

JAPAN HARVEST

Japan Evangelical Missionary Association

Fall 1993

Is this Japan's hour? Many are hard at work to call the whole nation to Jesus. Lord, have mercy on Japan!



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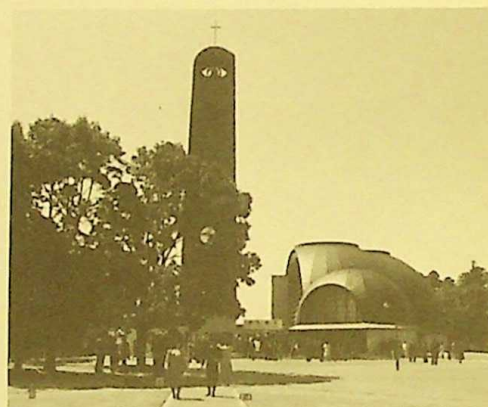
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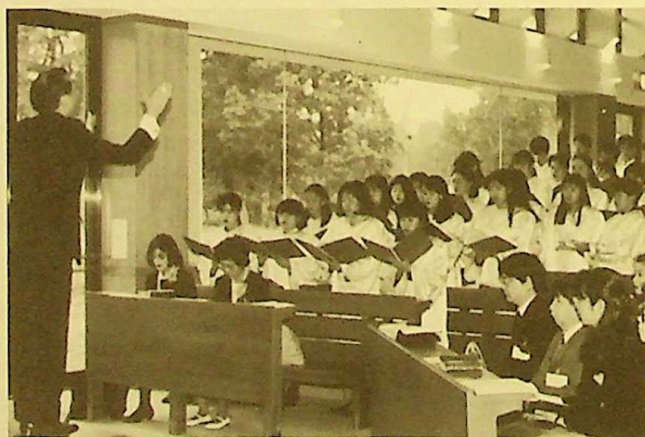
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JAPAN HARVEST

Volume 43, No. 2/ Fall 1993

In This Harvest ...

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Ken McVety, Guest Editor

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JEMA

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Many things have changed in Japan since Olive and I first set foot on these shores in 1949. Then, rice was rationed, buses and cars ran on charcoal (really!). The country was just pulling itself out of the devastation of World War II.

And the condition of the churches was equally dismal. It was reported that there were fewer than 2,500 Protestant churches—and that 85% of these were non-evangelical in persuasion. Today, the Church Information Service reports that the number of churches has risen to 7,293, and a review of the 163 denominations or associations going to make up this number clearly shows to my understanding that the great majority, especially of the newer churches, is now made up of evangelical churches.

As we look back over the forty-four years we have lived and worked in Japan, we marvel at all that God has done. And we rejoice that God has been pleased, in His marvellous grace, to have included us and the Word of Life Press Ministries as part of what He was doing among Japan's people.

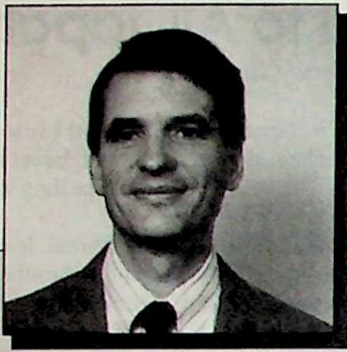
It is especially noteworthy that the evangelical community in Japan has grown and developed to the place where two major city-wide Crusades could be launched within the coming few months, and that each is seeking to reach out as a witness to the entire nation.

After having been deeply involved with *Japan Harvest* in its earliest days, I am happy to return to share in this one edition—forty years later. It has been a joy to work with a number of very competent writers in exploring various aspects of "Crusade Evangelism" and the place it has had in the development of Japan's church over the past forty or more years.

Personally, I come away from this review of God's working over these years with the conviction that we have seen just the beginning, the launching pad for the greater things God has in store for His church in Japan and for the nation. The days ahead are as bright as the promises of God.



Ken and Olive McVety on the pier in Victoria, B.C., Canada, from which they left for Japan in 1949. The McVetys are TEAM missionaries. He serves as President of Word of Life Press Ministries, and Director of Megumi Chalet, along with many other leadership responsibilities. On August 26 he underwent by-pass heart surgery, and is recovering well.



JEMA Windows

Barry Potter
JEMA President

THE SMALL, QUIET CORNER

"We need someone to bring the Sunday morning message," the voice on the other end of the telephone said. "Our church retreat is coming up. We're in the process of finalizing our program, and we need your help."

I already knew this would be the first such retreat in the church's short history. The missionaries in charge were naturally concerned that it be a success, and were praying and planning through each detail.

I also knew the retreat would be held in a picturesque setting, along a beautiful stretch of coastline. Although I would be very busy during that period, yet I already knew what my answer would be before my caller finished asking the question. I felt the privilege of being asked to be a speaker, knowing the concern of the church that everything go well at the retreat. Familiar with the area, the vision of a weekend away from the summer heat of the city, filling my lungs with the fresh, tangy air of the seaside, was also a tremendous draw. I wouldn't have to be given time to think about it—I was ready with my response!

In the few seconds it took for all of these thoughts to pass through my mind, I hardly heard the voice as it continued. "Anyway, not everyone will be able to attend the retreat, so we need a speaker back at the church in case anyone comes. Would you be willing?"

"To speak back at the church?" I replied weakly, as my mind sought to make a quick adjustment.

"Yes," he said.

I hardly heard his words as he went on with a further explanation of what would be required should I agree. The sight of breakers crashing on the white sand slowly faded from my mind. The tangy salt air dissipated into thin air just as quickly as it had appeared only seconds

earlier. The mental picture of me standing before the people at their special, first-ever retreat, sharing important spiritual truths that would change their lives—that picture also slowly faded.

In its place another picture forced its way into my mind: the picture of fellow missionaries seeing my abilities mainly suitable as "filler" material—when no harm could be done anyway. Amazing how, in the space of just a few seconds, I could have been elevated (in my own thinking) to renowned conference speaker, and then just as suddenly reduced to lowly church door-stop. Would I be willing? As the last faint mist from the seashore disappeared from sight, I said, "I'll be happy to." Happy to be a door-stop? To function as an alternative to a cassette tape? To serve the Lord in a small, quiet corner?

My answer sprang from an incident that occurred less than two months earlier, when I found myself searching for a church on a Sunday morning in Singapore. I lost my way and was late when I finally arrived. I had heard it was a big church, but wasn't prepared for the massive building I found when I got there. However, something was very strange: the doors at the main entrance were locked. Locked? I looked at my watch. It was Sunday, 10:00 a.m.,—and according to the sign, there should be a service in progress.

I asked a bystander if this was really a church—or whether I was at the wrong door. The church, he said, seated only 1,700 people, and was full. If they didn't lock the doors, people would push their way in and create a fire hazard.

Only 1,700 people? "When is the next service?" I asked. "12:00," came the answer. That would be the third service of this day. The fourth would be at 2:00. Incredible. There was nothing else to do but settle down on the steps, shaded from the lethal Singapore sun, and wait for noon. But I wondered who would really attend a service that began at noon and ended about 2:00.

The answer came as I saw first a few

people, then larger groups, and then hundreds of people begin to clog the small street outside, waiting for the next service to begin. It was a sight worth seeing.

I found out later that the church's strength is in its cell groups meeting in homes. Faithful cell group leaders have made the church what it is. The real strength of the church lies in the willingness of hundreds of people to serve quietly and faithfully as "unsung" heroes in their own quiet corner.

With Koshien and the Billy Graham Mission soon upon us, we are thinking much about mass evangelism. But such undertakings fail miserably without the cooperation of hundreds of us. We must serve the Lord faithfully as we relate Christ to the few people in our own circles of influence, with the same integrity and determination as if we ourselves were called upon to speak to thousands. In my case, it was the willingness to speak as if to a packed church—when actually facing lots of empty chairs. It is simply being faithful in OUR SMALL QUIET CORNERS—wherever they may be. □

JEMA News

Coming Events

Discipling for Reproduction

Rev. Yuzo Matsuki,

Blair Carlson

Oct 4, 9:15-4:00

Ochanomizu OCC

Women's Workshop

Counseling Skills/Relationships

Dr. Tom Koch of *Serving Other Servants(SOS)*

Oct. 16, 9:30-3:30 at CAJ

Orientation Seminar

Oct. 30, 10:00-4:30 at CAJ

The Team Approach Seminar

Kansai Church Planting

Nov. 30, 9:30-3:30

YWAM Office, Osaka

God's Call to the Japanese People

by Ken McVety
Guest Editor

Over the coming months, Japan will see not just one but two major city-wide Crusades—the All-Japan Revival Koshien Mission and the Tokyo Dome “Mission 94,” with Akira Takimoto the evangelist in one, and Billy Graham in the other. Together these Crusades hold great significance for the future of the Christian cause in Japan.

These twin efforts provide a golden opportunity for those in Japan who know the life-transforming power of the gospel to rise up together in fresh faith to see this nation confronted with the gospel of Jesus Christ as never before.

Armin Gesswain said some years ago in Japan that the church has the responsibility to provide a “Holy Ghost opportunity” for every individual to hear the gospel, not an opportunity merely for the words to pass before the eyes or through the ears, but words saturated in prayer and made alive by the Holy Spirit of God. Both of Japan’s soon-coming Crusades have been urging believers throughout the country to pray believingly for the Crusades and for the nation. Could it be that this is the hour for the Living God to reveal Himself in a new way in the midst of the materialism and the resurgent false worship of this nation?

Three hundred years ago in England, Richard Baxter penned his urgent *Call to the Unconverted*. From a burning heart, he pled with his readers to heed the voice of God Himself, through His faithful servants, to repent and believe the gospel. With the Apostle Paul he cried, “We implore you in Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God” (2 Cor. 5:20).

God's Call to Japan

But why the major effort of a city-wide crusade? For one thing, because of the opportunity it provides for a God-consciousness to be created in the community and in the nation. As God’s people pray and faithfully step out as witnesses for Him, the people as a whole are made to realize that there are among them those who say, “God lives” and who point the way to Him.

Further, such a crusade where God’s message is faithfully preached will present a much needed call to decision. Elijah in another day called out, “If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal is God, follow him” (1 Kings 18:21). Too long, the people of this country have considered Jesus Christ, if they have considered Him at all, as one more deity to be added to an already long list of “gods.” Or Christianity as something to be entered into through a lengthy process of time and study. How we need a clear-cut call to decision: “How long will you waver between two opinions?”

