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FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Official publication of the Evangelical Missions Association of Japan

Tokyo, Japan

March, 1952.

WHAT IS THE E.M.A.J.?

THE E. M. A. J. is an organization for co-operation between all evangelical missionaries in Japan, standing unreservedly for fellowship in the Spirit, and correspondingly the abstinence from every appearance of evil.

THE E. M. A. J., although in hearty sympathy with other organizations for evangelical co-operation, is not officially linked with any of them, either in America or Japan, and is in no way committed to policies set by other inter-mission organizations.

THE E. M. A. J. is seeking to maintain a united testimony among evangelical missionaries in Japan, but at the same time recognizes the distinctive doctrines and policies of the various groups. It is not the purpose of the Association to interfere with the activities of any co-operating Mission. The one requirement for membership in the E. M. A. J. is a whole-hearted agreement with the organization's strongly evangelical Statement of Faith.

THE E. M. A. J., through deeper life conferences and regular fellowship gatherings, strives to encourage Scriptural and spiritual fellowship among evangelical missionaries.

THE E. M. A. J., through publications and other means, purposes to gather and disseminate information that will be helpful and inspiring to all evangelical missionaries.

SIXTY-SIX SOCIETIES

According to the latest figures available, there are now sixty-six evangelical societies working in Japan. May the Holy Spirit bind us all together in holy, aggressive love—for His glory and the salvation of lost souls.

"ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS"

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; as the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for THERE THE LORD COMMANDED THE BLESSING, even life for evermore. (Ps. 133).

THE INCOME TAX PROBLEM

The E. M. A. J. Executive Committee, together with several other interested missionaries, has been thoroughly investigating the income tax question as it affects missionaries. Several conferences have been held with competent tax officials, and a great deal of helpful information has been gathered. This information is available upon request.

COMITY AND FIELD INFORMATION

We are hoping to be able to publish in subsequent editions of this publication a complete survey of evangelical missionary work in Japan. Many requests have come to the E. M. A. J. for such a survey, showing the location of present missionary personnel, the areas in which the various missions are working, and the relatively untouched areas.

Letters have been sent to the various societies requesting the necessary information for this survey. If you can supply any facts that would be helpful, it will be greatly appreciated if you will pass these facts on to the Committee. (Address your letter to: Box 985, C. P. O., Tokyo).

MEET YOUR OFFICERS!

Here are the members of the E. M. A. J. Executive Committee for 1952:

President: Rev. Francis B. Sorley (Baptist General Conference of America)

Vice-President: Rev. Kenneth G. McVety (The Evangelical Alliance Mission)

Secretary: Miss Mae Vincent (Far Eastern Gospel Crusade)

Treasurer: Rev. F. D. Savage (Oriental Missionary Society)

Members: Rev. J. J. Clement (General Council of the Assemblies of God)

Rev. Charles E. Pierce (Child Evangelism Fellowship)

Rev. D. Elwyn Davies (Assemblies of God—Great Britain)

OUR CONSTITUTION

Preamble

WHEREAS, it is the express purpose of our Heavenly Father, to call out of the world a saved people who shall constitute the body or church of our Lord Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone; and

WHEREAS, the members of the body, the church (ecclesia) of Jesus Christ, are so enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship, council, and instruction in the Word of God and the work of the ministry, therefore be it

RESOLVED that we recognize ourselves a co-operative missionary body of evangelicals in Japan.

Name

The name of the Association shall be "The Evangelical Missions Association of Japan."

Purpose

This association shall be established as a non-profit, religious, educational and charitable corporative fellowship devoted to the propagation of the Christian faith and to provide a means of unified action and co-operation under the guidance of the Holy Scriptures in any of the following activities:

1. (a) Promotion of Christian fellowship; (b) Promotion of field comity; (c) Provision of field information; (d) Any other activity which may be adopted by this association not in conflict with the laws governing voluntary religious and educational corporations.
2. Representation before government, when necessary.

Statement of Faith

1. We believe the Bible, as originally given, to be the verbally inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God. (II Tim. 3:16, II Peter 1:21).
2. We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Deut. 6:4, Isa. 43:10, 11, I Tim. 2:5, I Cor. 8:4, Matt. 28:19).
3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. (John 1:1, John 1:18, Heb. 1:8, I Cor. 15:3, 4, I John 5:20, Tit. 2:13).

4. We believe that all men are sinners and that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. (Rom. 3:23, John 3:7, Luke 24:46, 47, Rom. 10:9, 10, John 1:12, 13, 1 Pet. 1:18, 19, 23).

5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. (Tit. 3:5, Gal. 5:22, 23, I Thess. 5:23, 24).

6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation. (John 5:23, 29, Rev. 14:11, Rev. 20:11-15).

7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom. 12:5, I Cor. 10:17, Gal. 3:23, John 17:21, Eph. 4:13).

Membership

Membership in this association shall consist of individuals who subscribe to the constitution and who have paid the membership fee or annual dues as prescribed in the by-laws.

Missionary societies and organizations who desire to become members as such may be admitted upon favourable action by the Executive Committee as determined in the by-laws. Prospective members and member societies may apply to the association in session, or to the Executive Committee as provided in the by-laws.

(Other sections of the constitution and by-laws, dealing with officers, committees, voting, etc., have been omitted because of lack of space).

The following revision in the annual dues is under consideration:

When joining as an individual, ¥ 500 per year.

When joining as a group, ¥ 400 per year (per person).

This is YOUR publication—let's make it a good one! Have you any suggestions for a name for this paper? Have you any suggestions to offer as to its contents or policies? Send them along to any member of the Executive Committee and they will be gratefully received. We would like especially to receive reports of your work that would be of interest to evangelical missionaries in general.

“STAND FAST IN ONE SPIRIT WITH ONE MIND STRIVING TOGETHER FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL.” (Phil. 1:27).