christian), and the need for a unified evangelical identity--- the Church of Asia.

Keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Sang-bok David Kim (Korea) graphically portrayed Asia's great need by stopping during one of his messages to pray for the evangelical church in Indonesia. Congress delegates were informed that night of the death of seventeen seminary students during an uprising between the Muslims and Christians. (The words of Tertullian, "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church," came to mind.) ACC must see the needs, have a vision, and join together to reach the least evangelized nations of Asia, challenged Dr. Kim. "Renewal is the cry of the hour", proclaimed Rev. Godfrey Yogarajah, EFA Secretary General. He continued, "Quality rather than quantity...it is not how many missionaries we send out, but rather what type of missionaries we send. As important as the number of churches we plant is, we need to ask ourselves the question, 'What type of churches are we planting? Are our individual lives and the churches we plant impacting and transforming our nations?'" (Pastor Yogarajah is from Sri Lanka.)

"Renewal and Growth—Our Evangelical Pursuit" was the theme. The four-day conference was sponsored by the Evangelical Fellowship of Asia and supported locally by the Korean Evangelical Fellowship (KEF). Three hundred forty-nine delegates gathered from over twenty nations. I was there as the sole representative for JEMA. Sixty-one Japanese delegates comprised

the second largest contingent, only one delegate less than the group from India.

With poverty and violence on the rise in Asia, those present affirmed the need for solidarity through a renewed heart toward Christ Himself.

With further outbursts of violence in Indonesia, Dr. Christ Marantika (one of the founders of the EFA in 1983) had to leave before the Congress was over. A second

(DMZ) to pray. At the request of Korean elders, this trip was arranged in order for Asian brothers and sisters to see how suffering had shaped the Korean church of today. While there, seminary professor Myung-hyuk Kim shared how he had walked across that border when he was eleven and never saw his mother or family again.

The issue of poverty and how to support less financially strong sister churches in Asia was answered in part through a scholarship system funded by KEF and JEA, member bodies of the EFA. KEF paid for all in-country lodging,

food, logistical and transportation costs for the 349 delegates. JEA paid double registration for each of its sixty-one delegates, allowing many of their less affluent brothers and sisters in Christ to attend at a reduced or free rate.

Many pastors and Christian workers came to this Congress specifically for renewal in their personal lives and ministries. This second Asian Congress demonstrated two aspects of the Church in the 21st century. First, the focus has moved from needs, expansion,

and quantity to depth and quality. Second, the Asian church can never be accused of "parroting" the West. Of the entire delegation, only four were from the West. Sang-bok Kim's emphasis was, "Asia is the biggest challenge

for the evangelicals in the world, and the job is ours. Asians must evangelize Asia. Asian leaders must be trained by Asians as well." Despite the gargantuan obstacles the Church faces in Asia, there is much hope. On this note, Rev. Yogarajah closed the Congress with Paul's words from I Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." H



altercation had erupted and thirty Christians, including two pastors, were being cordoned off by Muslims and in need of his help. For the second time during the Congress, delegates bowed in prayer supporting, as one body, the church in Indonesia. Prayer was central to all the meetings. Participants were united as they broke into small informal groups to petition the Lord. Corporate prayer was in English, the common language for everyone. On the third day all delegates rose before 3:00 a.m. to attend a 5:30 prayer meeting in Seoul, one and a half hours away. Our Korean counterparts had much to teach us on the importance of prayer for renewal and growth. On the final day the entire delegation was transported to the 38th parallel, the De-Militarized Zone

Continued from page 3

of bronze, and the legs and feet of iron and clay. The statue “became like chaff on a threshing floor” (vs. 35), its imposing magnificence reduced to rubble. Not a trace of the statue was left. This horrific damage was done by a huge rock that turned into a mountain that filled the earth (vs. 35).

Daniel interpreted this event to picture the downfall of Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom and the three kingdoms that followed his.

The kingdom that followed his was “inferior” to his, as silver is to gold. The third, represented by bronze, gained rule over the world. The fourth, in turn, represented by iron, conquered the world by crushing all opposition into pieces.

Of course, each of the rulers assumed control by their own power—they thought—and therefore was filled with human pride. They did not know Daniel’s secret, that God in heaven allowed them to exercise dominion in the same way He had allowed Nebuchadnezzar to do so. In this vision we see the pattern of human history established, as one dominant power after another rises and falls, first seemingly invincible and then crumbling for one reason or another. Sometimes they succumb to stronger foreign powers, and sometimes they crumble because of inner social and moral weaknesses.

Earthly rulers have used incredible measures—torture, imprisonment, and propaganda—to bring about unity in their kingdoms. In many ways, they have achieved remarkable success, particularly when they control the mass media. But in the end some people will not be taken in. Such minorities suffer grievously—and millions have

been put to death—but in the end such empires crumble.

Daniel thus far interpreted each part of the statue. What remained to be interpreted was the rock that was not cut by human hands (vss. 34, 45). This mighty rock had wiped out the statue. It shattered the iron, bronze, silver, and gold.

In a sports-crazed world, we are fascinated when old stadiums and arenas are reduced to rubble. We destroy these facilities because we want to build bigger and better ones that will bring in more money for team owners and the cities where they locate their teams.

This is a picture of the world’s kingdoms and their rulers. None of them last, even though military leaders promise, “We’ll make ourselves so strong they won’t dare to attack us.” Nations and their leaders seek protection and security above everything else.

Jesus warned us to be careful about how we build our lives. We might think we are as strong as Babylon was, but eventually time will catch up with us. When we think far down the road, we ask: Who will take care of us? What will we have accomplished? Only what we do for Jesus and His kingdom will last forever.

The huge stone represented God’s crushing all earthly kingdoms when He sets up a kingdom “that will never be destroyed.” This climaxed the king’s vision. The God of heaven will establish His kingdom and it will never be superseded. It will not “be left to another people.” His will be the final kingdom.

God’s people, who often suffer cruelly under human kings, know that they will one day enjoy God’s eternal kingdom. His reign will guarantee

them peace and safety. Their faith is anchored in the certainty that one day, like a mighty rock, God will smash all powers and authorities. This is the source of our hope.

While Christians with charity accept these different approaches to prophecy, they agree with Daniel’s main point that God will one day, according to His timetable, establish His unshakable kingdom. In the meantime, we enjoy “a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and . . . an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you” (I Pet. 1:3-4).

Contemporary Application

Daniel’s courageous faith took him not only to Darius’ den of lions but also to Nebuchadnezzar’s court, where he fearlessly told him he was doomed. His kingdom would be smashed and blown away like chaff. We know a lot more about the lions than we do about Nebuchadnezzar’s statue.

Jesus and the apostles insisted that every part of Scripture carries valuable lessons for our instruction. If we ignore prophecy, we miss something that God desires to tell us. Yes, we have to dig and compare Scripture with Scripture. We have many books to help us.

When we ask God to show us not only the meaning of prophecy, but also its application to our lives, we receive strong encouragements to faith and obedience. When God’s big rock smashes all earthly kingdoms, we have to be sure we are not under it, but under the saving protection of Christ’s death, resurrection, and second coming. **H**

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jackets at the doorstep. We wanted a place where students could share traditional Japanese food using chopsticks, and not be concerned about what time they had to leave. God sent wonderful Christian volunteers to help the students feel welcome and to create a favorable atmosphere. Many are missionary candidates or those who once lived in Japan. They speak Japanese to some extent and are sensitive to their cultural heritage. Moreover, it is a safe place for people who are looking for physical helps and asking spiritual questions. They should feel that it is a secure place for them to fail, hurt, struggle, and be honest with each other without fear of rejection. As a result, many realize that relationships are a vital source of maintaining our faith. Of course, it is also a place for those who have decided to follow Jesus and to be part of a community.

