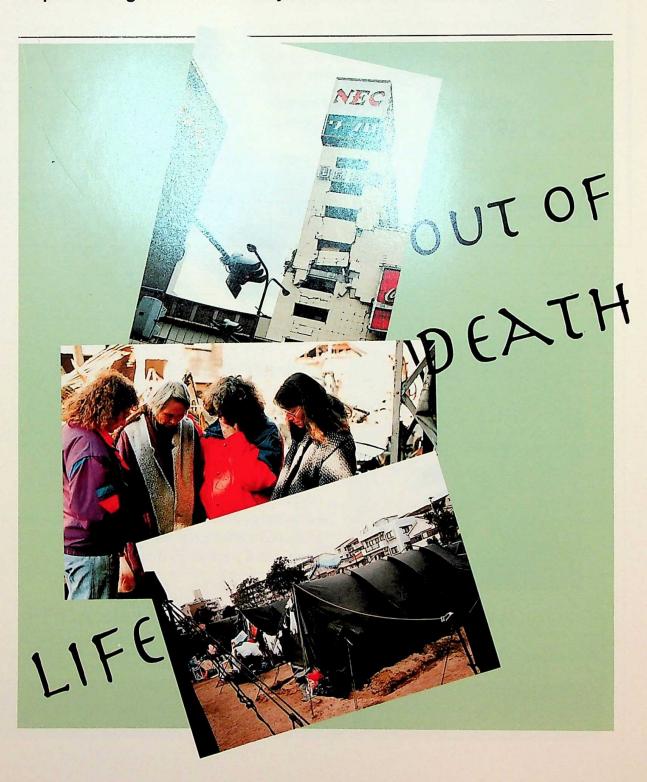


Japan Evangelical Missionary Association

Spring 1995



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It's a Good Time for the Great Taste.





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In This Harvest ...

LIFE OUT OF DEATH

Several months ago when I received JoAnn Dupree's manuscript about her cooking classes, neither of us dreamed of all that would happen before it would go to print. I think it is very appropriate that her stories be included in this issue of the Harvest, as she and her husband, Charles, both went through the earthquake and are still working through its aftermath. Their retirement from Japan has been pushed ahead a few months because of the earthquake, but even so their attitude, reflecting that of all the Kansai missionaries I've talked to, is a real blessing. The following is from a letter she sent me just after the quake. —kbs

Dear Katie.

Thank you for your postcard dated 1/16 which I received 1/24 (our first mail since the earthquake).

Our house is somewhat damaged but we are continuing to live here. (I'm sleeping in the car!) Many homes in our neighborhood collapsed. Even though ours is also an old wooden home, it seems to be structurally sound. We have electricity and telephone service. We do not have tap water or gas. OMS Tokyo missionaries have come twice and brought water in 55 gallon drums, kerosene heater, camping burner, etc. and worked as well to help cover the roof where tiles were lost, etc.

We have been invited to Japan Mission to stay from time to time in order to take baths, wash clothes and rest. We have gone once and will go again February 2 and 3. We are really very well off and praise God for the way He cares for us and gives us all we need. We have plenty of frozen and canned foods.

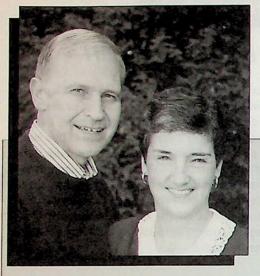
I appreciate the suggestion to have a companion article featuring someone who came to Christ though the cooking class ministry. A few years ago I asked Mrs. Oyama for her written testimony and one of our pastor's wives translated it for me. I planned to write it up for our OMS magazine. I got extremely busy and never did

it—BUT, when your card came, I remembered it and the Lord really helped me to find it.

At this point, with transportation to Kakogawa difficult at best, it would have been next to impossible to gather material. How thankful I am for the way our loving Heavenly Father orders our lives and gives us what we need at the time we need it.

In His love,

JoAnn Dupree



JEMA Windows

Ron Sisco JEMA President

Greetings to all of you from us both!

The past three months have been particularly sobering for us. Probably for you, too. The earthquakes here—in the least expected places—and their aftermath, barely beginning to be calculated; the Home-going of Christian leaders in Japan—friends sorely missed; the dollar plummeting—so far without a corresponding drop in yen prices; the flu bug that has been especially virulent this year—and doesn't hit only once....

But as we've worked on this issue of the Harvest, we've been blessed by the steady reminders of God's sovereignty in every circumstance and His power to bring LIFE OUT OF DEATH.

In this issue you will read of Andrew Furuyama's death. Really, his step into Life. We were reminded of Psalm 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." The Living Bible translates it: "His loved ones are precious in His sight, and He does not lightly let them die."

From our human vantage point, we feel we can ill afford to lose a pastor like Andrew Furuyama or a missionary like Steve Tygert. It is precious to us to know that we are precious to Him and He does not lightly let us die. Those believers who died in the earthquake were within His same tender care. Where else can we turn except to Him whose "thoughts are not our thoughts, nor His ways our ways. Indeed, as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are His ways higher than our ways and His thoughts than our thoughts."

On January 19th, two days after the earthquake, a memorial service was held at CAJ for Steve Tygert, who had, among other things, served as Chairman of the Board there for three years. Along with his own ministry at Friendship Radio, which Steve founded in 1986, he was always available to help others and was especially involved at CAJ in many supportive ways. Steve was only 49 years old when God called Him Home.

The words of Moses, spoken and written thousands of years ago, ring with the same truth and power today, "Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

...a thousand years in Your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."

To others God gives years of life. We just were informed of the home-going of Opal L. Gibbs at the age of 98. She and her husband, Maurice, were missionaries in Japan before WWII. Her son-in-law, Rev. A. Gordon Wolfe, also a former Japan missionary, officiated at the memorial service. There will be those of you out there who will remember these names.

One thing we know, whether He gives us many days or few, "our times are in His hands...and we say, 'You are our God, we trust in You, O Lord." Together we look for His return, when "that which is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory."

JEMA's Second Men's Prayer Summit

When: May 10th, 11:00 a.m.

through the 13th, 1:00 p.m.

Where: SEND Okutama Bible Camp

Cost: ¥ 26,000 (pre-registration: ¥5,000)

Facilitators: Tom White and Dave Halbert

Information: Call the JEMA office

at 03-3295-1949 to register.

English-speaking Japanese pastors welcome.

1995 JEMA Calendar

Pioneer Evangelism Seminar—April 24th, "Transferring your Vision," at SEND Center, Higashi Tokorozawa

Prayer Summit—May 10th-13th at SEND Bible Camp

JEMA Summer Conference—Aug. 3rd-6th at Karuizawa with Dr. Richard Ganz.

letter from Ruth

Ruth Droullard, YWAM missionary from Tokyo, went with one of the first shipments by truck to Kobe the week after the earthquake. The following is the letter she wrote us when she returned.—ed.

I saw and felt more human pain during the three days in Kobe than I have ever experienced. The moments with people are etched on my heart—their stories and faces and touch burnished on my

soul. I felt the changes in my heart happening... It wasn't in the giving of things they so needed (water, food, underwear...)-it was their faces as they received—a delicate mixture of joy and embarrassment heartache. How empty it must feel to have so little left that you must ask for a single pair of panties and then laughingly exclaim, while your heart is hot with humiliation, that it has been ten days since the last change of clothes.