And then, it provides a golden opportunity for the people of God to stand together to proclaim Christ, not as competing churches, but as friends and neighbors united in heart around one grand purpose. This, with the blessing of God, adds still another dimension to the effective proclamation of the gospel. And it states, with power, that we together call men and women, not to one church or another, but to the Person of Christ, and to that glorious Church of which He is the Head.

In the final analysis the work of evangelism is the work of God Himself. “No one can come to me,” Jesus said, “unless the Father who sent me draws him.” We are but fellow-workers with God, carrying out what Paul described as his “priestly duty” in order that others might become “an offering acceptable to God.” What a joy to share together this marvelous privilege.

May these two Crusades in Japan have upon them in every way, the marks of the call of God to this nation. □



Four Men for the Nation

by Keita Takagi

Rev. Takagi graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary. Since 1973 he has served as the pastor of Suita Bible Gospel Church in Suita, Osaka. He has authored several books in Japanese, including "Seisho to wa" "Shinjiru Dake de Sukuwareru Ka," and "Sekai Josei to Seisho no Yogen."



"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

These words, penned by missionary Jim Elliot, continue to echo through eternity, putting fire into the hearts of men and women all over the world to fearlessly follow the call of Christ. Whether this call leads one to the jungled heart of South America or to the concrete, neon streets of urban Japan, difficulties still abound.

Although today physical death is not a threat, it still takes brave men and women to take the gospel to this spiritually insensitive country. With over 175,000 different man-created gods and idols, preaching the one true God is a difficult task.

Four men who have bravely given their lives to evangelize Japan are Jitsuma Hiramatsu, Koji Honda, Akira Takimoto and Matsuo Matsumi.

Jitsuma Hiramatsu



Jitsuma Hiramatsu was born in Kamo Village, Takaoka, Kochi Prefecture, on January 3, 1903. He was the second son of a farmer. He studied English from a missionary when he was a high school student, and through that

ministry came to know the Lord as his personal Savior.

In 1923, when he was twenty, he entered the theology department of Meiji Gakuin and spent six years as a seminary student. He became very interested in the faith and evangelistic work of Sundar Singh of India, and decided to become an evangelist.

In 1929, right after graduating from seminary, he went to the U.S. and entered San Francisco Seminary. Because of his strenuous efforts, he received a B.D. degree in one year, and started evangelistic work in Berkley, California. Good results flowed from this work and he later took an evangelistic trip by himself around the world. He visited Europe, the Holy Land and India on his way back to Japan, and at the age of 27 became

pastor of the Matsuyama Enatsu Machi Church.

In his messages, he encouraged believers to have deep fellowship with Christ. Often as he prayed, he would point two fingers heavenward, as though "plugging in" to Christ—showing how we must be connected to Christ and live a life empowered by the Holy Spirit.

From 1949 he visited the U.S. several times on evangelistic tours. In 1958, when he was 55 years old, a letter from a pastor convinced him that Japan needed full-time evangelists, and that he should become one.

Like a twentieth-century Paul, he went all over the world. He travelled more than ten times to the U.S., 16 times to Okinawa, twice to South America and Europe and once to Africa.

It was not easy for him to do evangelistic work in the U.S., but many American Christians supported him and formed the Hiramatsu Evangelistic Supporting Group.

One of the main reasons he felt the need for world evangelism was that when he was a seminary student he frequently found American sailors fighting at the Yokohama pier. He would stop them, saying, "Jesus Christ died for you!" He felt that not only the Japanese, but all people needed Christ.

In 1972, he went to be with the Lord at the age of sixty-nine. His last words were, "I have peace with Christ and I have no worry about death." His eldest daughter, at his death bed, said to him, "Congratulations, Father." His wife, his five daughters and many co-workers remember his great work and continue to spread the glorious gospel to this day.

Koji Honda



Koji Honda was born in Maruoka, a small town in Fukui Prefecture, in 1912. He was baptized while in high school. Honda went to Tokyo to attend university, and there became a member of the Ginza Church.

When he was eighteen, the Lord spoke to him through Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified

with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." He repented of his lukewarm Christian life. This became a turning point in his life.

Because of family responsibilities, Honda quit the university and took up full-time work as a Bible distributor. The Lord again spoke to him through a Bible passage, Luke 9:60, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." At the age of 22, he entered a seminary in Shioya, Kobe.

In 1937, at the age of 25, he was assigned to pastor a church at Shinkaichi, Kobe, which had been founded by Paget Wilkes, a JEB missionary. Next he was invited to a small church in Mikage, Kobe. With the outbreak of World War II, his church faced persecution, but he conducted many evangelistic meetings and many were converted. He was then sent to work in a coal mine, and in 1944 was called to serve as a teacher in the Japanese Army. He taught there until the end of the war.

After the war, he worked as a shoe repairman. He started the Amagasaki Shinai Christ church and around that time, his first son died of tuberculosis. Through this painful experience he again decided to be an evangelist and launched a tent ministry. He was very poor and did not have enough to live on, yet he continued in the tent ministry.

In 1947, he received an American army quonset building and started the Kobe Evangelistic Hall and the Japan Bible School at the same location. Three years later, he and his congregation built a new sanctuary. God blessed the church, and more than 100 attended the worship services. In 1956, Billy Graham ministered in Japan and Honda was challenged to begin his own crusade ministry in Japan. In 1960, his first crusade was held at Minatogawa Park in Kobe.

Over the years, Koji Honda has organized more than 300 crusades throughout Japan, from the northern tip of Hokkaido to as far south as Koza, Okinawa. He has preached to more than a million people.

He visited the U.S. in 1959 and held ten crusade meetings there. Many American Christians began to support him, helping to make the ministry more financially stable. In 1964, he held a large crusade in Tokyo for nine days, and twenty-one thousand people attended, with two thousand decisions for Christ.

In 1966, when he was 53 years old, Honda decided to become a full-time evangelist. He resigned as pastor of the church, and started the Japan Gospel Crusade, asking many churches to participate in the Crusade. Since then he has been deeply involved in the Billy Graham Crusades, The World Evangelical Fellowship and other international ministries.

In 1987, he was granted an honorary doctorate degree by Biola University. In October, 1990, he led a great evangelistic crusade at the Budokan Stadium in Tokyo, with an audience of 11,000. The meeting was called "Gospel '90." Sandy Patti was among the top musical artists performing, and over 3,000 people made decisions to trust Christ and to dedicate their lives to Him. Honda says that this event was the highlight of his ministry.

Besides his evangelistic work he has authored over 20 books on the Christian life. As for the future, he says, "Now that I am 81 years old, I realize that these are the golden days of my life. I am still laboring for the Lord while waiting anxiously for the day when I can enter His Presence. My prayer is that many more messengers will be raised up to turn the hearts of Japanese people toward God."

(For further information on Honda's life, see Japan Harvest, Spring 1993.)

Akira Takimoto



Akira Takimoto was born in Shimotsugu Village in Aichi Prefecture. The son of a farmer, he entered Nippon Agricultural Col-

lege in Tokyo in 1947. Though he was an atheist at that time and detested Christianity, one of his peers told him that he had a face suitable for a Christian pastor! These words haunted him! In the end, he visited a church and found that Christians were good people who truly loved God.

That was a big shock to him. He visited the church again the following week, and became a Christian. The date was February 20, 1949 and from then on his life

changed. He opened his small tatami room for children's ministry, and after work went out into the streets to hold street meetings.

Three months after he became a Christian, he decided to work full time for the Lord instead of becoming an agricultural scientist. So he left his job and soon God was leading him to go back to the place of his birth and preach the gospel there. He did not have the means to support himself, but he went out with the faith of Abraham.

"If the Lord delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm."

In his home town, he stayed with his family and did farming. He married a Christian lady, and they both felt called to follow God in full-time ministry. He left his farming and began working in a coal mine. While there he studied the Bible by himself. In retrospect he calls those years, "the years of the Coal Mine Bible School" with the teacher being Christ Himself, and Takimoto the only student.

While working at the coal mine, he began to gather children around him and to hold meetings for them in his house, and in 1951, two junior high school students became Christians. His favorite verse during these "Coal Mine Bible School" days was Psalm 37:23, "If the Lord delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm." God protected him from many physical dangers in the mine, and through his witness many fellow workers came to trust Christ.

Takimoto frequently faced persecution from his village people since he would not participate in the idol-worship festivals. But God blessed him, and even some of those who opposed him became Christians and were baptized.

In 1953, he started the Shinshiro Church, leaving his work at the mine to become a full-time Christian worker. Though his life was not easy financially, God miraculously provided for all his needs, and within seven years, 50 people were saved and baptized.

In 1954, a missionary from Sweden asked him to speak in his church. It was the first time for him to preach in someone else's church. He told about how

The Evangelists

God had blessed him and answered his prayers at the mine. Through the message many were saved, and from that point onward, he spent much time in evangelistic work. He went to Okazasaki for a ten-day tent ministry and 60 people became Christians. There soon followed ten-day evangelistic meetings at Fukushima, Hokkaido and Osaka.

In 1968, the church built a large sanctuary that would hold 350 people. At the opening four-day Shinshiro Evangelistic Crusade the Mayor, Chief of Police, the head of a hospital and several school principals came.

In 1969 he held crusades in seven different nearby cities, calling them the "Japan Revival Crusade." The organization was officially launched in Tokyo in 1970, and since then meetings have been conducted all over Japan. This year, from November 5-7, he plans to hold a large Crusade in the Koshien Stadium in Osaka, with a total planned attendance of 180,000.

Matsuo Matsumi



Matsuo Matsumi was born in 1928 in Osaka. In 1946, a year after the war, he saw a church sign which said,

"God is love," so he went inside. That was his first encounter with Christianity, but the pastor of the church had to visit him thirty-six times before he reluctantly visited the church again.

He was astonished at the believers' enthusiastic prayers and the passionate messages of the pastor. In the beginning he was not serious, but as he saw the people praying for him with tears, he came to trust the Lord. He had been a bully and a rowdy young man, but he was baptized on November 30th, 1946, at the age of eighteen, and his life was greatly changed. His father had been against his becoming a Christian, but eventually he was converted, followed by his mother, sisters and brothers. He experienced the truth of the Lord's promise in Acts 16:31.