As a result of these team efforts, we began to see the spiritual harvest grow.

Here is the testimony of new convert, Yoshi,

who has recently been accepted as a student of a Bible college here.

I came to the United States to study English in March of 2001. In Japan, I had never heard about Christianity except that Jesus was a religious leader who taught what is morally good. I was an atheist. During this time in Columbia, I eventually made several Christian friends and heard the Good News from them. I started attending church and Japanese Bible studies.

It was when my friend told me why people were created that God opened my heart to Him. I was so shocked to hear that God created us because He loves us. That was the first and only answer to my question of why I was born. I believed in God’s existence, but still didn’t “know” Him yet. I continued searching for the truth.

Struggling to put my trust in Jesus Christ, I prayed and asked God to help me know if Jesus was the Son of God and if it was true, as my friend had suggested. I wanted to believe if it were true. Then God

answered through an extraordinary circumstance. I happened to attend a cult religious group’s meeting in Columbia, and was almost forcefully made to become their member. It was a tough time and I didn’t know what to do. All I knew was that I was going totally wrong. I thought I was alone, having to deal with this difficult issue. Then suddenly Jesus came to my mind, and I just cried out for help and trusted Him as my Guide. That was the moment I decided to follow Him. I was filled with peace and joy and couldn’t help but cry. I felt like I had finally met the One that I had always been looking for in my life. Jesus helped me solve the problem with this cult group, and now I walk in the light as God’s child.

*The biggest change that I think has been made within me is that I can love others more easily than before by knowing that God loves and accepts me no matter what I do or think. I still often fail to love, but at least I know the importance of it. I was very self-centered and always thought about my benefit, but now I can think of others’ good and do what honors God with joy. **H***



English Camp: *More than Fun, Food and Fellowship* By Alice Rew

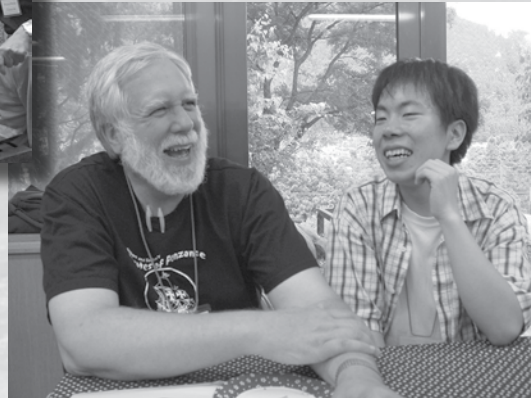
Four days of intensive fun including rafting, volleyball, square dancing, English classes, swimming, games, crafts, informal conversation (both in English and Japanese, best late into the night), barbecues, picnics by the river, singing and Bible study all combined to make it the best camping program I'd ever attended. That was even more surprising given the tiny quarters of the camp. Although it is set in the beautiful mountains overlooking the Tama River valley, it covers scarcely an acre running up the mountainside, compared with the expansive acres of Stateside camps I'd previously attended.

But it was more than facilities and activities that made the difference at Okutama Bible Chalet's Adult English Camp. Any camping program has the factor of drawing people out of their daily routine for a few days, giving campers time for reflection and evaluation. But that sense of "getting away" seemed magnified here, perhaps because of the stressful work situations and intensive culture in Japan. I experienced a friendliness and openness among campers during those four days that I rarely experience with my Japanese friends throughout the year. It was easy to laugh and talk, stumbling along without fear or embarrassment as we communicated in another language. The age barrier was also easily crossed, as teens played games and laughed with retirees around the tables at our homemade "Country Cafe." For four days campers heard God's Word simply explained and discussed their reactions freely. As we laid out futon on the tatami at night, the real conversation began. Relationships deepened as true feelings were expressed and spiritual questions were answered.



As part of a teens/twenties small group discussions each night last July I felt privileged to sit in on amazingly open conversations and get to know 9 young people. One young man appeared to be a natural leader so it wasn't a surprise to find he was class president at his high school. He had made his own personal study of religions to see what good parts of each he might use in his life. One night he told a story about the gods considering how they could hide the truth from humans. It naturally came out in our following discussion that God has given us the Bible because He wants us to know the truth! Another young man had such a shining face—he had just committed his life to Christ two weeks before camp. It was exciting to see his eagerness to study the Bible for the first time.

What happens after that special "window" of openness during camp? Is it all lost as campers slip back into their usual lifestyle and culture again? For many there is a lasting impact. Those who express an interest are connected with churches, Bible studies and English classes in their locale. Counselors continue to pray for and contact their new friends. I continue to have Bible study with two women I met at camp 3 years ago.



And small group camp reunions are often well attended, some even initiated by the campers themselves as a result of the group friendships built at camp.

Will I go to English camp again? You bet I will! It has become the highlight of my year and I

always return to my ministries with renewed enthusiasm and faith after seeing a glimpse of spiritual openness at English summer camp. ❏



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shrine. The song, "White as snow, white as snow, though your sins be as scarlet they shall be white as snow" came to mind. What should have been a crowd of thousands visiting the shrine that holiday had been greatly reduced because of inclement weather.

The prayerwalking team that God raised upon this day was truly special because it was multi-generational and multi-ethnic. About a third were men, the rest were women. Four different mission- sending groups were represented.

Prayerwalkers made their way around the different buildings. They passed by the carving of the three monkeys outside one of the structures. These represent "see no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil." Some have



said that this evil refers to Christianity that it was not to be seen, heard, or spoken of in that day.

Arm-in-arm inside the main worship room of the shrine we gathered close together and prayed fervently for God to free His people. No one bothered us. Our prayers were not interrupted. We had freedom to pray as the Holy Spirit led. Many verses came to mind. Amidst the awful dragon images on the walls around us, Revelation 12:9-11a came to mind: "The great dragon was thrown down out of heaven. (He is that old snake called the devil or Satan, who tricks the whole world.)" The dragon with his angels was thrown down to earth.

Then I heard a voice in heaven saying: "The salvation and the power and kingdom of our God

and the authority of His Christ have now come. The accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accused them day and night before our God, has been thrown down. And our brothers and sisters defeated him by the blood of the Lamb's death and by the message they preached..." The prayer-walking team walked out of the shrine grounds with joy, praising God for His provisions, and for His plan to bring salvation to the Japanese. Among the choruses we sang as we walked back into town were, "Shine, Jesus, Shine" and "Lord We life Your Name on High"! God's spiritual army that day was only eight people strong! But, we could see how His plan was perfect in bringing us together. We were truly one in His Spirit and had His power on that day!