It wasn't in the seeing of the destruction which went on for miles and miles in every direction-it was seeing the untouched leftovers here and there... the soccer ball next to the house where the whole family died, the blue tea cup sitting on the ground under a precariously slanted wall, the purple sweater that the beautiful lady had put on just before her home, family and world were ripped away from her. It wasn't the sirens which screamed for attention carrying important people to and from urgent scenes and situations-it was the quiet voices of the survivors, halting and solemn, cracking with emotion and soft because you can't speak very loud when

your heart hurts that much. While we poured water into teapots and jugs, they poured out their stories to inform us, to tell us how scary it was and is, to give us pieces of their hearts because that's all most of them have left to give.

It was dark driving into the city on the one main road left open. Except for the headlights on the long string of cars and trucks there was no movement or life.

Afraid of aftershocks, the people had

gone to the school gymnasiums and city buildings. I suppose for many of them the fear of being alone in the remains of their homes made them seek solace among others.

At first, just here and there... a building down, a roof on the ground, a toppled office...as if the quake had dark tentacles deep underground which reached out to jerk at certain points. There seemed to be no pattern to the disaster—an entire block of homes and shops brought down to thousands of fragments next to perfectly intact apartments. An office building with the entire fourth floor totally sandwiched while the other floors bore

up proudly as if nothing had happened.

Yet another where the upper half of the building stood whole but had totally twisted on its axis at an odd angle. An angry fissure which sliced across a playground, buried its head and slithered away down the hill mercifully leaving the elementary school untouched to become 'home' to some 2,000 refugees.

We asked them to line up at the park to take what they needed. It made me ache

to do that, though it was the best way to distribute things. Who were we to suddenly set the rules and tell these people what to do? Handing down things from up above in the truck, I felt grief again. I, from my lofty place of plenty-handing down goods into empty hands of need. Oh, Lord, let me be among them as much as I can. Climbing down, I prayed, "Let me feel their cold, and sleep

as they do and be with them in their need. Let us serve as if we were You, Lord. Let us love, listen, really understand and speak wisely as Your heart and voice. Let them see and feel You."

A lady with curly hair and a gold jacket came to our truck needing underwear, a towel and a blanket... I gave them and took her hand as she sadly turned to go. "Auntie, was it terribly scary? Are you ok? What about your home? How is your family?" One question at a time, calling her to talk and cry and let the pain come out just a little. She finally looked up and said that her house was flattened and burned...that they all usually slept

upstairs but her son's fever had made him want to be near the kitchen for water in the night. The house fell immediately after the quake and climbing out with grandma and grandpa and her husband, she feared for her son's life but heard his voice calling from a small opening in the wall. She was unable to see him but reached in and grasped his hand. He was fine, he said, but afraid and wanted out. Papa will get someone soon, she promised and they waited for what seemed like eternity... holding hands and talking... until the fire started. It burnt hot and furnace-like in rolling waves, licking up every house in the neighborhood, melting windows with searing hot wind-not pausing to wait for Papa to come with help. She was forced to let go of his hand and run carrying the weight of his cry, "Mother, help me, please, help me..." And I knelt with her and felt the heaviness of her burden as we cried together. It's too much for a person to bear. "Oh, God lift her face to You...bring her to Your rest."

Those grandmas in the classroom with whom we slept. No home left, children in far away cities all grown up with lives

of their own, married to people who don't particularly like mother-in-laws. Where are they to go? What do you do when you're old and set in your ways and your life gets shaken out from under you? The lady with one tooth and tousled silver hair who invited me to sleep next to her asked me those questions.

Unanswered questions asked to little Ai-chan, by a worried mommy. Even little things—"are you hungry?" "aren't you cold?" "did you see Yuki?

(the kitty)" couldn't get a response from her unbroken staring eyes. Finally after nine days, her mom said, she gave one syllable answers to simple questions.

Kristen stood by Ai-chan at the early morning fire warming her hands and drinking tea. When wiggles and little girl giggles couldn't stay still any longer, she asked Ai to go for a walk. As her mother talked of their plight, her tears of sorrow became ones of joy because Ai and Kristen were laughing and playing tag! Prone to accidents as Krissy is, she tripped on an orange pylon and smashed her chin and lip on the ground. Ai-chan called out, "Are you ok? Come get a tissue!" With an arm around her new friend, she brought Kristen to me, and Ai-chan's mommy had to leave the warmth of the fire and go upstairs to cry because her daughter had started really talking for the first time in ten days.

"If I could only talk about how I feel...but I can't because I don't know..." said the beautiful lady in the purple sweater. She had just used her water to wash her hair—"oh it feels so good—clean undergarments and clean hair." Standing in line to get lunch (at 3:00 pm) she told me the story of her early morning shower before work... and then...her house falling...and the sliding rocks and beams which killed the children, and her husband who never came out until the

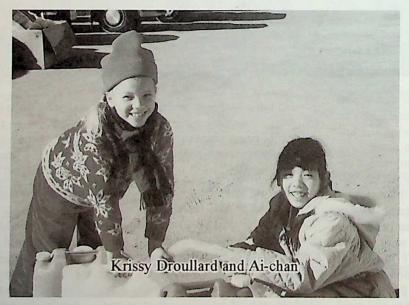
choices, I keep trying to think, but I can't..." She asked what I thought about her options. I told her what I would do—pick the ones that kept her close to friends or family who love her. Lord, please love that lady in the purple sweater in a way that she can feel. Please give her ability to see ahead and please put Yourself in her future.

"What's in an old man's future? Why are grandma and I still alive?" moaned the thin-faced man with wispy hair to Kristen and me. With tiny tears drizzling down the curves of his nose, he talked of his grandchildren sleeping on the three level bunk in the demolished playroom. "We climbed out unscathed save for this scratch," he said, pointing to his forehead. "Why didn't they get out? I can't live without them."

"I don't know why I'm crying. It's not for me, really." He was leaning against the door of my truck, wiping his face and eyes. He had driven up in a little white truck and parked. I had offered to help move anything, but his greatest need was moving things out of his heart it seemed. His house was next to the house next to the church that was still

miraculously standing in the midst of black, sooty rubble. He didn't know why but he had reached for his Bible on the way out in the dark that morning. "I'm not a Christian. I've tried all different religions and Christianity's God is the only one I can't say that I can't believe. Not to say that I do believe, either...yet...but don't you think it's strange that I grabbed that Bible before we climbed out the roof?" I did and I told him so. I also said I thought God had pro-

tected his family after I saw their house! He wasn't interested in a God that merely protected, he said, but instead in a God who loved him personally and



neighbors pulled him out hours and hours later. Too, too much later, she said. "So what to do now? What are my cared for him. I told him that God is that way in my life. I said that in the Bible he had grabbed, he could read I John which tells about His love. He cried as he told how hard his parents worked thirty years ago to build the snack bar under the home in which he had grown up. He cried for them, for their work, for their lives and their future. He was tender and broken and ready for God to move in his life. God, it doesn't matter what I say to most of these people. Their eyes show that they can't really hear my voice yet. But I can listen and pray and You can speak and send more people to meet them and speak to them when they can hear and process the words. God, speak to the young man with the strong square face who grabbed his Bible on the way out.