When his father passed away, Matsumi

had to support his family. But about this time he contracted tuberculosis, and during his illness decided to become a pastor. Of the six members of his family, three became ill with tuberculosis. It was a very difficult time for everyone, but he had faith that God would take care of those who followed Him. He entered seminary and worked during the day while studying at night. In 1951, he met a missionary named Mr. Hanson, and with his encouragement, Matsumi became the pastor of a church while still a seminary student. After he graduated from seminary he continued as pastor of that church.

In 1955, the year he was married, tuberculosis recurred for the third time. The doctor told him that this time he would not recover. But God miraculously healed him.

In 1958, he was able to work full-time as a minister and he moved to Fukuchiyama in Kyoto Prefecture. There he met a number of gang members, whom he eventually led to Christ. As he was ministering, he realized that he had to confront the problem of Buddhism, so he decided to study it and for two years he attended a Buddhist University.

Ten years after he came to Fukuchiyama, many churches began inviting him to speak at evangelistic meetings. God blessed him, and many people came to know the Lord through these meetings. This made him consider becoming an evangelist. He visited Indonesia on an evangelistic tour, and it was then that he felt God's specific call to become an evangelist.

In 1969, he started the Japan Christ Mission, and became a full-time itinerant evangelist. He realized that many churches needed to be strengthened in evangelism and so he started three-day seminars three times a year for the leaders of the churches, dealing with the role of the pastor and the church leaders in evangelism.

Currently, besides being an evangelist, Matsumi is a consultant in church growth, in family matters and in raising children. He is also widely called upon as a counselor in personal relations. As an evangelist, he continues to travel all over Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia and the U.S. □



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ALL-JAPAN REVIVAL KOSHIEEN MISSION

by Paul K. Ariga

Dr. Ariga is the General Chairman of All-Japan Revival Koshien Mission, evangelist of Japan Gospel Crusade, and former president of JEB Kansai Bible College

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?”
Isa. 43:19

The spiritual harvest worldwide in the 1990s is truly unprecedented in mission history. But in Japan we have been left out of that kind of large ingathering of souls.

In God’s providence the long-awaited time for Japan’s nation-wide revival has come. In 1993 the great challenge in Japan is the All-Japan Revival Koshien Mission. This is truly the realization of God’s purpose for Japan.

Challenge from God

Twenty-eight years ago a lady evangelist, Miss Makiko Shimojo, was sent to Nishinomiya City from Nagoya to plant a church. She began her pioneer work in a small rented room and then moved to a rented house. Today, she has a beautiful church with 200 Christians attending the Sunday morning worship service.

This church has several daughter churches and has also sent a missionary overseas. Miss Shimojo is a woman of prayer. From the very first stage of her Nishinomiya church planting, she regularly went up to a nearby hilltop, and looking over the city interceded for it, praying for a revival in all of Japan.

Her dream was to fill the Koshien Stadium with 60,000 people to hear the gospel. This dream became a God-given burden and vision. Seven years ago she shared this vision at a pastors’ revival conference sponsored by the Japan Revival Crusade of which Rev. Akira Takimoto is the founder and president.

Rev. Takimoto prayed for over two years, and finally accepted this vision as a challenge from God. He and his crusade team decided to take five years for preparation. They settled on dates in 1993, first from October 29-31 but later changed the time to November 5-7.

This vision was openly shared beginning in October, 1991, and I was requested at that time to become the general chairman of the planned crusade. After two weeks of prayer, God spoke to me through Zechariah 4:6, “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit.” I accepted the request, determined that this should be a movement carried along by the Holy Spirit.

For twenty years now, Rev. Takimoto has been holding conferences from Hokkaido to Okinawa, seeking revival throughout Japan. The number of

pastors and other Christians actively involved has risen to more than 4,500. All of them have given assurances that they will stand together in support of this vision.

Rev. Shuji Hiraoka was chosen as preparation chairman, and about 200 pastors became Promotion Committee members. For this great challenge from God they decided on the name “All-Japan Revival Koshien Mission.”

Challenge of Faith

We value all the efforts in the past of men like Dr. Billy Graham and Dr. Bob Pierce with their international crusades, and Dr. Koji Honda with his city-wide Gospel Crusades. But this All-Japan Revival Koshien Mission seeks to gather more than 60,000 people each of the three days. It is truly the first time that such a large mission has been undertaken with national evangelists, by Japanese and for Japanese. What a challenge of faith for all Japanese Christians! The

budget in the beginning was set at 200 million yen, and this target has already been met. In the end, the budget will be more than 500 million yen, and this too is a part of the challenge of faith.

Dr. Edwin Orr, the revival researcher, defined revival in this way: Christians revived first, then the church renewed and non-Christians attracted to Jesus through the revived Christians and churches.

Then, as a result of these steps, the churches continue to teach, train, proclaim and practice the Bible and the gospel.

Challenge for Revival

We know people of God whose final cries were, “Revival! Revival!”. The All-Japan Revival Koshien Mission is a challenge of faith from many of those who have been called to be with the Lord.

I know many missionaries who have experienced revival in their own countries. They have longed to see revival in Japan, as they served the Lord in what is called the most difficult country for evangelism. So this is also a challenge of faith from missionaries who have been working in Japan and seeing very little results.

Challenge to Cooperation

Personally, I have been ministering in crusade-type evangelism since 1959. Glorious results have come when there was fervent prayer, un-



*Five Prayer Targets
for the All-Japan
Revival Koshien
Mission*

1. 180,000 Hours of Prayer
2. 10,000 Prayer Warriors
3. Koshien Jericho Prayer
4. Simultaneous Prayer
5. Holy War Prayer Rallies

**You are
urged to
participate!**

selfish sacrifice and Christ-centered cooperation. I firmly believe that God is pleased by the mission that begins with the church and flows back into the church. Special evangelistic efforts are for the purpose of serving the church and working with the church.

For the sake of the total evangelization of Japan I long to see strong and visible cooperation, breaking down the barriers between organizations and churches, and being firmly based on the Bible and on the Living Christ.

We have actually seen in Korea a beautiful example of cooperation, not based on personalities, but on shared objectives, and totally dependent on the working of the Holy Spirit. It does not depend on the forming of an organization, or on who are the leaders, but is a matter of working with Jesus and for Jesus.

For these reasons, the All-Japan Revival Koshien Mission seeks to create an atmosphere of genuine biblical unity and wide cooperation, which has not been seen in the past.

Challenge of Spiritual Warfare

"If our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Cor. 4:3,4). "Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm" (Eph. 6:12).

Surely Satan's power has been at work throughout Japan's personal, family, social and national relationships, destroying and bringing chaos. The answer? "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord" (Zech. 4:6). The final and complete victory in Christ is already ours.

For victory in the Koshien Mission, we are putting much emphasis on making it a prayer movement:

1. 180,000 Hours of Prayer. This is to intercede for one hour for each person who will attend the Koshien Mission, calling for 180,000 hours to cover the three days. So far 150,000 hours of prayer have been offered up.

2. 10,000 Prayer Warriors. Already 8,500 Christians have been recruited, and 3,500 of them have been taking turns fasting, so that by November 5th for the period between March, 1992 until November, 1993 every hour will have been covered with prayer and fasting.

3. Koshien Jericho Prayer. Every Saturday morning at seven o'clock, Christians have been gathering together to walk in faith around the

Koshien Stadium.

4. Simultaneous Prayer. At 11:05 for three minutes, both morning and night, from all parts of Japan prayers are being offered simultaneously.

5. Holy War Prayer Rallies. Beginning in March, from the four corners of Japan—North, South, East and West—700 prayer rallies have been held, creating the spirit of revival in each place. The burning flame has already begun, and it will be brought together as one great revival fire at Koshien.

Challenge of Continuation

The All-Japan Revival Koshien Mission is not just a three-day event, but will continue until we see all of Japan revived. We hear that there may be a Kyushu Revival Mission at the Fukuoka Dome three years from now, and a Hokkaido Revival Mission at Maruyama Baseball Stadium in Sapporo in five years. This Koshien Mission may open a new way for the evangelization of Japan, and even more than that, for overseas revival missions, as God leads. This could become another of Japan's international contributions to the world.

We wish to be completely dependent on the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We do not seek organizational or structural developments; we keep committee work to a minimum in order to have the largest possible prayer effort. Cooperation among those moved by the Spirit of God and formed into working committees and project teams is putting into practice the best plans possible.

The program of the Koshien Mission in November will be two-fold: first, revival messages for the Christians in the afternoons with several Japanese evangelists, and second, evangelistic meetings in the evening, with Rev. Akira Takimoto delivering simple gospel messages. The opening will be at three o'clock on the afternoon of November fifth. Saturday morning there will be seminars, and in the afternoon an extended session of praise and prayer.

There will be 3,000 Christians coming from Korea, and 1,000 from Indonesia. There will be several hundred from Taiwan, North America, Hawaii, Canada, Brazil and Singapore.

"Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Revive them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy." Habakkuk 3:2 □

WHAT IS "ALL JAPAN REVIVAL KOSHIEEN MISSION"

It is a realization of a "Vision from the Lord" which was given through fervent prayer for Japan's Revival.

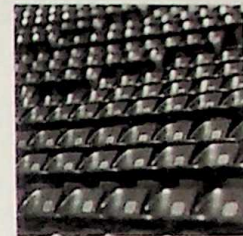
ALL JAPAN REVIVAL KOSHIEEN MISSION is the first nationwide act of seeking revival in the history of Japan's evangelism because it is entirely carried out by Japanese leadership and created specifically for the Japanese. The mission's focus is prayer; it's not just a crusade. We hope that through this mission, the fire of revival will spreadthrough out the nation, and the whole world.

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

For this Koshien Mission, there will be many Christians coming from around the world to encourage Japan's revival. For this reason, the meetings will be translated into more than 10 languages. Koshien Mission is a great time for Japan to participate with the revivals that have been occuring in the rest of the world.

EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS

The largest evangelistic meetings of this century are to be held. Straight evangelical messages will be delivered by Japanese evangelists. The main preacher will be Pastor Akira Takimoto, who has been ministering in Japan for many years. Every night, the Hallelujah Chorus is planned with a choir of 5,000 and also great Christian music artists will be attending.



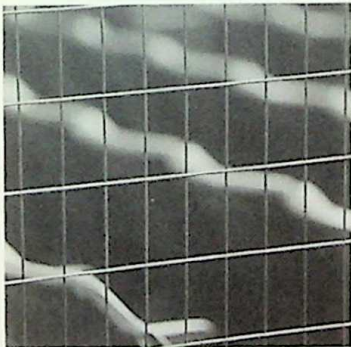
REVIVAL MEETINGS

Revival meetings are scheduled in the afternoons. All the Christian who gather at Koshien will have their faith ignited as they are prepared for revival. Groups of guest preachers will be ministering.