"In their misery they cried out to the Lord, and He saved them from their troubles. He brought them out of the gloom and darkness and broke their chains. Let them give thanks to the Lord for His love and for the miracles He does for people" Psalm 107:13-15, FREE JAPAN'S theme verse. For information: www.freejapan.org

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Other stories and comments:

Over \$30,000 was raised to benefit UNESCO by our charity exhibit "Considering Peace". This type of charity exhibit in a museum has never been done before in Japan! We even had to get permission from the Japanese government, but it was granted. This charity effort was creating quite a stir among museum curators in Japan. We might have begun something completely new for a museum in Japan—bringing artists together as messengers of peace, forming a creative community to gather for a greater purpose. NHK, the Japanese PBS, was so impressed that they highlighted the exhibit in their Sunday morning program (viewed by an estimated 3 million or more viewers).

Gospel Singer Bobby Lewis, from New York, performed at several venues, Tom and Michele Jennings, also from New York along with Steve Sacks (now living in Japan) performed Jazz concerts at local churches and in small clubs. Others in our group from the US and UK also participated in events throughout the Tokyo area. These included performance art, artist cafes, art making demonstrations and children's story-telling. All of these were designed to open up the local churches in various neighborhoods to non-Christians. Relationship building is very important in Japanese society and these events will help to bridge the gap between the local believer and the non-believer in a non-threatening way, through a common love of art.

"Our Christmas CD fits the Japanese image of Christmas, yet it delivers the true meaning of

life. I pray that seeds sown will grow, mature, and multiply."

"I wished all the churches in Japan could have participated in this project. If local Christians from neighbor churches can spare just one day to distribute CDs...not just done by *gaijin* spending time and money. It is true that local churches are very busy with their own Christmas preparation, and don't have much time for additional events. What about going to churches and sharing the vision for this project? We can also give some invitation tickets to Christians, including pastors and leaders, so that this project will gradually penetrate among more Christians." ❧

NO COMPLAINT!

A pastor had on his desk a notebook labeled, Complaints of Members Against Members. When one of his people called to tell him the faults of another, he would say, "Well, here's my Complaint Book. I'll write down what you say and you can sign it. Then when I have to take the matter up officially, I shall know what I may expect you to testify to."

The sight of the open book and the ready pen had its effect. "Oh, no, I could not sign anything like that." And no entry was made.

The minister says he kept the book for forty years, opened it probably a thousand times—BUT never wrote a line in it.

—Copied

The Free Japan Prayer Network site exists to:

- 1) **inform** Christians of God's mighty work in Japan,
- 2) **network** world-wide prayer resources for Japan-focused prayer,
- 3) **mobilize** intercession for the spiritual deliverance of all Japanese and,
- 4) **assist** in the facilitation of Church Planting Movements in Japan resulting in exponential multiplication of new believers, churches and workers. ❧

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

Haruurara – the Sunshine Horse

By Miriam Davis

「きょう、ハルウララが走るよ。」

「それってなんか負け続けている弱い馬だよ。」

Hokkaido Shimbun

“A horse that has never won a single race has captured the hearts of the Japanese.” So said the British ‘Week’ magazine in March 2004, the month that Haruurara, whose name means ‘soft, warm spring sunshine’, lost for the 106th time in as many races. “In the past, such a dismal record would have been considered a disgrace. But times have changed in a nation ravaged by years of economic decline. The country has been moved by Haruurara’s indomitable spirit and Haruurara badges and T-shirts sell all over Japan.”

On the island of Okushiri, Hokkaido, a middle school teacher used a video tape documentary on Haruurara to encourage pupils anxious about their high school entrance exams. The pupils took to heart the importance of doing their best.

「一生懸命努力する

大切さを学んだ」

reported the Hokkaido Shimbun. So impressed were they that they sent fan letters together with local grown carrots and apples to Haruurara. To their delight 2 days before their entrance exams, T shirts printed with the horse’s head arrived and a message from her trainer saying,

「勝ち負けよりも

一生懸命が一番。」

「なぜ、負け続ける馬に人気が集まるのか」asked the Daily Yomiuri on March 23rd.

「周囲の温かさにせん望」

仕事に成功しなくても見捨てられず、いつまでも現場にいられて、周囲に温かく見守れている状況に、サラリーマンからせん望のまなざしが注がれている。リストラが進む中、企業が終身雇用や年功序列を探っていたころの社会が持っていた温かさを懐かしんでいるのではないか。」ノンフィクション作家の吉永みち子さんの話。

「めげずに走る姿に共感」負けともめげずに走るタフさ、牧歌的なまえの良さなど、さまざまな要素が重なったのだろう。できる限り走ってほしい。その姿はファンにメッセージを送り続けているだろうから。」ノンフィクション作家の後藤正治さんの話。

The Hokkaido Shimbun reported that a record number of single betting tickets were sold on the day of Haruurara’s 106th race.

「特に当たらないことから交通安全のお守りになると言われたハルウララの単勝馬券は百二十万枚が販売された。」

And so a horse that never ‘hits the mark’ (ataranai) becomes a talisman to protect people from traffic accidents. People who bought tickets made comments like

「勝たなくてもお守りに」and

「当たるとお守りにならないので勝たないでほしい。」

It is fascinating to see Japanese thought processes here backing up the saying that ‘even a

sardine’s head is a god if you believe’ – 「鰯の頭も信心から」。The latter saying is explained as follows in the Koojien dictionary. 「鰯の頭のようにつまらないものでも、信仰すると、ひどくありがたく思える。」

While we wouldn’t wish to encourage people to consider Haruurara as a lucky charm, there are certain parallels we can draw from her life to illustrate Christian truth. 「負けでも負けても走るハルウララ」reminds me of the words of Paul’s injunction to ‘throw off everything that hindersand to run with perseverance the race marked out for us;’ the race in which the important thing is Jesus and not success in worldly terms; in which by His grace we keep going whatever the odds with the hope of our heavenly home as our goal.

Haruurara is already appearing in commercials. A full colour page advert for SKY PerfecTV appeared with many photos of Haruuraru in a variety of poses and the following text.

「106連敗中の馬が注目されている。どこか負けることを期待しているかのような視線。でもハルウララ自身はひたすら勝つことだけを目指して走り続けている。その澄んだ瞳には、強い意志が満ちている。より広く、より深く、日本に多チャンネル文化を創り出そうと7年、契約数は360万件を越えました。自分に合った方法で、様々なソフトを自由に選んで観る。人とテレビの新しい関係を、これからもスカパーは多彩な視点を提供していきます。」

Looking for a good language school? Want to know if there are refresher courses available anywhere? Perhaps you have a good language helper or are able to attend a good school but you struggle to understand the language of church and ministry. So you need a resource to help you learn religious language, to teach Sunday school, to preach sermons or lead a Bible study. Or perhaps you are frustrated by your lack of freedom to pray from the heart in Japanese? How can you know which of a multitude of web sites will help you in Japanese study? Which of the many language text books or books on Japan in English should you spend your well-earned pennies on?

If you identify with any of the above then we trust that the work of the new JEMA Language and Culture Commission will help you. Formally established as a commission in February 2004 after a year as a committee, the L&C Commission aims “to provide resources to help meet the needs of missionaries in acquiring Japanese language and culture with the emphasis on biblical and church life issues”.

So what work has been done so far?

Recommended language schools

First, we produced a list of 3 language schools with Christian staff, 2 set up specifically to serve missionaries and one prepared to make special conditions for missionary students. This list can be accessed from the JEMA website <http://jema.org/> The green button ‘Language’ on the left of the home page will take you to the list and from there to the websites of Karuizawa Language School and the OMF Japanese Language Centre, Sapporo.