Maybe down this alley there is some work to be done, I thought. Picking my way among tiles and dirt, I found a little lady. "Perhaps I can help in some way?" I called. "No, thank you," she answered. "My home was there..." pointing to an uneven mound of black charred stuff with pipes sticking up. "No home left means there's no clean-up for you to help me with," she said simply, smiling.

"How about your clothes? Have you been able to change your clothes?" I asked. Of course, she hadn't ... so she'd wait, she said, while I checked the truck for anything in her size. Her husband wouldn't need clothes anymore, she whispered and wept just a tiny bit. But there was her son, who was grown, who needed anything we could spare. Through tears, Beth and I scavenged the boxes yet another time and found a few outfits for each of them. Her neighbor with whom she was living was waiting with her when we came back. Through wisps of smoke, the neighbor pointed with her cigarette, "That church there-that's all we have. They feed us vegetables every day. They do. Give everyone of us a healthy lunch-everyday since the earthquake. They're all we've got." Meet their needs, Oh, Church of God, bring these people vegetables and hot soup. Lord, touch this neighborhood

with your love through the people at this church. And we prayed, Beth and I, silently, as we laughed and cried and listened to the ladies until one ran off to her house and brought us scarves. Mine, blue and white-striped and soft, kept me warm deep inside for the next days in the city.

The acts of kindness were lovely to see. A lady came with her daughter to get a gas stove. "How many people are in your dwelling place?" we asked, to determine how many gas canisters to give. Her answer, "24." Her neighbors, some family, a couple of friends... her apartment was broken, but just a little, so she had room in her home and heart to help. she said. One grandma wanted to pray for us-we were just ready for our long journey home. We have homes, we suddenly realized, she has no home...yet, she prayed for us. Our safety, our families, praising God that we had come to help were the core of her prayer and we wept...speechless.

Back in Tokyo, everything is normal. People in the nightclubs drinking away their 'sorrows,' crowded trains, petty problems, shopping, schools, office life and busy-ness. It's been hard for me to come back. I felt like this was a pretend world while the real world was aching on in Kobe. I saw my apartment still standing and cried, saw that my family and friends are all living and that our refrigerator has plenty and we can eat quietly as a family in the comfort of our home and I wept and wept.

Eisuke Kanda, a wise man who has seen the sorrows of the world with Food for the Hungry, called to check on a shipment of food and water from the States. After talking a bit about that, he asked how I was after returning and told me, "Kobe's situation is reality. Tokyo's life is also reality. You've got to build a bridge from one reality to the other in your mind." I'm still working on how to do that. I think writing all these thoughts down to you is one way of bridge building. Thanks for listening.

Ruth



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CAJ SENIOR TRIP—TO KOBE

By CAJ High School Principal, Jack Smith

Every year the senior class at CAJ looks forward to the Senior Trip. In fact, they begin to plan for it their freshman year and are earning money toward it all through high school. The '94/95 class had planned to go to the

Philippines and then that door was shut because of a US travel ban. They had several options. They chose to go as volunteers to Kobe.
—ed.

The sun was shining and the sky a clear blue as the CAJ (Christian Academy in Japan) bus pulled away from the Ichii Baku Kyokai in Tarumi-ku, Kobe. We were headed out into the city of Kobe to do relief work. Spirits were high and the students laughed and talked as we wound through the streets toward the center of the city.

We had arrived the night before, excited and a little apprehensive
about what we would find in a city devastated by an earthquake only six weeks
earlier. The suburb of Tarumi was a sea
of blue tarps covering the broken tiles
on the tops of the houses, and many of
the concrete walls that surround the
yards had fallen or cracked, but actually
everything looked pretty normal. In
fact, some of the students questioned
why we had come to Kobe to do relief
work as we had walked through the
neighborhood the evening of our arrival.

Now as we wound down the hills surrounding the main part of the city we began to see the real devastation. Suddenly one of the boys yelled, "Hey, look at that house!" We all turned to look and were horrified when we realized that the pile of rubble had been a home just a few weeks before. As we stared in silence, one of students pointed out a vase full of fresh cut flowers on a pedestal in front of the rubble. A girl near the front of the bus said the flowers meant that someone had died there. We

were quiet.

As we drove deeper into the city, we saw hundreds of homes that had collapsed and large areas that had been completely

burnt. Often only a wall or concrete building would be standing out of an area of several square blocks. By the time we let the first group out at a church where they would distribute clothing and personal items, the bus was completely quiet and a few students were weep-We had driven for about

45 minutes past some of the hardest hit areas and none of us could quite comprehend what we were seeing.

During the next six days, we were in a wide variety of situations, and experienced many emotions. Much to their

disappointment, only a few of the boys had the chance to actually tear down buildings or remove rubble. Most of that work had already been completely taken over by the government and the large companies brought in for that purpose. A few students did visit evacuee centers to prepare and distribute food and clothing. Most of us distributed clothing, food and personal items on street corners and near shelters for the than 200,000 more homeless. We met at the

Salvation Army Church each morning to load the vans and go out to neighborhoods to give the items away. We repeated the process in the afternoon.



Two rather remarkable involvements were with child evangelism and street evangelism teams, as well as participation in Japanese church services. Each day several students would join with Japanese university students and go out in the streets to share God's immeasur-

were doing. He went on to ask questions about God and their faith. He even asked for the name and address of the church where they were staying so he could visit. The encounter had a great impact on that student.



able love with the people of Kobe. They sang songs, passed out literature and talked with people passing by. Many of the students expressed their surprise and joy at how open some people were to the good news they were sharing.

The 35 of us from CAJ stayed in three churches in the Tarumi area. Those churches as well as two others in the district had joined to form a relief center and all of them were housing both foreign and university student volunteers. The fellowship with the university students and the chance to share and sing in Japanese churches were unexpected blessings for all of us. One student said, "I just wanted to help. It was both humbling and exciting for me to see other Christian volunteers working with us."

Another student, after a day of singing and sharing in train stations, told of an encounter with a construction worker. The man had approached him after the group finished singing and asked what the students were doing in Kobe. When he learned they were there to do relief work and share God's love, he began to cry and thank the students for what they

One unexpected blessing was the opportunity to talk with the Japanese University students. Many of our English speakers were amazed at their own ability to converse in Japanese with people they had never met before. They had the chance to talk with others about issues such as grace, mercy and justice. They gained confidence in their own abilities and made friends from all over Japan.

All of us who went received more than we gave and felt truly blessed to have the opportunity to be there and to put our faith into action. For us it was an experience of God's love. For what more could we ask?





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WHAT'S COOKING?

by JoAnn Dupree

JoAnn and her husband, John, came to Japan with OMS International in 1956. By 1963 they had five children and had moved numerous times. They lived in Sendai, Tokyo and latterly in Nishinomiya. They leave Japan permanently May 20th of this year.



Here I was, 26 years old with three small children, in Japan because of God's call and guidance...but unable to be a missionary. At least that's how I felt. I knew my command of Japanese was lacking, but surely there was something I could do for fulfillment as well as reach out to the Japanese. Cooking class evangelism in our home was the answer, even though cooking (at that time) was not "my thing."