WHAT WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THESE 3 DAYS?

Great meetings are fully planned for each of the 3 days.

1993.11.5.6.7^{fri sat sun}



PRAISE AND PRAYER

Let us give our praise and prayer to the Lord with all our might. It will be a great time of blessing, filled by His presence. Let's praise the Lord. The afternoon of the 6th (Sat.) is especially focused on continuous hours of praise and prayer. There will also be prayer intercessors from all over the nation and the world gathered together, united in the Spirit with prayer for Japan's revival and revival in the world.



SEMINARS

During the mission, interesting seminars about revival will be held in the mornings at various places. Topics for the seminars are under consideration, but they will be broad and meaningful.

All-Japan Revival Koshien Mission

	Nov. 5 (Fri)	Nov. 6 (Sat.)	Nov. 7 (Sun)
		8:30	
	9:00	9:30	Early Worship
	11:00	Seminars	
1:00	Opening Meeting		
3:00	Revival Meeting	Praise and Power	Revival Meeting
6:00	Evangelistic Meeting	Evangelistic Meeting	Evangelistic Meeting
9:00			

For a Time Like This!

by Kaoru Kishida

Dr. Kishida serves as General Secretary for Mission 94. He is senior pastor of Zion Christian Church. Along with his many other responsibilities he is the executive secretary of Ochanomizu Christian Center.

Mission Objective
"To mobilize the Christian community in order to assemble as many people as possible to hear the gospel message that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life, and to give opportunity for inquirers to respond to this gospel and be counseled personally and then referred to a participating church for follow-up and nurture"



Mission 94 Billy Graham Tokyo International Crusade

"Why another Billy Graham Crusade at this time?" This was the question which led to the Mission 94 Billy Graham Tokyo International Crusade. Some had evaluated the last two Graham crusades in 1967 and 1980 negatively, and others had felt that we don't need any more crusades. Perhaps this feeling was based on the impression that along with Dr. Billy Graham's advancing age, the crusade type of evangelism has become old-fashioned.

It is very important to adequately answer these voices of doubt which often come up when a crusade is planned. That strategic process forces us to respond to the difficult questions, and to then lay a firm foundation for the crusade.

The beginning committees spent much time discussing the need for a crusade at this time. We concluded that the present state of evangelism in Japan demanded this crusade. We were also moved by the evangelistic burden and enthusiasm of Dr. Graham and his evangelistic team for Japan. Another factor was that this would probably be the last chance for Billy Graham to hold a crusade in Asia. These reasons brought us to the decision to proceed with this effort, and to invite Billy Graham to Tokyo.

No one can deny the powerful influence that the past two Graham Crusades had on the history of evangelism and church development in Japan. The Crusade in 1967 took place at the Budokan and the Korakuen Stadium with 200,000 participants and 15,000 registering salvation decisions. Japanese churches sponsored the crusade and in the process a large number of evangelicals were brought together. The fellowship and cooperation resulting from the Crusade was the major factor that gave birth to the Japan Evangelical Association (JEA).

The second Billy Graham Crusade took place thirteen years later, in 1980. It came at a time of rapid growth within the evangelical churches in Japan, when many were rethinking what healthy relationships, fellowship and cooperation should be within the broader Body of Christ. Strained relationships existed because of uncertainty about cooperation between churches of different denominations, and between the para-church evangelistic groups. Cooperation at the local level was also being questioned.

Within this milieu the 1980 Crusade was held at six locations: Okinawa, Fukuoka, Osaka, Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagoya. The total participants came to 334,848 with 26,038 making

salvation decisions. It provided the catalyst for fellowship and cooperation among evangelical churches throughout Japan. In addition, many new talented workers were discovered, and various networks were developed at the grassroots level.

In light of the results seen in conversions and a spirit of cooperation developed from the previous crusades, what should be anticipated in this third

1966	1980	1994
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Billy Graham Crusade, called Mission 94?

The decade of the 1990s is a time of leadership change. It is also a time of information explosion which is producing conflicts between old and new value systems, leading to much disorder and confusion. These things are also seen in our churches today, as many put priority on their own local self-preservation and minimize cooperation with others. Cooperation often extends only to projects within the local church or particular denomination.

So this is an important time to reconfirm the importance of cooperation within the whole Body. The Billy Graham Crusade will give opportunity to emphasize our common purpose as Christians, i.e. to proclaim Christ and evangelize the world. Also, even as in the past, this will provide the stage for younger leaders in different groups to have fellowship and establish relationships throughout the evangelical community.

A unique feature of this crusade is that it is based on the evangelism program and style of local churches. The Crusade slogan, "Beginning from the church and returning to the church," emphasizes that the local church has the responsibility for evangelism, and provides it with the opportunity for training each Christian to lead non-Christians to Christ.

In 1991 at the Third Japan Congress on Evangelism I proposed that we need churches which will give birth to new churches. In order to do this we need Christians who can give birth to other Christians. This Crusade will give opportunity for this kind of training and discipleship.

In addition to this, satellite broadcasting will be used to greatly expand the outreach. The same message will be televised throughout Japan.

I earnestly pray that Dr. Graham's message will reach all who need the good news, and that many will be saved. □

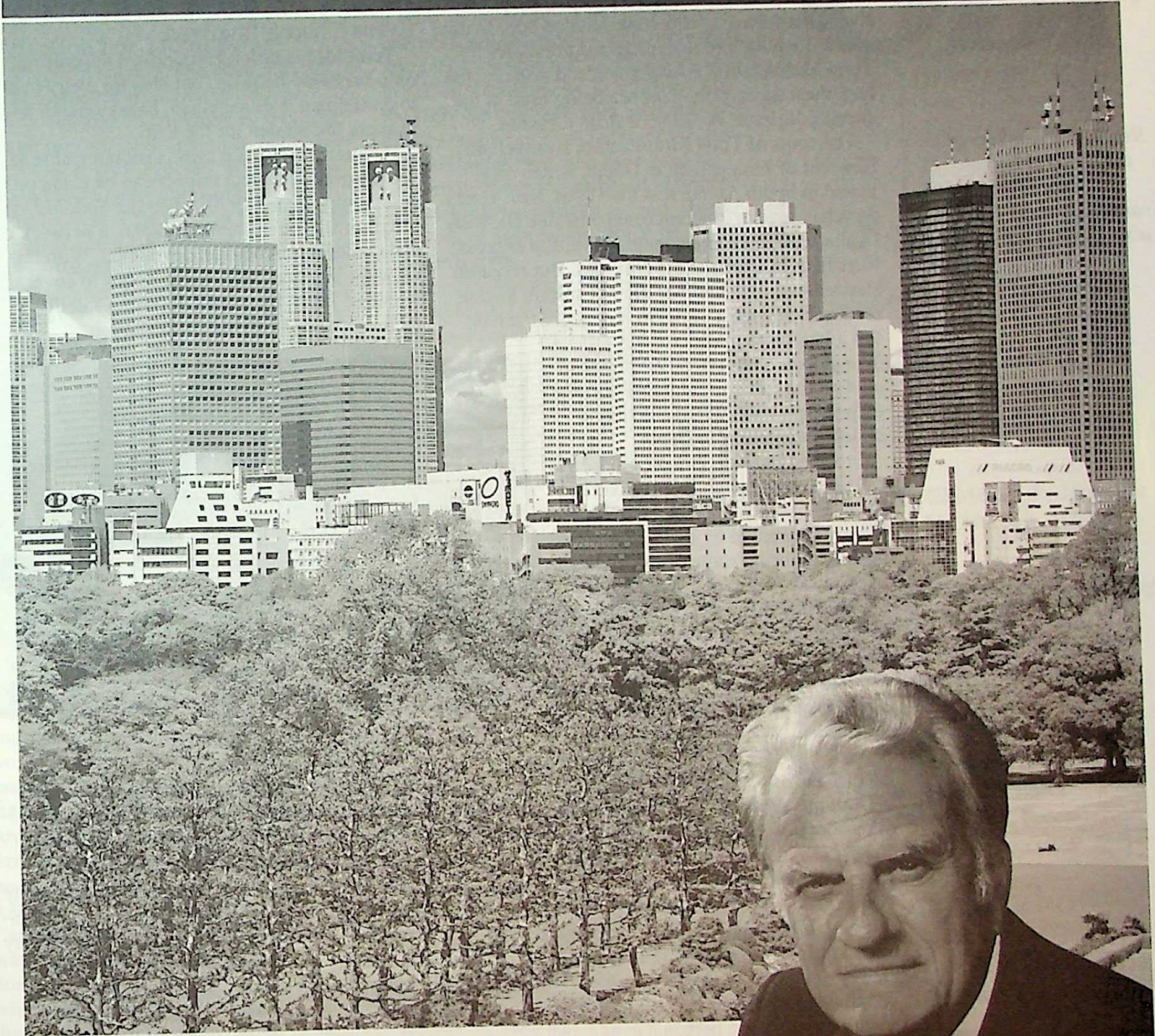
PRAY

For all preparations for Tokyo Mission 94.

For a revival in hearts of all Christians.

For citywide outreach in bold evangelistic witness.

For many to respond to the Good News of the Gospel.



"Prayer is the Christian's most glorious privilege, most enlarging opportunity, and most essential obligation..."



Billy Graham
Mission 94
Tokyo Dome 13-16, 1994

'94ビリー・グラハム東京国際大会

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Total Mobilization Evangelism

by Timothy M. Himei

Rev. Himei has served as the General Director of Total Mobilization Evangelism since 1977. He also pastors the Akasaka Church.

Crusade evangelism and Total Mobilization Evangelism have a very close relationship. In this article I would like to explain the principles of Total Mobilization Evangelism, and also discuss how these same principles are being used in the coming Mission 94 Billy Graham Crusade.

The roots of Total Mobilization Evangelism flow out of Evangelism in Depth, which originated in South America in the 1960s. Rev. Henry Strachan was an itinerant evangelist like Dr. Billy Graham. Many people came forward to express their faith in Christ at his crusades. But research showed that the churches did not sustain lasting results. So Henry's son, Dr. Kenneth Strachan, felt a burden to make crusade evangelism more effective. Strachan studied the Bible to establish his related principles and wrote a textbook called *Evangelism in Depth*.