Network of Christian teachers and language helpers

Secondly, we sent out an application form to all the trained Japanese Christian language teachers we knew asking if they would like to register as teachers with JEMA. So far the number of returned applications is small but in future we hope that this will provide a network of teachers around the country that we can recommend. Contact the JEMA office for information about teachers on this list.

We are also hoping to produce a similar list of Christian but not trained language helpers.

If readers know of any suitable Christians who would like to be part of either the teacher or language helper network, then please let the Commission Chairperson know (e mail address below).

Making information about language resources available online

This is a long-term project which will need continual updating but already through the OMF International Japan website a considerable amount of information is available about a great variety of different resources. This can be accessed from the JEMA webpage or directly at www.jp.omf.org/langres

The introductory page explains the contents of the language resources site as follows.

“Resource sheets (lists of books or materials with introductory explanations) are available on the following topics. In some cases a further link from the explanation will lead you to actual materials. Otherwise the explanations will tell you how to get hold of the materials. The resources introduced are from a variety of sources - some are materials produced by OMF, others by other missions or Christian organizations and some are by secular publishers. On these pages you will also find tips of various kinds related to learning Japanese.”

On the introductory page is the list of topics under which information on resources can be found. Click on any of the following to get to the resources explanations, materials or samples.

- Christian
- General texts
- Kanji*
- Listening
- News
- Reading
- Proficiency
- Grammar/reference books/dictionaries
- Proverbs, Idioms, Onomatopoeia etc
- Learner Training
- Japanese Society, History etc
- Internet resources
- Miscellaneous
- OMF Japanese Language Centre course costs

Click on “Christian”, for example, and you find the following list with further links.

- Easy religious language texts

- Sample from Religious Language Supplement
- Christian Life Supplement
- JMLI Church Life Supplement
- Parables text
- Bible courses
- Sermon Course
- Sunday School
- Sermon and message resources
- Bible study materials
- Anderson ‘Steps to Freedom’ (*Kaiho e no steppu*) Workbook Vocabulary list
- Kiso no Manabi* vocabulary list
- Books of the Bible vocabulary lists
- Aids for praying in Japanese
- Talking books
- Annual General Meeting
- Christian videos in language study
- English Conversation Handbook
- Simplified Bible stories for Japanese Language Learners
- Hymn Japanese
- Pastors need prayer too
- 6 Well Known Japanese Christians
- Manga* Japanese Church History

Now suppose you are looking for help in praying in Japanese. Under “Aids to Praying” you will find information about prayer resources for missionaries produced by OMF, JMLI, *Nihon Baputesto Kyokai Rengo* and Miss Kaoru Shimada. Also introduced are some books of prayers written for Japanese adults or children as well as the ‘*Mikotoba* cards’ which have simple prayers on them.

How about taking a look at this website? *Nihongo* Journal, How to train the Japanese to correct you, *Kanji* Gold free download software and information about a host of other resources awaits you there. And do let us know if you have found good resources not covered on the site or if there are other ways in which you think the Language and Culture Commission can help the missionary community in language and cultural acquisition.

For further information contact Miriam Davis, Chair, JEMA Language and Culture Commission and OMF International, e mail: la@omf.or.jp ☞



Translated by
Mizuko Matsushita,
JEMA Executive Office
Secretary.

Let's make the bread!

In efforts to contact people in their neighborhood, over the past five years, a group of women in the Saitama Presbyterian Busshi Christian Church have been making breads and cakes. Little by little pastor Nagayoshi has been adding Bible messages, appropriately given while the bread and cakes bake. Fifteen ladies attend with over half not yet believers. The tract, *The Bread of Life*, has been widely used. One lady said the message of the tract gives her opportunity for reflection. Her relationship with her children has improved! Pastor Nagayoshi hopes that this "gentle" method of sharing truth will give many hope and will help them come through the church door.

World Gospel Festival— November 25, 2005

The World Gospel Festival will be held November 25, 2005 in Tokyo Dome. The Black Gospel boom has opened many doors, even to the possibility of revival in Japan. Rev Okawa, of Calvary Chapel, is the promoter. He recently invited Christian Gospel singers and other groups to come hear his vision. Rev. Paul Lee, Korean pastor, once asked him why the Japanese churches do not recognize (or admit) the reality of the Gospel boom, which God has brought to Japan. The secular world has taken advantage of various "imported" ideas, such as Christmas festivities and the wedding ministry, to mention some. Why doesn't the Church make use of the Gospel boom? Many Japanese are taking courses in Gospel singing and they are being inspired.

The World Gospel Festival will invite famous Christian artists to sing and give testimonies. Some artists include Stevie Wonder and the Clen Show Elite Choir. Well-known musicians Kosaka Chu and Lanny Lucker are working along with Rev. Okawa. Fifty thousand are expected to attend.

Chiisa na Inochi o Mamoru Kai - Pro Life Japan

PLJ celebrated 20 years of ministry! This organization has been working hard for the prevention of abortion, for the arranging of adoptions, and education in the areas of life and sexuality. Mr. Tsujioka, founder and chairman, recently passed his role on to Rev. Mizutani, who had previously refused the chairman position. After his trip to Cambodia, however, where he saw the genocide, he decided to serve for the preservation of human life.

Going Downtown with Gospel Singing

The Jesus Soul Choir had its first live Gospel concert on a shopping street on Easter. They sang 8 songs including *Oh Happy Day* and *This is the Day*. More than 100 people stopped

to listen. The 150 Easter eggs were passed out in no time. People are hopeful that another concert will take place. Nerima Grace Chapel's vision is to serve the community. JSC started in August of 2001 and holds practice session on Wednesdays. Half the members are non-Christian, with 9 being saved as a result of their involvement.

Decape, Music Score in Braille

In 1988, Mrs. Kawamura, a former music teacher, started a volunteer group to produce music scores in Braille. Having seen a documentary on TV, she was inspired to help musicians with auditory handicaps. She took a Braille course for a year before setting out in her project. A group of nine has been working on hymns and other music. Braille music scores need much more space than regular music scores.

Mrs. Kawamura enjoys what she does. Her favorite Bible verse is Luke 6:31, "Just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise." She calls her group Dacapo, which means to come back to the beginning. Mrs. Kawamura's dream is to put as much music into Braille as she can.

Imprinting the BIBLE on the Heart

The Kobe Bible House has a meeting called, *Shakyo Seisho no Tsudoi* or *Meeting to Copy the Words of God*. These meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month and are organized by the Kobe Ichibaku Church. Both believers and non-believers, over 60 years of age, attend. There are 15 to 16 members who try to copy the Bible everyday. These Bible texts compose 22 books. Copying God's Word seems simple enough, and it's in the writing that there is time to meditate. "What a lasting imprint is made on the heart," says one of the KBH members. 卍



Gary Bauman has been in Japan since 1988 with Asian Access Japan (former LIFE Ministries). A minister of music and worship before coming to Japan as a missionary, he has combined his passion for music and ministry by publishing "The Caroling Collection" Japanese/English Christmas songbook and CD. He welcomes visits to his website at www.jmtb.com or e-mails addressed to gbauman@asianaccess.org

Singing a New Song

The Psalmist encourages us to sing new songs to the Lord (Psalm 33:3, 96:1, 98:1, 149:1) — and down through the ages, God's people have been doing just that! Is there a song in your heart for the Lord? Do you have a Japanese friend with a song in his or her heart for the Lord? Although some songs may never be used beyond one person's expression of devotion, others may help the broader Christian community express worship in a new way.