Since that time in the late 50s, I have discovered that cooking class evangelism is rewarding when children are small and the classes must be at home, later while the children are in school, and yet later when they have left home. No matter at what stage of life, I havefound this ministry effective and exciting. This past year I have had 15 regular classes, in 14 churches, as well as one class in our home for neighbors.

The pattern that developed over the years includes teaching a menu of salad, main dish and dessert, which is then lunch for all present. The class starts at

10:30 and we try to have all the food prepared by noon. After lunch and an informal time of self introduction, there is a chapel period of about 20 minutes. At times I am asked to speak, but I prefer to have the pastor, pastor's wife or a church member lead and give a Bible-centered message. One purpose of the class is to help those in the church neighborhood feel comfortable and become familiar not only with the church but also make friends within the church body. I feel the missionary, other than teaching the cooking, should be in the background. Afterwards, those who can stay do so to help clean up. This gives an unstructured time for getting acquainted.

There is much more to the class than those who attend realize. Many weeks before I teach a menu the first time, I am involved in researching. This means looking through cookbooks and maga-

zines for ideas. Rarely do I teach a recipe exactly as I find it, but the ideas help formalize menus which taste good to Japanese.

One thing I have discovered is that everyday ingredients used in an unusual, creative way is fascinating to the women. I have taught spring

roll cover "bowls" in which chicken salad is placed. (Like a taco salad.) I have also taught an on-top-of-the-burner noodle casserole with instant ramen as one of the ingredients. When deciding a menu, I take into consideration the textures, colors and taste as well as the timing of each part of the menu. Deciding the menu takes a lot of time (and tasting!) but I know it is important to insure a menu that is attractive, tasty, inexpensive and easy, as well as calling for ingredients readily available. Sound im-

possible? For the past 12 years I've been doing this full-time in the Kinki district (mainly with Japanese Holiness churches), without repeating menus. A non-Christian neighbor has proved invaluable, voluntarily translating the menus and other related material I send to the churches

Along with the recipes, I prepare a shopping/preparation list. (It would be difficult for me to buy and then to carry on the train the ingredients for each class.) The list is comprised of all the needed ingredients (including brand names and sizes of cans) with a breakdown for attendance numbers, and any necessary instructions. I usually need to prepare some of the food at home (mainly desserts) since time is too short and the ovens too small to make enough for everyone. I request that, at least three days before the class, I receive a



call giving me the number for lunch, including pre-schoolers. This helps me prepare as well as gives me an opportunity to give instructions I may not have put on the preparation list when I sent it out. The church prepares copies of the recipes for each woman.

The day before the class I do necessary food preparation and gather kitchen utensils for that menu. The women find it interesting to see what I use in my kitchen and I find it convenient to have what is needed with me. Since I am teaching in 14 churches, I have 14 different facilities. In most churches the kitchen is far too small for the class, so tables (and sometimes a gas burner) are set up in the sanctuary. I firmly believe that any church, as long as there is a gas burner, an oven, and a refrigerator, can have a cooking class. Everything else

give cooking hints, and humor is certainly a must! My Japanese has improved through the years, though I certainly continue to make mistakes. I long ago decided, though, that the most important thing is not whether the food is picture-perfect or whether I speak fluent Japanese. It is important that we have a good time together. I try to stay relaxed

the next cooking class date. Christian literature is given to be read at home.

During clean-up I gather my things, chatting with the women and children as I can, and listening to snatches of conversation as non-churched women become acquainted with the believers thus creating a natural bridge to the church.

I understand now that in my youth I was selfishly looking for "missionary work" which would give me fulfillment. What God has given goes far beyond that. The various churches have new contacts. Church women have a chance to share their faith with relatives and friends. The seed has been sown to hundreds upon hundreds of women and a good number of children, too. Many have made a firm commitment to Jesus Christ and are now baptized, active members in their churches. Praise God for this ministry that touches the Japanese home in such a positive way.



can be worked around...with a little creativity!

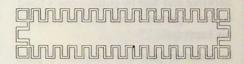
I like to arrive at the church one hour before the class begins. I ask that two or three church women also be there early. First I make sure we have all the ingredients. (I do have a few "horror stories" I could tell!) Then we do simple things such as peel and chop vegetables and perhaps do some pre-cooking. We also get out any church pans, bowls, utensils and dishes we'll need.

I like to be completely ready at least 10 or 15 minutes early so I am free to greet the women as they arrive—by name, if at all possible. In 1994, 330 women came to my 47 classes, of whom 205 are unchurched. I like young mothers to bring their children. We have 5 children of our own and ten grandchildren. I let the mothers know that when the children become boisterous, they do not bother me. I will just talk a little louder! It is important that each woman and child feel welcomed and wanted.

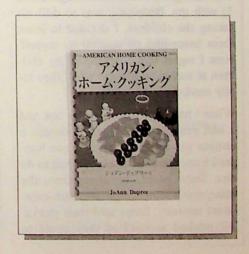
This IS a cooking class and I want everyone to learn something new. I like to

in the midst of (at times) pandemonium or when food doesn't turn out as I would have liked. The women need to be involved too. So I start the preparation and let some of the women continue it. It may not be exactly as I would have done it, but that is low on the scale of importance. We laugh a lot and really enjoy ourselves, and the women (and children, too,) discover that church is a pleasant place to go.

After the food is prepared, the women serve individual plates and hot tea. We eat sometimes with forks, sometimes with chopsticks-I let them choose. Near the end of the meal, the women introduce themselves. This helps with the group bonding. The 20 minute chapel period is meant to inform and instruct, as well as to break down barriers to Christianity. In a number of the classes we sing a hymn before the message and women seem to enjoy that. During the message, I like to have each woman hold a Bible in her hands. For some it is the first time they have held or read one. After the closing prayer, announcements of up-coming church activities are made, along with



Word of Life Press published JoAnn's cookbook, American Home Cooking (Japanese, Dec. 1993) with 129 recipes in 9 categories, and color pictures featuring 60 of the recipes, plus hints and devotionals. The Duprees produced an English supplement as well, which contains the recipes and cooking hints. Any questions? Please contact them if they can assist you in any way.



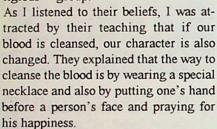
FROM COOKING TO CHRIST

Shizue Oyama's testimony as told to JoAnn Dupree

Even though I live just one minute from Kakogawa Megumi Church, I had

never gone there because I belonged to a different religion. It is only by the grace of God that today I am a Christian.

My next door neighbor invited me to go to a meeting of a certain Japanese religious group.



In order to join this religion, I paid 10,000 yen. Six months later I was told to buy a butsudan which cost 70,000 yen. I joined their study class and faithfully attended for one year. That cost 20,000—30,000 yen.

Another major requirement was to win twenty new people, and I proceeded to try to do this by visiting homes every day, taking my two children (ages 2 and 3) with me. Because it was so difficult taking the children, I decided to leave them home and go visiting by myself. Now I regret that I neglected my children at such a tender age when they really needed me.

When I had been a believer for one and a half years, I was forced to donate a million yen for the religion's one hundredth anniversary. Everyone had to do this. Some people borrowed from the salaryman's loan companies (with exorbitant interest). Some sold their stocks. All worked as hard as they could to

raise the required amount. Without my husband's knowledge, I took all the

money from the savings account for our children. I borrowed as much as they would allow from a life insurance company. I also borrowed from my mother. Finally I could donate the million yen.