In 1965, Dr. Koji Honda visited Costa Rica where an Evangelism in Depth seminar was being held. He was greatly impressed by what he saw and decided to bring some of the materials back to Japan. Several Japanese leaders got together and studied them, focusing on the biblical principles that transcend cultural differences. After much prayer and study "Total Mobilization Evangelism" was born. In Japanese it is called *Sodoin Dendo*.

Every Believer Involved

Until the 1960s, evangelism was frequently left to pastors and evangelists. Even though most pastors realized that lay people should be involved, few practical ways were found to make evangelism a part of the layman's life. After studying Evangelism in Depth materials and other approaches, Dr. Akira Hatori wrote the 12-chapter textbook, *A Good Witness*. Through this book lay people have learned how to have personal devotions, do personal evangelism, conduct visitation and do follow-up.

Without lay involvement, evangelism—even crusade evangelism with Dr. Billy Graham—cannot produce adequate results. Every believer should be involved in evangelism in various ways.

In Mission 94 the principle of lay involvement is also very important. Counselor and follow-up training are helping lay people prepare for the Crusade. These training sessions will be held all over Japan where mini-crusades will be conducted using satellite communication.

Every Church Involved

Total Mobilization Evangelism appeals not only for every believer, but also for every church to participate in evangelism. Every church needs to share the burden for the lost.

If churches with the same vision are able to work together, a great impact can be made on the community. Since 1970, when the *Sodoin Dendo* program started throughout Japan, a network of evangelical churches has developed. With this network in place, Mission 94 hopes to cover the whole of Japan by television, using satellite facilities, and involving every church.



Employing Every Possible Method

1. Close Cooperation

Not only is widespread church involvement important, but also the involvement of every evangelistic agency and organization. These groups have much to offer the churches in encouraging evangelism. Some years ago, many churches viewed evangelistic groups with suspicion. One well-known pastor even said that they "victimized" the churches. But if cooperation between church and agency can be effectively carried out, evangelism will bear much more fruit.

2. United Prayer

Not every one can be involved in evangelistic programs like visitation evangelism and personal evangelism. But every believer in Japan, with the same vision and burden and united in prayer, can cause God's work to move forward. A multitude of prayer cells, Christians and churches need to join in a united prayer movement.

3. Various Methods

The purpose of Total Mobilization Evangelism is for every Christian to be involved in evangelism, using every method possible to present the



Sodo in Dendo

gospel to all the people.

Mission 94 will be held at the Tokyo Dome. But by satellite Dr. Graham will appear all over Japan at the same time. Churches from Okinawa to Hokkaido will hold crusades just like the one at the Tokyo Dome.

Motivation For Mobilization

"Abundant sowing, abundant harvest," is a fundamental principle of *Sodo in Dendo*. We know that prayer is very important for fruitful evangelism, but much hard work is also involved. We must sow the seed abundantly and work diligently for the harvest. This is a key for the mobilization of every believer, every church and every agency.

A basic understanding of evangelism is also needed. Every believer should know the purpose of his or her calling by God as a Christian. What should a real church be like? Why do believers have to evangelize? The Holy Spirit must give understanding of the underlying purpose and motivate the believer spiritually.

In mobilizing all Christians for evangelism, objectives must be clear. *Sodo in Dendo* has three major objectives:

1. To present the gospel effectively to every person.
2. To strengthen and build up every church.
3. To train every Christian to be a vital witness for Christ.

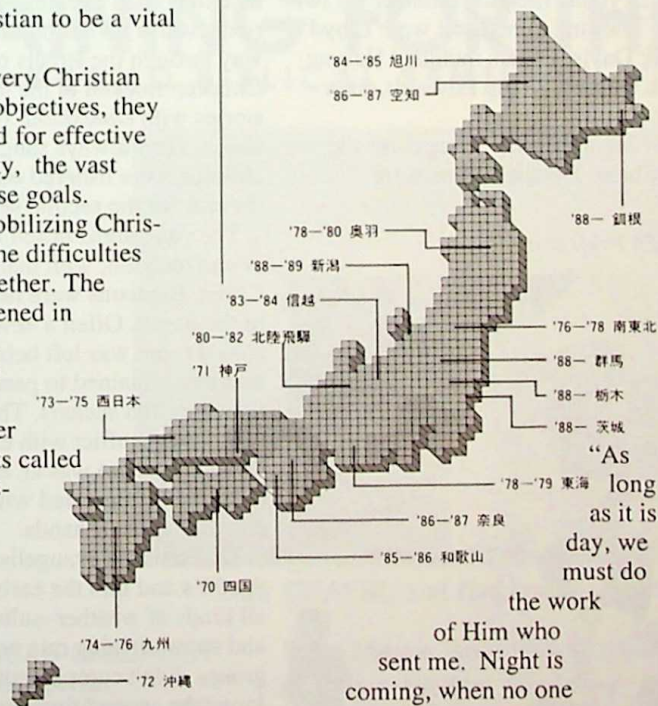
If every church and every Christian understood these three objectives, they would become mobilized for effective evangelism. But in reality, the vast majority do not hold these goals. Another hindrance in mobilizing Christians for evangelism is the difficulties involved in working together. The following incident happened in Canada. A little girl had wandered from her farm home into a prairie area where the grass was taller than she was. Her parents called her, but there was no response. So they got firemen and police from the town, and a big search was carried out, but they failed to find the little girl. One day passed, then two, and still there were no results. Finally they asked the pastor to help. He suggested that everyone involved in the search form

a single line and join hands. Then he ordered each person to move forward carefully one step at a time. At last they found the girl, but sadly she was no longer alive. All the people lamented, "If only we had joined hands sooner!"

How much could we as Christians, churches, denominations and evangelistic agencies accomplish if we would be united in our efforts? How we should pray that the Holy Spirit would burn away our prejudices and misunderstandings! We are brothers and sisters who have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. If we have hearts to work together, the work of evangelism would be much more effective.

The effectiveness of a crusade does not depend upon Dr. Graham or the main speaker, even though his part is great. Without the work of the Holy Spirit, and also without our participation, it will surely fail. Let us mobilize every church, every Christian and every evangelistic agency for effective evangelism. Let us set aside our prejudices and work together in unity for the glory of God and for the salvation of lost souls. □

Sodo in Dendo History



"As long as it is day, we must do the work of Him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work"
John 9:4.

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The Gospel to Every Home

by Arthur T. Shelton

Rev. Shelton and his wife, Carol, just retired this year after forty years of Japan ministry with OMS International.

Every Creature Crusade Evangelism In the Immediate Post-war Years

Someone has well said that any new work begins with a man and a vision. Charles Cowman, one of the founders of the Oriental Missionary Society (now OMS International), had a vision to cover all Japan with the gospel. Launched in 1911, this was successfully accomplished in 1918, taking gospel portions systematically to the 10,400,000 homes throughout Japan.

Not only did teams go to every home, but they also held nightly evangelistic services; souls were saved, and hundreds of new churches were born across the nation. The method was built around a number of teams of about eight Japanese men, each headed by a young American fellow.

After World War II, Cowman's early vision again became the driving passion of OMS. This Every Creature Crusade was a staggering challenge. Rolland Rice, who had been forced out of China, and later Wesley Wildermuth, supervised this colossal task. In 1951, a call went out in the mission magazine, the *Missionary Standard*, for 25 young men to volunteer for two years in Japan. The first to respond were Lloyd Fitch and Frank Davis. Others included Helmut Schultz, Chuck Dupree, Kemp Edwards, Stan Dyer and Dick Amos.

The whole of Japan became a target for the good news of Christ. Detailed maps were

carefully studied and marked so as not to miss even one remote household. With a Chevrolet CarryAll rigged up with a loud speaker system and a rack to carry the team's bicycles, they started out. The missionary was the driver of each vehicle. He lived and ate with his seven Japanese co-workers, one of whom was chosen as captain of the team. Another was selected as interpreter for the missionary who had only taken a three-month crash course in the language.

Sometimes the groups stayed in large houses or public halls. In most areas, however, they would pitch a tent, which became home for the whole team. There were no comforts and absolutely no privacy. Crammed together like sardines, they often had to contend with rats, fleas, and roaches. A local *obaa-san* (grandmother) was hired to do their simple meals of rice and barley three times a day. Each morning they rose at 5:00 a.m., and after devotions the team loaded up the CarryAll and headed out for the day's home-to-home distribution.

Each group member had a bicycle, which he often left aside to tramp through rice paddies and up steep hills to reach houses tucked away in hidden places. Then they returned to the tent for meetings each evening. The loud speakers carried a warm invitation as the CarryAll made its way through the streets of the neighborhood. Children flocked to the tent to hear the Bible stories with *kamishibai* (picture cards), films or slides. They always sang lustily. Then the children were ushered out so the adults could fill the tent for the second service.

The campaigns lasted from two to four weeks in one location, with many coming to faith in Christ. Baptisms were held at the closest river or in the ocean. Often a new church meeting in a rented room was left behind. If possible, a team member remained to pastor the small group of believers and seekers. The teams tried hard to avoid any conflict with existing churches. Whenever there was an evangelical church in the area, they cooperated with them and left the new converts in their hands.

This crusade evangelism continued throughout the 50's and into the early 60's, year after year in all kinds of weather—sultry heat and biting cold and snow, driving rain and scorching sun! The groups didn't complete the mission to reach all of Japan the second time around. It seemed prudent to pull back and concentrate on aiding the struggling churches they had brought to birth rather than to start more. The rewards were abundant. Along with helping established churches, about

Frank Davis and the team at Yoshiwara, Shizuoka Prefecture, 1951





Mr. Okamura handing out tracts at Shimizu

wonderful work in the hearts of those young men. This became one of the greatest missionary recruitment tools OMS had.

My wife and I were also very closely involved in this second wave of crusade evangelism. Often during language study days, we travelled out to the tent crusades on the weekends. One unforgettable experience was at Sakado, where we today have a strong church with excellent facilities and over 175 regular attenders. It was the closing night of the meetings, so the people in the packed tent were given the opportunity to share their testimonies. A group of serious high school students stood one after another to tell how Christ had changed their lives. Then a male teacher stood. Every eye was upon him as he declared, "I am not a Christian, but I have seen what God has done in the lives of my students, and I'm very impressed."