Since writing a great song is both an art and a craft (in many cases consisting of 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration!), what are some of the characteristics that tend to lead to a great worship song for the Christian community?

Lyric – Does the lyric make a statement to God, or about God, in a unique way that promotes or stimulates praise? Is it in theological agreement with the basic tenets of biblical Christian doctrine? Does it address an important topic that may have been overlooked? Whether theologically simple or profound, does it state the topic well? Do the words seem to fall in the right places in the melodic phrase?

Melody – Does the tune have a clear climax? Is it easy to tell where the song is going? Do repeats almost seem self-explanatory? Does the character of the tune seem to tie together well with the theme and content of the words? Are there clear "hooks" (repeated intervals or phrases) that create interest and memorability? Are the intervals easily singable by a group once they have grown accustomed to the melody?

Range – Does the overall range of melody extend no more than about an octave or at the most a 10th? Does it avoid staying in an upper range for extended periods of time, tiring out the voice?

Tempo – Does the tune work well at a speed that seems to be comfortable for singing the words? Does the mood of the

song seem to be enhanced at this tempo?

Memorability – Can people hum the tune? Do they catch themselves singing the words to themselves throughout the day?

Demonstrated effectiveness – Finally, has the song been tested in a group setting, and has it seemed to enjoy favor in one or more congregations? Do people voluntarily choose it to express their worship and praise?

To encourage the broader development of more Japanese worship music, I'd like to take this a step further. You may submit a new song that you think may fit the above criteria through my website at: www.jmtb.com and it will be considered for publication in an upcoming songbook. Perhaps you can encourage any Japanese songwriters in your congregation in this way, or perhaps you have written a song that has been written or translated into Japanese. Please see the website for a fuller explanation of the guidelines, and may God be glorified through an explosion of a new songs of praise in Japan! ✠

In Spirit Of Christian Charity

Friend: So you were asked for an opinion of that amateur's playing. What do you think of it?"

Master musician: "He plays in the true spirit of Christian charity."

Friend: "What do you mean?"

Master musician: "His right hand does not know what his left hand is doing."

taken from Signs of the Times



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WiFi (wireless networking)

MMy sister is a middle school teacher. A few years ago, she was suddenly assigned to be the “science” specialist. She related to me that many nights she was studying the next day’s lesson and was just barely able to keep ahead of the kids. I feel kind of like that with this issue’s article. Just this morning, I finished installing my home wireless network.

The problem is that many of us have 2 or three computers around the house, and we all want Internet access. We also want to be able to print to the one printer in the other room. We know that if we try to run Ethernet cables around the house either the landlord will be mad because of the holes we drilled, or our spouse or roommate will be mad because of the ugly red cables that run down the hall from room to room. The answer is a home, wireless network. Wireless networking has been around for a few years now, but I had never installed one, or even used one until yesterday. Here are a few of the things I’ve learned the last few days.

- 1) There are some disadvantages to going wireless. The equipment is more expensive; if not properly configured, it can make your computer vulnerable to snoopers; it can be finicky and you can get kicked off line. However, with a home wireless network, multiple computers can have access to the Internet, e-mail, share the printer, etc., with no Ethernet cabling needed.
- 2) The next generation of WiFi equipment is coming on strong. The “802.11B” standard is being replaced with the faster “802.11G” standard. The “G” equipment is billed as 5 times faster, but that only applies to transfers of large files from one computer to another, or printing complicated documents to a printer attached to a different computer. Internet browsing speeds are the same with both standards. I bought “B” equipment because it’s really cheap now. I paid \$50 for a wireless router and two laptop cards. That’s about 1/3 of the price of the “G” equipment. I have noticed no slowdown when printing normal documents or e-mail.
- 3) I found the setup took only a couple of hours with one computer and the router, but I had problems with a second laptop. The problem turned out to be an obscure setting that the Toshiba support website identified. However, I was glad that the equipment I bought came with English manuals (yes I’m still on home service). If you purchase in Japan, you might want to see if you can download English software and instructions. Many makers sell in both countries, and this is possible.
- 4) Security is a real issue with wireless networks. Your router

will broadcast a signal beyond the walls of your home, and, without precautions, anyone within range can log onto your home network. However, there are some things you can do to minimize trouble.

- a. Change the router’s default password. Mine was set at “password” and anyone with the same brand router would know this.
 - b. Enable WEP or MAC filtering. This is a level of security that the manual will explain, but basically allows only the 2 or 3 computers in your house, that you have set up, to have access. This is not foolproof, but then no door lock is safe against a dedicated burglar, and we still lock our doors.
 - c. Don’t broadcast the name of your home network (SSID). You can set the router to hide from outsiders the fact that you have a wireless network .
- 5) You will probably set up your main computer next to the router, so it will connect to the router via an Ethernet cable. The routers usually have four ports so that any computers close by can connect with a cable. Any computers not nearby will have to have a wireless card (in the case of notebooks) or an internal card or USB connection. Either will work, but the USB type can be moved to any other computer easily.

An added benefit to having a wireless card installed in your notebook computer is that more and more “hot spots” (public places that allow you to connect to their wireless internet connections) are showing up around the world. In the US, Starbucks and McDonalds are famous for this. Airports are places that you see lots of people checking e-mail, etc.

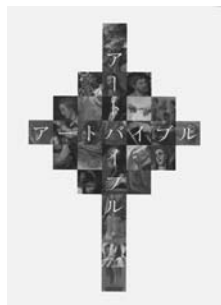
No one wrote me about his/her favorite website, so I guess I’ll put that off for another article. Let me know if you have something you’d like to learn more about, and I’ll try to cover it in a future article. ☺

missionarygeek@yahoo.com



Art Bible

Reviewer: Nancy Sorley and her husband are with the Baptist General Conference and are planting a church in Nara City.



Art Bible

Publisher: Japan Bible Society, 2003, 528 pages

How do you get Japanese interested in reading the Bible on their own? The newly published, *Art Bible* may be just the answer for some.

I had just finished teaching the Old Testament to one of my students who was making plans to visit France. One day she came to class so excited. She showed me one of her art books she was going through in preparation for some of the museums she was going to visit. To her amazement, now as she looked at the art, she could understand the stories behind the pictures of Abraham, Moses, David, John the Baptist, etc. She was thrilled to know that the Bible had so much influence on art. When I told her about the *Art Bible*, she ordered one right away. More and more of my students are asking for one.

The *Art Bible*, published last year by the Japanese Bible Society, contains 528 pages of 325 full-color world famous works of art. It includes works by 146 different artists from the 15th to the 17th century. Starting with Genesis, it chronologically depicts famous stories from the Old and New Testaments. Most of the stories are illustrated by several artists.

For each story, the Bible passage is given from the *Shinkyodoyaku (Common Bible)* so it is easy to understand. As the reader studies the pictures he can read the passage that goes along with it. In this way he can see how each artist interprets the passage, and also see how the art compares to the actual story. Along with each work of art is the name of the artist, the date and materials used in the work, and the place where it is displayed. Except for the English title of each section, the book is entirely in Japanese. Some readers may be offended at some of the nudity, especially in the Old Testament.