By this time I had depleted all of our resources. And besides this, no matter how hard I tried, I could not win any new members. I had no peace. How could I have gotten myself into a situation like this? I began to doubt

the beliefs. Yet every day I continued to carry out my religion's requirements.

In February 1984, a totally unexpected tragedy occurred. Our three year old daughter contracted a dreadful disease, which progressed rapidly. Soon she was completely paralyzed. She could not swallow. She lost her voice. The fifth day in hospital she was struggling even to breathe. Her brain was dead. Her small body swelled more than one and a half its normal size. The only thing keeping her alive was a respirator and the intravenous feedings.

The day came when she needed a blood transfusion. I asked my leaders what to do. They said she would not recover unless I donated another million yen before the transfusion. I was shocked! There was no way I could raise that amount. I was told I must get it in any way possible. I was frightened by the thought that I might be responsible for the death of my child if I did not give the donation. I felt that if I could only gather up the money my daughter would be healed. I dreamed of a miracle...but the loan regulations were strict and I was unable to borrow more money. My family learned what I was wanting to do and tried to waken me to the fraudulent practices of my religion.

At that point I finally saw that this religion could not be right. I made up my mind to quit. I apologized to my daughter, "Please forgive me. I tried with all my strength but I cannot do anything to help you get better." Desperately I asked God, "Please help my girl. Please let us have a new start." But those prayers were not answered. Our daughter slept for 50 days before going to heaven. I thought, "What cruel things God does!" I blamed myself, feeling I had killed my little girl. I swore I would never again believe in any religion.

However, God took pity on me. Three months after our daughter's death, I found I was expecting another child. I thought that it was truly a miracle. God gave us a baby girl and I was overwhelmed with appreciation to a God I did not yet know.

In June 1985, I received a flyer about a cooking class at the Kakogawa Megumi Church. I didn't especially want to go to a church but I did want to attend a cooking class taught by a foreigner. So I went and there saw a Bible for the first time in my life. It was quite a while later before I shared with the pastor the painful experience of my daughter's death. He opened his Bible and read Matthew 11:28: "Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

I was deeply moved by those words. I began to understand the deep love of God for me. I believed that Jesus sacrificed His life for me when He was crucified, that through His death my sins were forgiven and I could have eternal life. I sensed a deep peace. The Lord took away the heavy burden I had borne since my daughter's death. On December 11, 1989 I was baptized.

It was a terrible trial I had faced, but God has turned it around for good and set me free from my burdens. There are not enough words to describe how thankful I am to the Lord. I would appreciate your prayers that my life with God will be blessed by Him so I can be fully used in His kingdom.

This was not the end of Mrs. Oyama's trials. About three years ago it was discovered that her non-Christian husband, a policeman, had contracted cancer. He was hospitalized for over a year in Kyushu, far from their Kakogawa home. Shizue had to be mother and father to their two children, as well as take full responsibility for everyday living and paying the bills. Once in awhile she was able to make the trip to Kyushu to see her husband. She testifies that without her faith in God she would have been unable to undertake such heavy responsibilities as well as live with the emotional strain, not knowing whether or not her husband would live.

Relatives and neighbors marveled at her obvious strength in the face of adversity, as well as the calmness with which she carried on month after month. In this way she steadfastly shared her faith. Her husband was

eventually able to return home. Adjustment has not been easy for any of them, but gradually family life has become more normal.

Throughout all of this, Mrs. Oyama has continued to grow as a Christian and is excited about sharing the Good News. She is a leader in the women's

group in her church. She actively encourages women to come to the cooking class and wants to help in the ministry in any way she can. She cannot forget what coming to the class meant to her.



Whenever the women's choral group sings for a worship service she takes part joyously, praising God for His love and guidance, especially in the face of adversity.



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JEMA Summer Conference August 1st —3rd, 1995 Guest Speaker: Dr. Richard Ganz

The following is an excerpt from his book, You Shall Be Free Indeed

There should be no creatures on earth more free than the followers of Christ. Yet the tension for many in living a Christian life is enormous. My initial experience as a believer was honest exhilaration in having the promise and expectation of eternal life. Having no indoctrination, meeting other believers was a signal for joy...I assumed they saw their privileged position and had renounced the habits and hopes of the old way of life. Every minute of life was a moment to be cherished as a gift from God, to be used for His glory. Soon I began to realize that other Christians did not experience their life in Christ in the same way. Festering beneath clouds of piety, were bitternesses, jealousies, angers and complaints, which I had known before conversion to Christ.

My trust in Christ continued, but some unfortunate things took place:

- 1. I became distrustful of other Christians. I began to expect (albeit unconsciously) a kind of pettiness and meanness surrounded by mock piety. I came to expect hypocrisy.
- 2. My own experience of life began to deaden. As I accepted the cultural and ecclesiastical norms as biblical, I began surrendering my freedom in successive areas. While Jesus remained real, everything else took on a shade of unreality. It became increasingly difficult to know what was really meant by living by faith. When the expression "he lived by faith" was used, it usually meant that he was not so carnal as to actually receive a salary for a daily job. Or perhaps, that one refused to buy life insurance or health insurance.

I began to move away from my first love, a love that filled me with courage, confidence and freedom. I moved from the world of the guilt-racked infidel to the world of the pious pretender. What I say here is not meant as an attack. It is a confession. My desire is that Christ's people will drop all their self-defeating

defenses, their extra-biblical inflexibilities and instead:

- Come to God in humble dependence on Him and His grace; find and practice the freedom He has given us in Christ.
- 2. Come to His Word, appropriating it and living it in joy, instead of forcing it to fit our own prejudices.

Jesus said, "If the Son shall set you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). This could be translated, "If the Son shall set you free, you shall be really free." Who is this person who is really free? It is the Christian. The believer, Jesus says, is really free. As a young Christian, the great freedom of living in Christ remained, for the most part, a mystery to me. Oh, I heard many pious platitudes: "Just let go and let God." "You have to die to yourself." The world has its formulas as well. John Lennon was declaring that "All you (really) need is love." Carl Rogers said the same thing. Glasser claimed you need responsibility.

Jesus said we need the Son. Paul said we needed Him from beginning to end (Phil. 1:6). This really free life is not just an abstraction or a vague possibility. It is a full-fledged possibility open to all of Christ's people at any time. And if you watch one of Christ's disciples who is really free, you can observe it. What are the marks of someone who is really free?

- 1. Really free people know. They know they are redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ. They know their sins are forgiven. They know they have eternal life.
- 2. The person who knows, lives. People who are really free live. They don't plan to live, they live. They don't live or not live according to whether their fortunes are good or bad. They live as masters of their situations. Remember Paul: "I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being

content in any and every situation... I can do everything through Him who gives me strength" (Phil. 4:11-13).

They live because they are dependent on nothing and no one, ultimately, except God. They are able to take the bad and love God and serve others, without hating God or envying the better situations of others. How? They live in Christ's strength always.