On more than one occasion I attended very moving baptisms at local rivers. I shall never forget seeing Rev. Teiji Yamazaki baptize 15 to 20 people in an icy stream one cold January day! I shivered as I watched, but I was warmed by the clear

salvation testimonies of those being baptized! Later as I superintended two crusade teams in Aichi Prefecture, I too had the privilege of baptizing new believers in the ocean at Gamagori or at a river near Nagoya. Often as I preach at our churches today I meet those who found Christ through the early tent crusades.

Once we tramped the roads, searching for a suitable site to pitch our tent. Finally we requested permission to use the Buddhist temple grounds next to the graveyard. God worked in a miraculous way in those tent meetings! Even the widow of a Buddhist priest was saved, and later, through her, a former Buddhist priest, both of whom I baptized. Today they have a three-story building, averaging 75 people in the worship services.

It is difficult to measure all that was accomplished in those early postwar years through crusade evangelism. But we in OMS are grateful for the open door God gave and for the open hearts we found all over Japan as we endeavored to make Christ known to a nation tired and hurting from a long, cruel war. □

70 new churches were formed, although admittedly they were very weak and faltering.

Out of the fine group of young men for this rigorous evangelism, all but a few returned to a mission field as career missionaries to Japan, Taiwan, Colombia, Brazil or Haiti. Besides the souls won to Christ and churches raised up, God did a

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Japan Holiness Church

Resourceful Worship

by Keith E. Webb

Keith is a career missionary with Life Ministries, serving since 1991

“Sing for joy to God our strength; shout aloud to the God of Jacob! Begin the music, strike the tambourine, play the melodious harp and lyre!”

Psalm 81:1-2

King David had great worship times and quiet times. He praised the Lord using psalms and hymns, many that he wrote himself. David knew the power of music in praise and worship, and rejoiced in singing. Most of us don't have the musical skill to write worship music, but fortunately for us there are many resources available. The secret is to find the resources that will benefit us and our churches.

Below are a few recommended aids and ways to stay in touch with the new worship-helps that are being produced every month. From time to time I will review some of them in this magazine, but the best way is to get a catalog or visit a Christian bookstore and look for yourself.

A Unique Worship Recording

One of the most interesting recordings to come along in a long time is Integrity Music's *Scripture Memory Songs*. Music is a powerful tool for memorization. Integrity Music takes advantage of this with this new tape/CD series. The songs are actual word-for-word verses taken right from the Bible. Songs are written in a variety of contemporary musical styles, with catchy melodies that make Scripture memory as easy as singing a song.

Each recording has a different theme: God's grace; overcoming anxiety; waging spiritual warfare; finding encouragement; and more. You can order them through the sources listed below.

◆CLC bookstores. They carry most of the Japanese language Christian music available. In addition, they carry about a dozen featured import CDs from the States. The selection changes every two months, and many come with the lyrics translated into Japanese.

◆Most everyone has heard of the “For Missionaries Only” catalog. They publish a 40-page catalog of Christian music and videos that can only be ordered by missionaries, hence the name. They offer 60% discounts on music and 25% on video and specialize in shipping over-

seas. Tapes are generally \$4.75 and CDs are \$8.75. For a free catalog write: Mount Carmel, P.O. Box 243; Leavenworth, WA 98826-0243 USA.

New Worship Books

Do your church pianists need a little “zip” in their piano playing? Check into *Anata ni mo dekiru Sanbika Arenji* (You Too Can Do Hymn Arranging) by Beth Fuhriman and Shigemi Abe. This A4 sized book teaches those trained in classical piano techniques (90% of all Japanese) how to “fill-in” and improvise. Improvisation will add depth and feeling to hymns, helping everyone to worship better. I highly recommend it as an aid to better worship. Your church will think so too.

Praise music is readily available in English, rarely in Japanese, but almost never in both languages. Gospel Music Express does publish a songbook called *Exalt Him!* with lyrics in Japanese and English.

Here is a mix of a few old favorites including “Blessed Assurance” and “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus,” with many new praise songs like “Be Exalted, O God” and “Shine, Jesus Shine,” 83 songs in all.

There are many uses for *Exalt Him!* such as English classes and camps, bilingual churches, an aid to Japanese study, etc. English listening tapes/CDs are also available.

Both the hymn arranging book and *Exalt Him!* are available at CLC stores or direct from Gospel Music Express, 6-16 Enoki-cho, Tokorozawa, Saitama 359.

With the many resources available to us, even those with limited musical ability can lift praises to God in music and song. Music is an avenue for communicating the gospel in a way that can cross language and cultural barriers, attracting non-Christians, as well as bringing encouragement to believers. How good it is to sing praises to the Lord!

“Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord. Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song!” Psalm 95:1-2 □



Cell Group Movement Grows in Japan

At a series of seminars in July, Dr. Ralph W. Neighbour proclaimed that a "Second Protestant Reformation" is now sweeping the world and stressed—in his characteristically frank manner—that most churches today are based on a rural model of community and evangelism that offers little hope for meeting the pastoral and evangelistic challenges of the 21st century. Such program-based churches, he said, "keep Christians busy" but allow no time in the life of the church for true *community* among believers.

A total of 300 pastors, missionaries and lay leaders participated in the two and three-day seminars sponsored by the Japan Church Growth Institute in Okinawa, Chiba and Hokkaido and led by Dr. Neighbour, formerly of Columbia Bible Seminary and now associate pastor of the 6000-member Faith Community Baptist Church in Singapore.

In contrast to program-based churches, said Dr. Neighbour, cell-based churches derive directly from the New Testament church pattern and are able to penetrate existing networks of relationships with the gospel while optimally providing pastoral care to church members. In a cell-based church, energy is focused on two areas: 1) vibrant worship and solid teaching on Sunday, and 2) the weekly cell groups of 4-15 people providing training and resources for

leaders and apprentices (as well as leaders of cell group leaders, etc.). Every other program in the church is subservient to maximizing these two areas.

The cell groups themselves, unlike the function of small groups in many churches, intentionally focus on evangelism as well as pastoral care, with the goal of multiplying (one cell becoming two) after a period of several months or a year.

Evaluations of the seminar submitted by participants showed that many had their image of "the church" turned upside down. One pastor wrote, "Now I understand the real problems and issues that are going on in my church. I'm challenged to totally rethink my philosophy of ministry." About 20 missionaries from various agencies attended the seminars, including a group whose entire team participated and brought with them Japanese leaders from their affiliate denomination as well.

In order to follow up on the enthusiastic response to Dr. Neighbour's seminars and to encourage the development of cell churches, the Japan Church Growth Institute has initiated a "Cell Church Network" for sharing information and resources. For more about the network or resources in Japanese and English, call Roger Hederstedt at JCGI (0424-93-4469).



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Potpourri & Promises

by Janice A. Kropp

“A reflection of HIS face...”

God saw all that He had made, and it was V-E-R-Y GOOD

As I watched HIM work, I was fascinated. Although HE had no plan before HIM, HE seemed to proceed with both a plan and a purpose. First, HE made one, then HE made the other. What one lacked the other had. My tendency, however, was to give HIM little suggestions here and there. I mean, if both were not, like, the same size, where would be equality, right? “No,” HE would answer, “Equality doesn’t come from size!”

The creating continued...one seemed strong, the other appeared weaker. “Now, we can’t have that!” I thought. “This would mean that the one would tend to need the other.”

Obviously, these two were made for procreation, with one bearing most of the responsibility. I wondered, “Why leave that up to the same one all the time and leave the other free from burden and stress which this privilege involves?”

One delicate, one aggressive! What is it that has been created here?

Smile with me, if you will. Could you imagine yourself there with Trinity at the Time of Creation? God busily creating these two, a perfect reflection of Himself, only on a minor scale. Who can fathom HIS ways, HIS thoughts, HIS wisdom...?

But HE tells us clearly that HE said to HIMSELF, “Let us make man in OUR image, in OUR likeness, and let them rule...” Genesis 1:26.

We think of God in the masculine sense, and rightly so. But think for a moment of the words, “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; MALE and FEMALE He created them” Genesis 1:27.

QUESTION: Where in the world did the idea of womanhood come from?

ANSWER: It came straight from the heart of God. In God are all the characteristics of human life, including both masculinity and femininity!



Creation of Woman

(Photo by Jan James)

When all was done God took a good look at His creation. He was most pleased! The Word records His evaluation with, “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good” Genesis 1:31.

We live in a day in which humans make great demands! This is an age of excessive selfishness! In these times of turmoil, men and women alike are defending and holding to positions in an effort to keep hold of their place in our confused world. To say that I have been unaffected by what’s been swirling about would not be true. I have watched. I have read. I have struggled. AND I AM AT PEACE. Now, some of the end to my struggle could be simply due to the fact that I am now “middle aged.” Perish the thought. However, I must be honest and admit, first to myself, that, yes, half my life is over. That in itself, settles a lot of issues!

But, no, that’s not the whole. I have latched on to a principle, which is not original, for I have heard many messages, seminars, and lectures on issues related to womanhood and manhood.

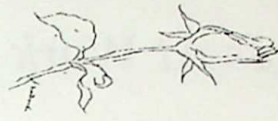
I have been captivated by the thought that...all of creation reflects God in the manner in which He relates to Himself.

That is, God, the Father, the Master Creator, the Author of Salvation, the Judge, the One who speaks out, HE relates perfectly and beautifully to God, the Son. God, the Son, relates perfectly and beautifully to God, the Father, as He offers Himself as THE Sacrifice for sin, in meekness, humility, and compassion. And, God, the Holy Spirit, the Sent One, relates perfectly and beautifully to God, the Father, and God, the Son, in wishing not to bring attention to Himself. He quietly succors, encourages, guides and teaches, so gently, so quietly, so carefully.

These characteristics of the Godhead are evident in creation, for creation is a reflection of who God is!

Being feminine is none other than a reflection of God. We are perfectly free in “womanhood” to function with dignity, grace and strength, for rather than being an “after thought”, (as male was created first, then, female in the role of helper, Genesis 2:18) womanhood is a reflection of Himself...completing the presence of “God’s image” in creation.

God, the Son, though equal with God, the Father, chose to be under authority. He chose to be submissive to the Father’s



The next time you look in the mirror, S-M-I-L-E back at God and THANK Him for who Y-O-U are!

will. In that choice God, the Father, promised that He would be raised to the high position..... King of Kings (Rev. 1:5); His name would be above all names (Phil.2:9).

The key thought here is that Christ made the choice to submit. Had Christ Jesus chosen not to submit we would have NO SALVATION. No one easily makes the choice to suffer, or to learn obedience!