For Japanese, like my friend, who like to visit museums in Europe, there are handy indexes in the back. One is for each artist in the book and another is for the countries and museums where the art work is displayed. I agree with my student who said, "It's a bargain for 2,800 yen."

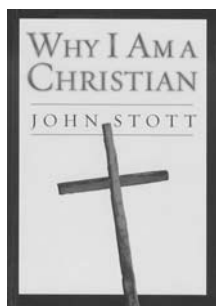
gives 6 reasons why he is a Christian—all appropriately centered on Christ. Stott begins with the "Hound of Heaven," Christ's relentless pursuit of lost sinners. Christ helps us to understand ourselves and in Him we find the fulfillment of our deepest needs and longings. He concludes with a moving exposition of Matthew 11:28-30—an invitation to the reader to respond to "the greatest of all invitations" from Christ Himself. Stott sums it up like this: "He who claims to be both Son of God and savior and judge of humankind now stands before us offering, if only we come to him, fulfillment, freedom and rest. Such an invitation from such a person cannot lightly be dismissed. He waits patiently for our response."

Stott's classic *Basic Christianity* has helped many consider the claims of Christ. I think that this more personal book will be even more effective in helping others to understand the Good News about Christ.



Why I Am A Christian

Reviewer: Don Schaeffer with his wife, Hazel, serves with the C&MA planting a church in Kawaguchi. Don and Hazel came to Japan in 1984.



Why I Am A Christian

John Stott, InterVarsity Press, 2003, 140 pages

In his most recent book, John Stott provides a compelling case for following Christ. This short book can easily be read in a few hours and is an ideal book to give to seekers. Stott



Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age

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



Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age

Ed Stetzer, Broadman and Holman Publishers, 2003, 365 pages

This book fills its title as the latest on church planting thinking in North America. It has already become a key book for educating church planters. Those who endorsed the book look like a Who's Who of church planting experts. These include names like Logan, Gibbs, Hesselgrave, Malphurs, and even Steve Childers. Some of you may remember Dr. Stetzer. He came to teach at the 2001 CPI conference. He recruits and trains church planters for the Southern Baptists in the US. I think anyone interested in church planting would benefit from this book. There is something

here for everyone: theology, missiology, practical tips, how to be relevant, evangelism, and the like. There are six sections: the basics, what is new church life, cultures and models (including postmodernism), the nuts and bolts of church planting, how to start a church off right, and multiplication. But this is not a typical book on church planting. There are even chapters on ethnic church planting, lay leadership, house

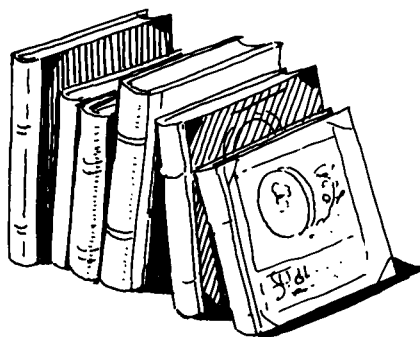
churches, and church planting movements.

I think the most helpful part for church planters and workers in Japan are the sections on mission theology and ministry relevance. There are many principles and ideas to glean from the more practical sections.

This book is also loaded with references to resources, including books, materials, and the Internet. I found the chapters related to

postmodernism very helpful in understanding our context in Japan, which is really “pre-modern-postmodernism.”

My favorite quote from the book is: “Any book on church planting must be a book about missions” (page 13). This is both a book about missions and church planting. I would recommend it to you. 卍



Essential Resources from the JEMA Church Planting Institute

CPI is committed to providing inspiring and quality resource materials to church planters. Here is a short list of recommendations based upon the CPI vision statement:

Advancing God's kingdom by mentoring leaders to be part of a movement that is multiplying churches that are multiplying disciples through the power of the Gospel.

Advancing God's Kingdom

Japan Evangelism magazine, Vols. 1 and 2 (bilingual edition: English and Japanese)

Key articles include: Paul Hiebert's "Missions and Renewal of the Church"; "Church Multiplication Through Networking" by Hiroshi Kawasaki and others.

Unseen Face of Japan

(by David C. Lewis)

Examines the social pressure to participate in Buddhist/Shinto animistic rites.

Overcoming Spiritual Barriers in Japan

by Keith Webb Prayer guide included.

Mentoring Leaders

Cross-Cultural Connections (by Duane Elmer)

One reviewer finds, "...much that can be ap-

plied to those of us working in Japan, including insights regarding attitudes and skills necessary for openness (how to be approachable), acceptance (how to be positive), and trust (how to build strong relationships). Sharpens our self-awareness and helps us to look more objectively and receptively at our adopted culture."

Multiplying Churches

Church Planting Movements (by David Garrison)

Key elements of a church planting movement.

Natural Church Development

(by Christian Scwartz) Essential qualities of healthy churches.

Summary Booklet "ABC's of NCD".

A practical "Implementation Guide" is also available.

Multiplying Disciples

Cultivating a Life for God (by Neil Cole)

Small groups that foster spiritual transformation and multiply.

Power of the Gospel

Transforming Power of the Gospel (by Steve Childers)

Basic reading for all CPI members. Also, included in CPI's Japan Evangelism Vol. 1 No.1.

Discipline of Grace

(by Jerry Bridges)

This will transform your thinking about the relevance of God's grace to your ministry and personal life. Available in Japanese.

The Gospel for Japan Today

(by Bruce Young)

Bound by moralistic or relativistic grids rather than renewed by the Gospel? Young shares principles for walking in line with the truth of the Gospel. Also in Japan Evangelism Vol. 2 No. 1.

Thoughts Along the Way

(by Elaine Mehn)

A Gospel-centered devotional which continues to challenge and encourage.

For more on these and other resources such as CPI Conference manuals, workbooks, videos, tapes, and CDs check with the JEMA (CPI) office. Lists and prices are available there.

Don't forget CPI internet opportunities. Check out the CPI Web page at: <http://jcpi.net>. And sign up for on-line discussion forums through the JCPI Network. 卍

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October 4, 2004–February 25, 2005

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| • N. T. Survey | Rev. Serata |
| • History of Doctrine | Rev. Shimada |
| • Theology Survey | Rev. Ito |
| • O. T. Survey & Thought | Rev. Nishi |
| • Homiletics | Rev. Fujiwara |
| • Psalms | Rev. Hatori |
| • Reconciliation | Rev. Kanemoto |
| • Hermeneutics | Rev. Yamaguchi |
| • Pentateuch | Rev. Kawamura |
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Sleeping Giants Come Alive at OBI! A Place of New Discoveries

By Rev. Dr. John Y. Masuda, President

“OBI responds to the Age of Lay People & Women” were the catchwords of the very first OBI brochure, 1991. Looking back, we are amazed at our boldness. At the same time, we realize that it reflected the pervasive feelings of the day. These days we hesitate to use that kind of wording. Instead, we say, “We aim toward equipping lay leaders who will share in the 21st century mission of the church.”

A Refreshing Re-Discovery:

Any keen reader of the New Testament finds that the disciples of Jesus were four fishermen, one tax collector, one Zealot, and men whose backgrounds are unknown. With the exception of Judas Iscariot, the traitor, all these men were from Galilee. No one was a religious leader. The Lord used very ordinary people to carry out the extraordinary privilege of proclaiming the Gospel. Of course, we have to realize that they all sat under the Greatest Teacher to ever live, and that for three years. Those three years accomplished far more than the three years in today's seminaries. Yet, the truth remains that the disciples did not come from established religious institutions of their time.