- 3. People who are really free know that they can live in such a fashion because they are honest. Christ's free people are honest with God, themselves, and others. When they are false, they own up to it, even when they look like fools. They are willing to look like a fool, because being really free means they no longer glorify themselves. They know that their reputation doesn't matter above all else. They know they both have been and are being changed. The really free individual wants that change to be complete even if it hurts.
- 4. The really free person knows that because he is honest he cannot live with sin and guilt. The really free person sins, but refuses to live under and with his sin. He refuses to be satisfied with only an image of piety. He may even appear less worthy than the not really free person because he is so ready to confess and repent of any and all sin.
- 5. The really free person lives today. He knows that yesterday is dead. He knows that tomorrow may never come on this earth. He knows that now is the time that must be filled with godly living. In this he somewhat resembles the existentialist. Both appreciate the "now," but only the Christian lives "now" in eternity. Thus he can surrender a lifetime of "nows" to save a friend. Today may be the last "now" on earth, but even this can be used freely because it is "not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed" (Rom. 8:18).

A really free person does not live with anxiety and terror and foreboding. He knows worry will not add one moment to his present life. He also knows that his choice to be anxious is a conscious step out of today and into the unknown of tomorrow. He knows that to flee to the unknown tomorrow or the well worn out yesterday is to mock the privilege of being alive today. He will not retreat into yesterday. He will not advance into the future until he has lived today.

6. The really free person is his own man before God. He often says "no" when it is much easier to say "yes." The really free person may seem aloof or indifferent to others. He is not. It is just that his being part of the Christian body doesn't require him to be a carbon copy of other members, and he resists the pull of complacent conformity. In a similar way, he doesn't depend upon the good opinions of men, he has the approval of God. Of course, God's approval requires that he "seek peace with all men wherever possible (Romans 12:19), but he is not a man-pleaser (Romans 2:28). This keeps him a bit out of step with his contemporaries, a bit of a mystery.

7. Finally, the really free person is not someone with new and better skills. The really free person is not armed with new natural potential. The really free person is not the one with the gift of new insight. The really free person is new!

As Paul says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new is come!" (II Cor. 5:17). To be really free is to be new. It is to be new daily, and moment by moment. No sin is held against us (as we confess). No condemnation exists from the past. No character flaw need hinder us as we willingly give ourselves over to Christ.

To be really free, then, means that since we are new, the old patterns and practices that rear up, the old sins even, do not demolish us. We know that in God's sight we are new and perfect in

Christ. We know that as a "new creation," the old things, having "passed away," will pass away. Since we are more than conquerors, the really free person knows that it is stupid and sinful to live as less than a conqueror. He will not

You can spend your life hearing Jesus describe freedom and decide:

- a) that He meant it only for sometime;
- b) that He meant it only for some;
- c) that it costs too much;
- d) that you just can never achieve it;
- e) to envy those who are really free as if their freedom was specifically designed to make you feel deprived.

or

You can decide to live that life that allows you to be the person God wants you to be; not unmoved or untouched or untroubled; simply unshackled from sin. Having been redeemed, you can decide whether this life as a Christian will be a mockery of what the Spirit desires for

you as a model of biblical joy and freedom, or not. The choice is yours and God, by His Spirit's power, will assist you every step of the way.

Dr. Richard L. Ganz is a graduate of the City University of New York. He received his Ph. D. in clinical psychology from Wayne State University. While



studying at Westminster Theological Seminary, he spent five years working with Dr. Jay E. Adams at the Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Ganz currently serves as the pastor of the Ottawa Reformed Presbyterian Church. He and his wife, Nancy, and their four daughters live on a sheep farm on the outskirts of Ottawa, Canada.

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A YEAR AFTER MISSION '94

BY HENRY LAKE

The following testimonies are representative of many, and indicative of the truth of Mission 94's slogan, "Begin in the church and end in the church."

A Chance to Change

Miss Miki Nagasawa, college student and member of the Kodaira Bible Christ Church, shares: "In the summer of my junior year in high school a Christian friend invited me to a special evangelism service. I was already interested in Christianity so I didn't put up any fuss. I really don't remember the sermon, but I remember feeling that since I was sinning all the time, even if I sought after God, He probably wouldn't take hold of me. Lost in my own way of thinking, I refused to consider another solution to my problem. Now I think how wonderful it is that God gave even a person like me a chance to change.

"That chance was Billy Graham's Mission 94. Honestly, I decided to go to the meetings simply because I wanted to meet my friend whom I hadn't seen for awhile. However, also at that time I was worried that I was coming to hate myself as I realized how wretched a heart I had. Then when I knew that there is a Person who forgives all my sin, who took all my sin upon His perfect self, and was crucified in my place, I thought why not believe in a Person who loves so much? I realized this is the Person who can change my heart. I was amazed that God would reveal His way of salvation to me who had turned my back against Him until then.

"After believing in my Lord Jesus, things around me began to look wonderfully new. Although even those days when I knew clearer how deeply sinful I am, I would fear that God must be leaving me for good. The Lord came right

back with the answer, "I will never leave you or forsake you." (Heb. 13:5) Other occasions when I've been troubled, the Lord has said, "He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (John 8:12) I want to follow my Lord and walk in His will forever."

After receiving the Lord Jesus at Mission 94, Miss Nagasawa was referred to our church, and within two weeks was studying in a follow-up class with our pastor, Rev. Shinya Ootaki. Some of the assurance Bible verses in that course were essential to encourage her in her walk with the Lord, as her testimony indicates. She was baptized in June and gave the testimony you have just read.

Now she continues:

"It has been six months since my baptism. There are many things to tell. Through the summer I felt so clear and free, nothing could stop me from simply being happy every day. My heart was filled with happiness as I contemplated my walk with God. I also sensed that my heart was being protected in spite of unpleasant things, and I was thankful daily for all God was doing. Besides this, some of my friends and family also showed an interest in Christianity, and all of these things made me rejoice.

"With the busy days of fall though, some worries came floating into my heart about whether I really have faith. Concerns about family, friends, school, and myself wouldn't go away. For a time, my devotions, my Bible reading, and my praying all stopped. This lasted a number of weeks. Everything was uncertain and unstable. Now I'm certain that God is present in my heart especially through times like those. For that reason, I think, I was able to say in my heart, 'I'm going to try to pray and talk over everything.' I realized these concerns were being solved little by little. I experienced the truth that when I really seek Him in prayer, God doesn't fail to give of Himself. He helped me see that it's just my prideful self trying to do things my way. The worries and schemes I had before and the concerns and way of thinking I have now with faith are different. All my concerns and thoughts I leave to Him. I'm weak, and unfaithful, but I simply want to get closer to God."

One experience that strengthened Miss Nagasawa through the summer was the KGK camp she attended. During the months of November and December, it was regular attendance at the church services, participating in the youth group, and talking things over with Christian friends. All of this helped bring her faith into focus on God's work in her life.

Disappointed with Sokagakkai

The following testimony was given by Mr. Masanobu Osawa just before his baptism at the Urawa Evangelical Free Church.

"Since my youth, I was a Buddhist of the Sokagakkai sect. I think it was amazing circumstances that brought me to the point of giving up Buddhism and getting to a Christian church. Before this, I was spending my life with my hands stretched to Buddha rather than to God.