Being the reflection of God, it seems to me that had there been NO SIN we would submit one to another as easily as breathing. But sin has thrown God's order into confusion and out of balance. Sin always gives the imbalanced perspective, so God brings us back through orders as to how to function within His creation. In the Garden God gave no relational commands until after the FALL. (I find that very interesting!) Submission does not mean "lesser," or "under" or "of less value." Submission does not negate the spiritual gifts in any sense. Gifts are given to all (I Cor. 12:4-6). Submission is an attitude! This attitude is natural, beautiful and real! It is evidenced in the Godhead! And I might add, submission has its own rewards! (See Col. 3:15.)

I wish today to encourage you in your "role as a woman." You have intrinsic value. You have gifts given by our Heavenly Father. You have so much to offer in life and ministry! The next time you look in the mirror, S-M-I-L-E back at God and THANK Him for who Y-O-U ARE!

The missionary community is a very special and precious one! Down through the years Japan Evangelical Missionary Association (JEMA) has put great efforts into keeping us informed and helped. JEMA has made available tools for effective evangelism through the Japan Harvest, Japan Up-Date, through seminars, through days of prayer, etc.! We have been blessed!

Under the JEMA umbrella we, as women, are entering yet another frontier! I am so excited about what is taking place. Janice Potter, along with other

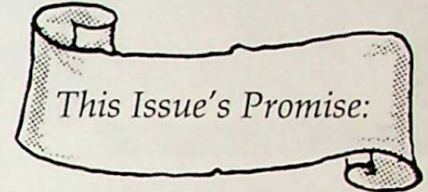
Attitudes

Attitudes are caught, not taught. Bad attitudes make me, as well as those around me, miserable. Good attitudes lift my spirits and quality of life to wonderful levels. I have often failed miserably in the "attitude area," but I am determined to be God's woman for this day here in Japan. I know just enough about human nature to conclude that if I am having trouble in an area of my life, you are probably experiencing the same. I want to keep watch over my ATTITUDES. I think that you wish for the same. I've come up with some areas where we as women can get "hung up" at times. Please remember that I'm not addressing relational issues, I'm just working on my heart ATTITUDE!

I need an attitude check...

- ...when I cannot bring myself to submit (I do not just mean the husband/wife definition here)
- ...when I'm in the running for a position and lose with the thought that I lost because I am a woman
- ...when I'm angered by carrying out what's considered to be a "woman's job"
- ...when I feel I'm not accepted on the basis of my intellect, talents and gifts
- ...when I feel pressure to remain silent thus not expressing myself even though I feel my viewpoint would be of benefit
- ...when I feel "above" or "below" others
- ...when my opinion is over-looked and I feel hurt
- ...when I pity myself because I feel a lack of respect

concerned women, is looking for ways to serve you, as women. Two recent discussion sessions have brought out needs which all women share. This has given birth to plans for a special seminar. On October 16th at CAJ Dr. Tom Koch will lead us in a workshop on counseling skills and interpersonal relationships. JUST FOR YOU!



I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives IN ME. The life I live in the body, I live by FAITH in the Son of God, who loved ME and gave himself for ME.

Galatians 2:20

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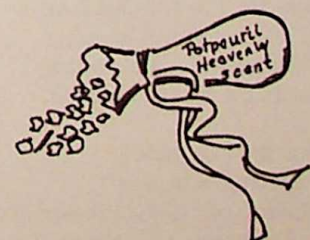
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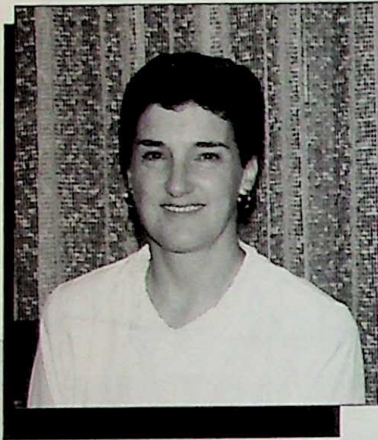
Is that really possible?

ANSWER:

It sure is!

jk





God Is At Work In Japan!

by Katie Sisco

Meet... Living Stones

I talked with Akira Yamada last night on the phone. You know how you can “hear” a smile? He was so excited about what the Lord is doing in Japan. I had asked for an “interview.” But it was definitely not the typical “question and answer” interview I had thought of. I didn’t have to ask questions, he was delightfully full of answers. It was hard to picture him as a “down and out” actor—ruining his life by gambling and contemplating suicide. But that’s what he was in 1967 when Billy Graham came to Japan.

We have to go back to when movies were the rage in Japan. Akira Yamada was hired by the Toho Movie Company and within a few years was playing the lead role in the popular movie “Otoo-san wa Ohitoyoshi” (Father is a Good-natured Man).

Overnight he was a star with fame and fortune. His monthly salary was 20 times that of prestigious graduates from Tokyo University. When a gigantic picture of him was erected in the Ginza, he thought he really was the center of the world.

He admits the conceit that ordered his life in those days. He spent huge amounts of money, drank excessively and played mah-jong throughout the nights. He began going to the studio with a hang-over. He was cautioned, he was strongly advised, he was pleaded with but he refused to listen.

When his world crashed around him, he turned to gambling as an escape. Horse racing and bike racing became an obsession. He was still drinking heavily and often got into brawls. After the third time that the police picked him up, his family gave up on him.

One day at the bike racing track he realized that he was actually thinking of suicide. Shaken, he remembered something his father, a

Christian, had told him. “Son, money and fame come to nothing in the end. Go to church.” With the last ten yen on him he made a phone call to the Yodobashi Church. One week later he was listening to Dr. Billy Graham preach.

The Lord showed him it was not a matter of the weakness of the vessel but the skill of the Potter.

That was the beginning of new life for Akira Yamada. Although he’ll be the first to tell you that he didn’t change overnight. The day he was baptized his breath smelled of alcohol. Even so, the Holy Spirit planted a desire in his heart to become an evangelist. He struggled with this because he knew very well how weak he was.

One day a word from Scripture impressed him. “‘Look,’ says the Lord, ‘as clay is in the hands of the potter,

so are you in My hands.’” He realized it was God’s business to remake him—the issue was not the weakness of the vessel but the skill of the Potter.

After seminary he began pastoral work and is still vibrantly at it today. Actually, he has an associate pastor who carries on most of the work in the Yaita church now while he travels all over Japan in evangelistic ministry. Recently that ministry has expanded to Okinawa, Korea, and Hawaii as well. Billy Graham and Luis Palau are strong encouragers of Akira. And the man who at one time could never imagine that his failures could have any value, has found they’ve proved to be a door into the lives of present day “stars” whose private lives are as needy as his was. Many in the movie industry here have received Bibles and a personal witness from Akira Yamada.

For some time now he has also been “chaplain” for Sakushin Gakuin in Utsunomiya. He has three assistants who speak in the daily chapels, but as often as he can, he speaks himself—to an audience of 13,000 students and 600 staff.

Recently the principal became a believer. The principal’s son, who is a well-known politician, is now hearing the gospel in a home meeting—and there was more that Akira Yamada was bubbling over with when we talked last night. God has been and is at work in Japan. I am challenged and encouraged to believe for more “Akira Yamadas” in this year of evangelistic outreach.

With grateful thanks to Wataru Fujiyama and Shizuko Kato for their help translating Pastor Yamada’s tract which tells the story of his early life and salvation.



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Idioms to Stretch By



How Idiomatic is Your Japanese?

Test yourself by choosing the correct answer in the following problems from past *Jitsuyoo Nihongo Kentei Shiken* papers. The expressions all use words connected with the body.

- A. 金持ちとわかると ()
 ように態度を変えた。
 1. 見て見ぬふりをする
 2. 目にものを言わせる
 3. 水を得た魚の
 4. 手のひらを返した
- B. 予算オーバーで ()。
 1. 顔が消えた
 2. 鼻が高い
 3. 耳がそろった
 4. 足が出た

Answers

A. (4) Literally "to turn one's palm upwards" i.e. to change (one's attitude) completely.

Explanation of wrong answers:
 (1) 見て見ぬふりをする。"to take no notice of, pretend not to see, ignore."
 eg. 最近はいたすらをしている子供がいて、見て見ぬふりをする人が多くなった。
 (2) 目にものを言わせる。"to communicate one's feeling by one's facial expression."
 (3) 水を得た魚のように。"as in one's native element."
 eg. 彼はもその職場にもどって、水を得た魚のようにはいまいそ。

The answer to Question # A in the Summer '93 language page should have been #3.
 はつかしん Editor-dw

eg. 「旅行で遊び回ったそだね。」
 "I hear you enjoyed yourself to the full on your trip."
 「I enjoyed myself so much that I spent 100,000 yen over my budget. But I had fun."
 「遊び過ぎて10万円ぐらいいか出ちやたよ。でも、たのしみだったよ。」

B. (4) To overspend

Sermon Illustration For The Busy Missionary

おもたい聖書
 やまがたけん のうそん ひと まち きょうかい さんり みち にちようび
 山形県のある農村の垂であった。町の教会まで三里の道のりを、日曜日
 おお こうだんよう せいしよ せ お れいはい しゅっせき
 ごとに大きな講壇用の聖書を背負って礼拝に出席していた。大きな字
 の聖書でないと読めないからである。会う人々は、「おじいさん、よく
 そんな重い聖書を背負って遠い所まで、毎週毎週でかけられますね。」
 とはいえ、「いいえ、昔、重い罪を背負っていたときにくらべれば、
 まことに軽いものです。」と。そして、なおこういのであった。「わ
 たしのようなものは、日曜日の礼拝出席を休んだら、この世(悪魔)
 に負けてしまいます。」

From 「キリスト教例話辞典」 Part 3, Pg 68-69, 藤井康男、教会新報社

Helpful Vocabulary

おもたい heavy	礼拝 worship service
聖書 Bible	出席する attend
山形県 Yamagata Pref.	字 character, letters
農村 a farming village	昔 the past, in the past
三里 3 ri. One ri= 2.44 miles	軽い light(weight)
講壇用の聖書 pulpit Bible	悪魔 the Devil, demon
背負う carry, bear	負ける to be defeated

The Heavy Bible

An elderly man from a farming village in Yamagata Prefecture used to walk over seven miles every Sunday to attend church in the town. He carried a large pulpit Bible with him because the print of any other Bible was too small to read. Whenever people he met expressed amazement at his travelling so far with such a heavy Bible each week, he would reply, "No, no. Compared with the weight of the sin I used to bear in the past, the weight of this Bible is really nothing. For someone like me to be absent from church would be giving in to Satan."