Through our 13 years of working at OBI the Lord has impressed us with an increasing realization that He is calling and raising up ordinary laymen and laywomen. We are indeed equipping “the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12).

An Exciting Discovery of the Challenging Conditions Facing Churches & the Role of OBI:

These days alarming voices are being heard about churches without pastors, and Bible schools and seminaries with fewer and fewer students. It goes without saying that alarming voices will become alarming realities eventually. It is not only pastors who are alarmed, but the laity is becoming concerned too. Providentially, the Lord has brought OBI into existence in the context of pressing needs. We humbly submit to our commitment to be a channel in His hands to meet the challenges of the present critical situation. God is using OBI as a catalyst for His work!

A Heartening Discovery of a Ladder from Timidity to Confident Maturity:

From the early days of OBI we have been bombarded with the following inquiries: “Do you think I can keep up with others in the study? I think I'd better register in the auditing course. I have no confidence in my ability to study.” Repeated so often by so many these inquiries have become stereotype. Yet, these questions are painfully real to those asking them. We always reassure our students and let them move ahead at their own speed. So to speak, they climb with painful hesitation. It is a joy to see them slowly become confident in their studies. It is great to see their faces brighten as they succeed. Common to all is that they are highly motivated to serve the Lord and the Church.

An Inspiring Discovery of Human Resources Among Lay People:

“We desire to continue to study as long as we live and are able to commute.” These are not the words of lip service, but they are the expression of the sincere attitudes of lay people. They asked us to open a graduate course with an emphasis on research and reporting. Twenty-three students are now in this course! Four students are in their eleventh year, coinciding with the courses' inception. Sheer length of involvement produces a sense of belonging and community. Some of the graduates have become members of the Board, exercising their expertise in OBI management and finance. Moreover, some have become members of a project team developing a new department, a correspondence course.

Conclusion:

What started on a very small scale of simply providing opportunities has now become a more fully developed institute. OBI is providing equipped lay ministers to churches and denominations. OBI is producing coworkers for pastors. We continue to commit ourselves to train “a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth,” (II Timothy 2:15). 卍

POTPOURRI & PROMISES

Garden Venue for: DEFEAT— TEMPTATION— VICTORY! By Janice A. Kropp

Why in a garden? Victory in a garden I can see. Wouldn't arid, mysterious places have been more likely a setting for two of the three pivotal happenings of history? Evil goes with unlikely places—a vicious storm, a dark alley, a lonely desert, or a craggy mountainside. Why the garden? Could it be that the great angel of "light" always seeks advantage—summer's gentle breeze—candle's heat under the aroma oil—soft music in a comfortable room?

Garden #1: At about noon...

Remember that lovely first lady Eve? Perhaps it was the very spot in the garden where she always came to relax that she first encountered the angel of "light." Something took her to the center of the garden that horrible, drastic day. Maybe she loved caring for the iris patch dressed in their delicate colors of white, purple, and wine. It might have been a still, cool June day that found her there thinking, resting, and praying. Perhaps she loved the soothing sound of the stream as it rippled in sweet tunes of love and grace. Maybe she went there to gather strawberries clustered on little stems bending to the ground. Perhaps she craved their sweetness before the birds chipped away their glorious goodness. Could it be that on her way to her husband, relaxing not too far away, that she simply wanted to pick an orchid to grace her flowing hair? I really don't know why she was where she was on that day, but she was carefree, happy, in love with God and spouse. It was a garden venue.

She had walked by those two trees in the garden a million times. Seems to me that their placement had been intentional. Daily she must have seen their fruit as she went about her duties, but never mind, for the one was "off limits" while the other brought great delight in its taste—delicious fruit from the tree of life.

On this day she met a creature. The Bible notes

say, "one of God's good creatures." (There goes that angel of "light.") And the creature spoke to her. Surprise! Do creatures speak? Well, this one did. Who, what, how? Can't you just imagine how her mind must have raced? This was not Adam's voice, neither was it God's. Startled by the unfamiliar voice, Eve stopped, looked, and listened. Apparently the good creature didn't look scary or weird. Eve didn't seem to be frightened. Most probably she had seen the creature many times before for everyone and everything was in that garden venue, was it not? It was what the creature said that pulled Eve "in". I can just imagine Eve cocking her head as she ran her fingers through her flowing hair. Knowing well God's requirements, there was something that made her stop, think and act. She was convinced that there was "more" she needed to know. Oh, why didn't Eve stop to think that this news wasn't coming from the Communicator Himself? At any rate, she reached out and—the lights went out; innocence vanished; human hearts were severed from their Maker; the whole earth was thrown into confusion, selfishness, godlessness, with all hell breaking loose. Satan had accomplished it. He seduced the perfect human race. What a strike to Almighty God! (Remember, Satan was thrown out of heaven—cast to earth. Remember, God put man in charge of His creation? Satan was out to kill.)

Question: Have I been tempted in a garden venue? When ministry is going well, we could liken it to a garden. Does selfish pride invade my heart thinking I have been such a great agent for God? When I am in demand for one thing or another, do I find it hard to defer to another? Do I claim my laurels? Have I slapped the face of God recently?

Garden #2: After supper...

God made the first garden. Man made the second

and third. The Garden of Gethsemane was in among the olive groves located to the east outside the Jerusalem wall. It was a good walk from downtown Jerusalem. If you have never been to the Holy Land it would be hard for you to visualize, but this is an arid land yet beautiful trees grow around the cities, and this olive grove, for Jesus, was a safe place for rest, prayer and time alone. It is interesting to note that the word Gethsemane means "oil press," a place for squeezing the oil from olives. How appropriate to find the Son of Man struggling in such a place. The Word does not tell of the appearance of Satan at this time, but could you imagine his missing an opportunity to deter the suffering Lamb of God? Mel Gibson, in his film, *The Passion of the Christ*, brings Satan right to Jesus. His haunting presence tries to deter the Christ with such suggestion as, "It cannot be done by one—ever." After all, the blood of sheep, cows, and goats had flowed like a river for hundreds of years—how now could the blood of one be enough? Satan knew much, but he did not know enough. He would try yet again to foil God's plan for the ages and deal God Almighty another slap.

The suffering of Christ, in the Garden of Gethsemane, is beyond our minds' ability to comprehend. Hebrews 5:7 records, "He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission." In Luke 22:43ff we read, "An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground." Immediately following Jesus' struggle in prayer, Satan does arrive planting the traitor's kiss on the cheek of the Holy One. From this moment on Satan's rage incites the crowds, hardens the hearts of the priests, confuses the minds of

the rulers, unjustly releasing the rotten criminal Barabbas, and on and on.

In the garden the battle had raged, and although Jesus asked for reconsideration (Can I not drink this cup?), He did not flinch from His purpose. He knew why He had come and He headed for the cross—the only way for mankind to return to God. Jesus was not afraid of dying, nor did He fear suffering. What He dreaded most was becoming sin, meaning for the first time ever He would experience a “broken” relationship with His Father. That thought was almost too much for Jesus to bear! Out of the Garden they took Him, as an innocent Lamb headed for slaughter.