"Let me explain how a person like me could start attending church and want to receive the salvation of Jesus Christ. First, I became so disappointed in the Sokagakkai when it waged a religious war with the temple, that I decided to leave the group. I also began to have great reservations over the fact that in place of historical saints of the Nichiren faith, the present leader Daisaku Ikeda has become the central figure.

"Next, looking at religion in world history, I realized it is Christianity that produces people who cast off self and live for others. I understood that, in contrast to Buddhism where seeking for one's own blessing is first, in Christianity, the spirit of serving, seeking to lead other people to the blessing of salvation in Jesus Christ is first. Then, the greatest reason for my decision to come to church is that in all history the only perfect Person has been Jesus Christ.

"In the past my thinking followed the Confucianist concepts of the good and evil nature of man. Man is born with good and evil sides and the side that is developed more becomes the character of that person. I tended to think that if something is just a 'small' sin, then that's the way it is, and just skip it. Now I have come to know that in perfection Jesus Christ was crucified for all the sin of all mankind.

"A short time after I started coming to church, I went to Billy Graham's Mission 94 at the Tokyo Dome. There I heard in Graham's message that the one who surrenders his life to Jesus is made righteous. Shortly after this meeting, salvation became real to me.

"Since my parents' divorce, for seventeen years, my father has lived apart from my family. On January 21st he had a traffic accident. He sustained severe injuries with a broken leg and broken backbone. The whole family was shocked when the doctor told us that my 73 year old father could continue indefinitely in a coma. In contrast to what my reaction would have been a year before, I now had salvation in Jesus, and the truth was I had wonderful peace of heart. I thought, "The fact that this accident has happened just after I've started going to church must have meaning."

"I thought that recovery, if it came at all, would be long and hard. But, as a result of daily prayer, my father recovered quickly, and instead of the predicted six months in hospital, he was out in a month and a half! "Another outcome of this accident was the return of our father to live with mother and me after seventeen years of separation. When this happened, I deeply felt God's loving kindness that truly saves in reality. I am so thankful to Him.

"I know my heart's faith is not worthy of the grace of baptism. Nevertheless, I want to press on and strive to the perfection of the new man, as a disciple of Jesus in word and deed."

Jesus is Number One

Hiroki Shimoda and his mother attended Mission 94 with tickets I presented to them. They both went down to the field and Hiroki received the follow-up Bible studies from a counselor. I've had a one-on-one English Bible study with Hiroki since June of 1993. Hiroki has joined a Baptist church.

"My first encounter with God was during junior high school when my mother who had become a Christian took me to church with her.

"Later I sometimes attended the youth group and half-believing, half-doubting began to believe in Jesus. Believing, and then not believing, my junior high school days were very uncertain. The times when I was hurting, however, and I prayed to Jesus, He would answer and get me out of the predicament. I thought Jesus was wonderful to do this when I would pray just when I thought I needed His help, although other times I would forget Him and sin often.

"After I sinned I always apologized to Jesus. I already knew the Lord's words in Isaiah 1:18, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

"As I continued in this uncertain condition, I entered high school and stopped going to church. During my second year, though, I began struggling about quitting high school. I began to attend church again. I prayed to my Lord Jesus and I knew His answer was not to give up on school. For the first time since beginning to go to church, I began to understand who my Lord Jesus is.

"Through early 1994 I began to know clearly that nothing would be frightening to me if I live with Jesus as "Number One" in my life. In August I was baptized, and I *know* I believe and live in my Lord Jesus. Everyday I find myself thinking how wonderful it is to live believing in my Lord Jesus."

Henry Lake and his wife, Mieko, are missionaries with TEAM and have served in Japan since 1985.



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ECHOES FROM KOBE

By Mark Ramquist

This is an attempt to summarize the impact I felt while doing relief work in Kobe, January 24 - 27. Verbal descriptions and visual presentations are too limiting to express the full sense of destruction—I suppose you only really understand when you smell, hear, and hold. An oriental saying goes: "When I listen, I forget; when I read, I remember; when I touch, I understand."

This was the first time I've participated in any relief outreach, but I would do it again. It broke my heart, but it purified

it, too. (Our society actively avoids unhappiness and heartache, yet paradoxically misses a true appreciation of joy and gladness. I wondered if it is to His deep credit that Jesus was a "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.") I'll never forget the grief—and how we were welded to it—or the gratitude of those who received the water and supplies. I'll always be amazed with the wonder of safety and rescued life.

ECHOES FROM KOBE

A haunting stillness washed over our little caravan as we drove into Kobe at 4:30 AM on January 25, a week after the 7.2 earthquake demolished this beautiful seaside city and captured world news' headlines. But we misunderstood. The quietness was not due to cosmopolitan slumber. It was, in-

stead, similar to the sense of 'plugged up hearing' caused by a loud explosion too close to your ear. Afterwards, when our heart's hearing returned, we realized what we really heard that morning—and through our 3 days of volunteer relief work—were the reverberations of tragedy. Wonderingly, we also heard the whisperings of triumph.

"Look, another house crunched out into the street!" We were eye to eye with a roof in the road—what was left of the house looked like it had taken a high speed curve and smashed head on into a wrecking-ball. Further into the heart of the earthquake's monstrous footprint, we were constantly startled by the endless extent of destruction. In spite of their supply of vivid information, TV and newspapers carried less than 1% of the whole story, plus having insulated us from the sounds and smells. We were not



prepared for the demolished houses, crushed cars, tilting buildings, and incinerated neighborhoods.

After dawn, the city roused, tried to stretch its painful joints, and the sirens began. The constant accompaniment to our daily activities were ambulances, fire-trucks, Self-Defense vehicles, and convoys of police cars. Each day we worked: delivering food, clothing, diapers, medicine, camp stoves, sanitary supplies, and fresh water. We walked the scorched skeletons of the shopping arcades and picked our way through rubble-strewn streets to lend a hand or an encouraging word. We helped serve 200 people a free hot lunch provided by the goodwill of a local church, one of only two buildings in a Nagata-cho neighborhood left untouched—an island of stability in a sea of broken houses and burned businesses.

Each night we moaned: sleeping with 40 evacuees on thin camping mats on wooden floors in unheated school rooms; wearing our jeans and sweatshirts in our sleeping bags since changing was a fantasy; shivering from cold because blankets were scarce; waking too often to the rasping cough of the lady over by the window or the loud squeak of the unfriendly floor when someone's grandpa had to visit the bathroom one more time.

In addition to the constant sirens, we began to hear the echoes of the earthquake. Instead of dashing off to the next place, or insulating ourselves with "I'm-sure-glad-this-didn't-happen-to-me," we took time to talk. As we worked, ate, and helped, we listened to people living under tarps and tents in the park, quake-shocked refugees

trying to be brave and unembarrassed at living suddenly public lives in the local schools, and stunned neighbors in a community where houses with a view were not insurance against damage. From those ragged and ruined stages, sung in pitiful, poignant eloquence, we heard unforgettable cantatas of catastrophe: fragmented, faltering melodies

from depths of heart few of us ever visit. Sometimes, the heart-broken lyrics were still. It was usually then that inaudible echoes of the earthquake's symphonic horror gripped our hearts. We gasped; we stared; we cried....

No prelude, no warning. A 7.2 earth-quake roars as it rips up asphalt streets, crumbles concrete walls, twists steel buildings, and stomps traditional wooden houses into piles of kindling. One survivor said "it was the sound of hell." Then it stopped. But for some, the echo will never cease.