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Gleanings From The Christian Shinbun

by Paul Pike

Evangelicals Unite for Welfare Center

July 18, '93

Seven evangelical churches in Nerima Ku, Tokyo are cooperating in a welfare center to help mentally handicapped people.



The idea of the Hosanna Shop came from Mr. Ishii who was chairman of the Nerima Ku Family Welfare Association. Rev. Izuta of Nerima Baptist Church, in cooperation with other churches in Nerima, has established a management committee consisting of pastors and lay people. In spite of Mr. Ishii's sudden death, the project has gone forward quickly and Hosanna Shop began on April 1 with the recognition of the Nerima Ku office. Those who receive counseling also work to recycle and make items that can be sold in the shop. Each day there is a time of worship with hymn singing and a Bible message. Hosanna Shop is financed by personal gifts and a generous contribution from the Nerima City office.

2nd JEA Evangelism Strategy Consultation Meets

June 20, '93

The Mission Strategy Commission of JEA held its second round-table conference on June 2nd and 3rd in Osaka. Leaders from 22 groups participated.

Four case studies were presented. Rev. K. Ogawa of the Evangelical Free Church stated that they aim to start a base church in areas where there is no Evangelical Free witness, and from there to develop a second church. In starting the base church it has been easy to get cooperation from others, but not so easy when starting the second church. To develop people with a vision for this ministry, they work on middle and high school students and even send some of them abroad. He stressed the positive role of foreign missionaries.

Mr. Iwata of the Japan Church of Jesus Christ's Mission Research Institute said that they were aiming to plant one church in each prefecture. The easiest way to do this is to divide an existing church into two (*kabuwake*) which usually results in two churches like the first one. There is also a need for help from the denomina-

tion where there is no base church. Churches in large cities are encouraged to help the developing church in outlying areas both with finances and personnel.

A speaker from the World Gospel Association raised the issue of national workers and foreign missionaries working together. In order for a small church to reach independence, the missionary should emphasize discipleship as well as evangelism.

Rev. Kamei of the Ashiya Gospel Church pointed out that he had moved from having as many evangelistic meetings as possible, to training people to live as Christians and to build truly Christian homes. He stressed the need to emphasize those things which most believers can do, rather than creating a reliance on the expert.

The Evangelism Commission gave the results of a questionnaire about long-range plans. 80% of churches had long-range plans for growth; 70% planned to double in size; only 40% had plans to increase the number of pastors, seminary students, etc. showing a lack of leadership development planning.

Moonies In Trouble??

July 4, '93

The Association of Parents Hurt by the Unification Church is seeking an injunction from the Tokyo District Court to ban the Unification Church from Japan. The church uses such techniques as "mind control," refusing young people opportunities to meet with their parents, and other unlawful means to control those who enter the church. Young people and housewives caught up in the movement by these unlawful means must engage in evangelism and door-to-door sales.

According to the National Consumers Center and the lawyers dealing with complaints concerning their high-pressure sales, in 1992 the amount of money involved was more than 713 billion yen. The Association claims that these and other activities violate Article 81 of the Religious Bodies Law.

A New Heretical Group Appears

June 6, '93

A new heretical group has recently appeared in the Kanto area, working mainly among university students. The Morning Star or M.S. was founded in Korea by a former member of the Moonies. It passes itself off as a branch of the Methodist Church or an inter-denominational group, sometimes using the name "Church of Praise."

Japan KGK warns that they are targeting Christian students to draw them away from their orthodox churches. Members often visit churches posing as Christians and offer Bible studies. In one university the Bible study group was completely taken over by M.S. members. In dealing with non-Christians they offer language study as a bait without mentioning their religious orientation.

The founder was a member of the Unification Church but received a revelation in 1977 to "save humanity." He began evangelism throughout Korea and in 1982 erected a church in Seoul. The M.S. basic teaching closely resembles that of the Unification Church.

Influences of the New Age Movement, the occult, J. W. and Buddhism can also be seen. The teaching is distilled into 30 Basic Principles. The training period for seekers varies between 2 to 4 weeks, after which they take a test on the 30 Basic Principles. M.S. teachings include:

1. Denial of the divinity of Christ. He was a man but not God. He is the supreme human because of his obedience. God is God the Father and the Holy Spirit is regarded as a feminine god.

2. Denial of the inerrancy of Scripture. Only parts of the Bible are regarded as truth. The 30 Basic Principles bring these areas of truth together and become God's true revelation.

3. Denial of the death of Christ as a full and sufficient atonement for sin. There was no need for Christ to die and his death did not bring about our salvation.

Presently in the Tokyo church there are three missionaries from Korea and ten other teachers. A group is living as a community in Yono City in Saitama Prefecture. In Korea it is said that 10,000 students have joined the movement, and that there are groups in most universities.

SHORT SHORT SHORT SHORT TAKE TAKE TAKE TAKE

Youth for Mission 94

Billy Graham Mission 94 kicked off youth rallies June 30-July 6 with four major meetings in the greater Tokyo area. Franklin Graham, son of Billy Graham and president of Samaritan's Purse and World Medical Mission, preached to over 2,000 people with 47 making salvation decisions. Graham was accompanied by gospel singer and guitarist, Dennis Agajanian.

The Graham Association also hosted 250 missionaries and international business leaders for a breakfast at the Tokyo American Club, a tradition started by his father many years ago. The purpose was to encourage their involvement and thank them for their support of Mission 94.

Franklin Graham said, "With the Pacific Rim experiencing the fastest economic growth in the world, I believe Mission 94 could be one of my father's most strategic crusades, with potentially the largest audience of his nearly 50 years of ministry as it is sent by satellite throughout Asia."

Women's rallies are planned for October 21-23 with Mrs. Anne Graham Lotz. The All Workers Mobilization Rally will be held on December 5.

The Rain of Jericho

Approximately 8,000 people gathered outdoors in the rain on July 17 at Tokyo Yomiuri Land to praise God and pray for revival in Japan as part of Jericho Japan '93 (sponsored by Revival Praise Mission). Rain had threatened the previous five Jericho meetings, but each time the weather would improve just in time. This year the rain continued throughout the meeting, testing those who attended. In spite of the inclement conditions the attendance equaled previous meetings.

Missionaries Care

In response to JEMA's emphasis on Missionary Care, Ole J. Moyholm reports that experienced counselors Bjorn & Solveig Lande came from Norway for 2 weeks to share with Norwegian Missionary Society and the Lutheran Free Church of Norway. Helpful seminars on coping with conflict in the missionary fellowship were given, along with practical counseling sessions.

Visionaries for the Lost Retire

Rev. and Mrs. Donnel McLean retired this year after 40 years of pioneer evangelism with the Assemblies of God. After over ten years of evangelism Donnel led the JEMA Pioneer Evangelism Commission in surveying Japan, developing reports and maps of unevangelized and lesser evangelized areas. The commission's research was published in the Japan Harvest, and became the basis for the beginning of Church Information Service. As a result of their burden for the unchurched areas the McLeans moved to Toyama in 1978 where they worked in church planting until retirement.

JEMA is thankful for every missionary who has given his or her life for spreading the gospel in Japan. And we thank the McLeans for their example. They saw the cities with no churches.

Bert and Muriel Poole are also retiring. The Pooles, after ministry in Japan, returned to North America to begin White Fields ministry (in Japan, KDK). The organization has raised large sums of money to help support Japanese pastors. In the last few years the Japanese churches have become financially responsible for KDK and also have helped to support other national workers around the world after White Fields expanded into other countries.

New Automation System in Operation

Friendship Radio is thankful for the Lord's provision of a new automation system for broadcasting its programs over cable radio. A computer controls eight DAT (digital audio tape) machines and runs 24 hours a day. Getting the system operational took longer than expected but is working quite well now. The system provides better sound and makes more versatility possible for the program schedule.

Friendship radio is planning to concentrate on recruiting new subscribers and listeners this fall as it reaches the six-year point in its broadcasting history.

Steve Tygert, Director

From The Mail Box

"First of all, let me compliment you on the new logo. Japan, the land of the rising sun is truly the land of the Lord's harvest. Good job! We also like the new format...new regular columns, ...guest editors and each issue devoted to a separate subject...William Wood's articles.

I am saddened, though, by the fact that Rev. Ogata was allowed to do his 'preaching' that power evangelism is necessary in helping victims of the new religions. While he has a right to his own opinions they are definitely not the beliefs of the majority of Evangelicals....

Our Lord does do miracles today, thankfully. But allowing God to do His work, in answer to our prayers, is a far cry from that propounded as 'necessary' in power evangelism. A look at Acts would show that it is a traditional book, and what happened there need not happen now with us....

If all of this is so 'necessary,' why are there so many evangelical Christians involved in 'spiritual deliverance and warfare' where God alone does healing and miracles, etc. with no human agent other than the church as a whole and God's people individually involved in Prayer?"

Ken Reddington

"I was very impressed with the article "Meet...LivingStones" about Rev. & Mrs. Kiyoshi Sasakiyama and the stand they took against heathen festivals in their children's schools. I would like the original Japanese article to share with my church members."

Jane Brinkerhoff



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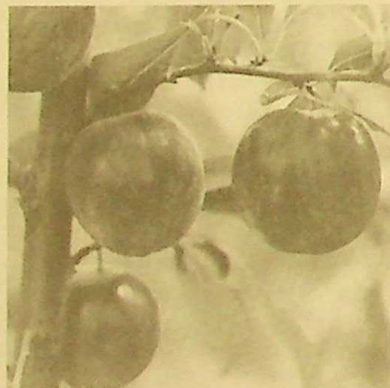
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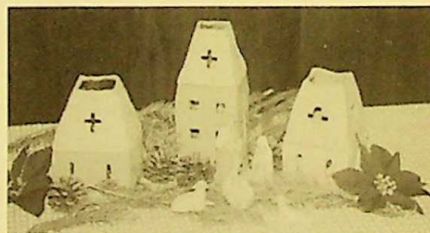
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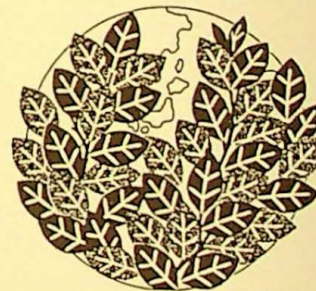
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