Question: Have you or I ever waged a vicious garden battle? Did the battle take us to the ground in defeat? Did our wounds ever heal? Did we find Jesus’ strength and healing enough for our need? Did our defeat and slow recovery deal slaps to our Savior’s face?

Garden #3: Very early in the morning...

This brings us to the other garden—the tomb site of Joseph of Arimathea. The Bible places this tomb in a garden setting (John 19:41). As a fifteen-year-old, I visited the locations in Jerusalem where Jesus suffered, and we also visited His burial place. The tomb was in a garden with a Christian caretaker. Scripture records that Mary thought Jesus was the gardener when He appeared to her on the day of resurrection. It was a most special location! When I was there, we were able to go into the tomb—a quiet, cool place. The stone was there, too, but now only a small fraction of what it once was—years of wear and tear. Flowers were in bloom—it was such a holy, blessed, quiet spot outside the city of Jerusalem.

Joseph had just cut out of rock his own new tomb (Matthew 27:60). He was a member of the Council; he was a good and upright man (Luke 23:50). The words, “he was waiting for the kingdom of God” hints, that he, like Nichodemus, was a secret believer. We only hear of him this once, but how interesting that two secret believers place the body of the Christ in the new tomb. Those days the bodies of criminals were left unburied or at best placed in a pauper’s field. A relative might ask for the body, but a member of the Council (notes in NIV Study Bible)? Not only was Jesus’ body taken from the cross, but it was also wrapped in “a clean linen cloth” (Matthew 27:59). In John we read, “Taking Jesus’ body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen” (John 19:40). Just previous in verse 39 we read that Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloe, about 75 pounds or 30 kilograms. Wow! The cold, damp tomb was a fragrant, dark place

for three short days. Then the light of Heaven broke the solitude and silence, and the Savior of the world arose in victory!

Question: In our missionary experiences have we seen the resurrection power of the Eternal God in life changing ways? Are we alive within our souls? Is there the fragrance of the Risen Lord in our daily lives? Garden victories bring smiles of joy to Jesus’ face!

The struggle of the ages started in a garden and ended in one. I love the way God tells His story. Blessed Lamb of God. And to think that today He sits at the right hand of God the Father, in human form, praying for you and for me—yes, for this nation of Japan! I want to shout, “Victory is God’s! Victory is ours! Bless the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!” What a blow to Satan, yet with crushed head he still thrashes about. There will be no more gardens, only a King’s reign—a venue to surpass any garden imaginable. We’re on our way! Let’s take with us as many Japanese as we possibly can. There is enough “LIGHT” here now to turn this nation right side up!

Not so Funny or Unusual:



Two little boys were gazing at a donkey. Jimmy said, “He must be a Christian.” Johnny, puzzled, asked, “What do you mean?” “Well,” says Jimmy, “He has such a long face.”



This issue’s Promise:

“Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven...” Colossians 1:21-23.

Thanking God for You!

Grandma’s Glasses

A little boy said to a playmate: “When I get older I want to wear glasses just like Grandma wears. She must have a special kind because she can see much more than most people.

She can see when folks are hungry or tired or sorry, and she can even see what’ll make them feel better.

She can see how to fix a lot of things to have fun with, and she can see what a feller meant to do, even if he didn’t do it right.

She can see when a feller is about to cry and she can see what to do to make him feel better.

I asked her one day how she could see so good, and she said it was the way she learned to look at things as she got older. So when I get older I want a pair of glasses just like Grandma’s so I can see good too.”

Fix the Bike First

Dr. Howard Hendricks had come home from the University and had only a few minutes to get dressed for a dinner speech that evening. As he drove in the driveway, he was his son anxiously waiting for Dad to come home and fix his bike. Hendricks notified the chairman he would be late, slipped on his old clothes, and worked on the bike. He was late for the dinner—but, his boy—now grown—holds that as his fondest memory.

To A Father Who Was There

You were there when I was little
To soothe my childhood fears;
There with love and wisdom
To enrich my growing years.

When I came to you with problems,
You helped me work them out;
You were the one who taught me
What life was all about.

You were there to show your pride
On graduation day;
There to bless my marriage
And give the bride away.

It seems that you have always played
A most important part
In all the happy moments
I hold within my heart.

Now I have a little one
Who climbs upon your knee
And listens to the stories
You used to tell to me.

And I’m happy you are here
To soothe her childhood fears
And use your love and wisdom
To bless her growing years.

Alice E. Chase

Only a Father Will Do

Only a father could understand

The special things his children have planned,
Only a father can share, it seems,

The vision and challenge of loftiest dreams,
When encouragement's needed or questions arise
And you need to find someone who's strong
and wise,

Someone who sees you with love in his eyes,
Only a Father Will Do.

A Portrait of A Mother

MOM, you are the salt of the earth.

More valuable than precious stones.
You made our house into a home.

You have touched each life with your gentle
loving hands.

You encourage us always to be the best we can.

Without you, our lives would be void and
empty.

Thank you MOM for taking your job seriously.

Your husband & children indeed arise and call
you blessed.

Deborah Hymn Gladwell

There's Nothing Like a Boy, Unless It's a Girl

The frilly little dresses of colors soft and light

The tiny little features so pleasing to the sight
Their little ways of doing things gentle yet with

might

Reminds me that there is nothing like a boy,
unless she's a girl.

She too can throw a ball and swing a bat

She often loves to wear a hat

She loves to bike, even falls flat

She reminds me that there is nothing like a
boy, unless she's a girl.

Her hair worn long with braids or short

Her little opinion strong can retort

Her mind made up brings me to resort

There is nothing like a boy, unless it's a girl.

These little darlings will someday be

Miniature reflections of you or me

Raising them right is sure to be

A reminder to me that: There's nothing like a
boy, unless she's a girl.

Janice Kropp

What's a boy like?

A boy is nature's answer to that false belief that
there is no such thing as perpetual motion. A boy
can swim like a fish, run like deer, climb like a
squirrel, balk like a mule, bellow like a bull, eat
like a pig—all according to climatic conditions.
He is a piece of skin stretched over an appetite. A
noise, covered with smudges. He's like a tornado
because he comes at the most unexpected times,

hits the most unexpected places and leaves every-
thing a wreck behind him. He is a growing dy-
namo of superlative promises, to be fed, watered,
and kept warm, a joy forever, a periodic nuisance,
the problem of our times, the hope of a nation.

Children's Day

Some say that children can't be won

They're much too young to know
The saving and keeping power
Of Him who loves them so.

They who speak have never known

The joy of children won—
The way they trust, the way they love
Jesus Christ the Son.

Our gracious Lord makes no mistakes

When He bids children come.
He knows their hearts are opened wide
To enter as His home.

All those who doubt remember not

The Holy Spirit's power.

He is not limited by time,
By age, by years, by hour.

If you would know the fullest joy

A Christian life can bring,
Start now to seek the little ones,
And bring them unto Him. **h**



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translator joins Ernest in treating wounds of defeated Japanese soldiers that the captors would have turned away.

The movie ends with scenes of the real Ernest Gordon and the Japanese translator re-united as old men at the site of the camp. Director is son of YWAM founder. Scriptwriter a committed Christian. DVD contains "the making of the movie" with fascinating discussions of themes by actors, including the Japanese actors, director and staff.

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