Perhaps children screamed the longest, but grownups heard their own voices joining in: shouts for family, cries for help, screams of fear. My friend described his leap out of Dreamland to a jolt-filled dash from room to room to find his shrieking children as their house bounced and swayed, "breaking everything that was breakable."

Does death have its own sound? It has an echo—it has many echoes. Even a week after the disaster, the arias of agony dominated. Sometimes nearly silent like a gentle puff of air to extinguish a single candle, other times a vast booming choked off at full voice.

A soprano weeping: her 17 year old son is unhurt but trapped, and all she can do is reach in and hold his hand in the darkness. But fire swept through before help arrives, forcing her to flee, him to die, and both in agony—though compared to hers, his was brief...

An alto edged with strain; her neighbor's house lies splattered into kindling all over the street, and she explains that the lonely soccer ball in front of the rubble is waiting in vain...

An elderly tenor through a mask of artificial smiles: bravely struggling to face another day of heartache, trying cheerfully to say he is fine, and that his home is gone, and... When his words run out, he shows with his fingers that he lost two of his family...

A quiet interlude full of noise: standing in a neighborhood of ashes we hear the gargantuan furnace crackle and snap as fire rages, wood evaporates, glass melts, paint sizzles off leaving bare metal, dishes crash from cupboards dissolving into smoke. One missing sound, sadly absent due to broken mains, is the steaming hiss of the fire-brigade water....

Now a grumpy bass: "Hey! Whattaya doing? Who are you? Have you come to gawk like everyone else?" We are standing on a pile of rubbish pulled out from an apartment building, where a forlorn bouquet of flowers stands sentinel for a 23 year-old crushed by more of what's under our feet....

A trio is ready to sing the final verse: once a quartet, this mother, 9-year -old son and 7-year-old daughter sit around a birthday cake. The 35 candles burn for a Daddy who left for work 40 minutes earlier than usual and happened to be on the expressway when it collapsed... In the quivering silence, "Happy Birthday" is left unsung. After the candles are blown out, the woman bursts into tears.

Enveloped in these broken-hearted echoes, we were barely aware of a gentle little chime. Gradually, it caught our attention, and sang its chirrup of life into our hearts as well. Soon we noticed the tune being embellished and repeated all around us. It was Theme and Variations played in the key of Life.

A grandma, trapped with her young grandson, realized help would not come soon. She tried to chip through a wall, but with only an 8 inch chunk of broken wood, she quickly tired and wanted to give up. But determined to save the boy's life, she persevered for 5 hours. They made it out. She said, "I did it for my grandson; I thought I was saving my grandson's life, but now I realize it was he who saved me...."

The hollow 'clink' we heard trying to flush the toilet, when we forgot water was not running, was soon layered over by grateful voices and tears of joy as we distributed containers of water to people who ran to us as if we were heroes.

We met an older man and his son searching for remnants of memories in the blackened, charcoal husk of their home. He said the house collapsed, then burned, but miraculously his family was safe because, pointing towards a corner of the charred ceiling, "we climbed out through there." We looked, but any escape route was no longer there.

Astonishingly, taped on the doors of many houses and shops which looked completely devastated were hurriedly written notices mutely celebrating the incredible message: "Everyone in this family is safe and are at the school."

We returned to Tokyo with our hearts humming an odd little tune. It was the echoes of life set as melody against the counterpoint of tragedy. And it seemed as soon as we left Kobe, that life in the untouched areas had no awareness of the horrible music we had just heard. Inconceivable one moment, we saw 'normal life' the next—roofs up where they should be, clean streets and gutters, running water at the twist of a knob, people eating in restaurants. Though seemingly mutually exclusive, both were reality, and we had to learn to walk a bridge between the two.

I want to go back to Kobe—maybe as soon as next week to volunteer again. But certainly I want to visit again 5 years from now. Why? Because God has given the human heart the capacity to get back up, shake off the dust, and start again. In the year 2000, echoes of the earthquake will still be heard, but only faintly. New sounds will trumpet and ring with vitality, charm and energy.

Meanwhile, unforgettable memories dangle like snapshots before me, and it's hard to write this without swallowing back tears. Fortunately my intense flashbacks have scaled down, and the sensation of dust and ash on my fingers is gone. But occasionally, I still hear the echo of a siren....

SURPRISES IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING BY BERNI MARSH

January 22nd—Kobayashi-san, a young deacon of our church, attended the funeral of his uncle who was killed when his house collapsed in the January 19th quake.

On the way to Kobe, Kobayashi-san was wondering how to graciously refuse taking part in the Buddhist rite of offering incense before the dead body. Imagine his surprise when he arrived and found officiating, not a Buddhist priest, but a Christian minister!

Every available priest had been called to other funeral services and so Kobayashi-san's aunt and the rest of the family had accepted the city's offer of a pastor to conduct the funeral.

It was completely Christian, with hymns and a Bible message. Kobayashisan sang so lustily the surprised pastor remarked that he felt as if he was in his own church. The entire family, Buddhist all, were pleased with the service.

February 19th—Just over a month after the quake, the same Kobayashi-san attended the baptismal service of his aunt! Soon after her husband's funeral, she announced to the surprise of her family that she had attended church all during her student days and now wanted to declare her faith in Christ.

None of us in Japan can easily forget the TV scenes of the devastating fires in Nagata ku. Nor can we erase from our minds the picture of one building that stood virtually untouched on the edge of that horrible rubble. It was the Kobe Kirisuto Eiko Kyokai (Open Bible)—bruised with cracks suffered in the quake, but standing firm with its cross clearly visible as the smoke settled

It was soon evident that God had preserved this building for a special purpose. Within a few days church members and later Christian volunteers from

throughout Japan were serving hot meals to, at first 50 people a day and now, 400. Day by day the crowds grew as word circulated that there was something very special about the taste of the food. And no wonder. The surprise-head chefs of a French restaurant in one of Kobe's best hotels were supervising the cooking! Temporarily out of work, they heard what these Christians were doing-and came to help. They were the hands a loving Father used to comfort His hurting, sorrowing, homeless ones. So it is not a surprise now that after weeks of seeking to supply physical needs, volunteers who have poured out their energy and love, are beginning to see people reach out for spiritual help.

Last week I was with a team from Kakegawa Christian Center who have for over a month tirelessly carried in group after group of volunteers. They have taken in supplies and prepared steaming bowls of soup for hundreds of people in out-of-the-way places. The surprise for me-I saw people with remarkable joy and courage on their faces. I saw hands reaching for Bible portions as well as food. I heard old and young alike speak of how grateful they were to be alive even though they had lost homes and loved ones. I experienced love from them-one bought us all a soft drink; another hugged us and wanted to take our pictures. I had the privilege to pray with some. I wept with many.

Revival out of suffering? If we know anything about church history this should not surprise us. But who would ever have imagined that out of the dust, death and sorrow of a nightmarish earthquake, God would show us signs of the harvest for which we have so long worked and prayed? Let us listen to Jesus' words with new hope, "Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"



Gospel Live

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From the Language Lab

Favorite Sanbika Hymns

Haven't we all sung this hymn in Japanese? Did you understand the lyrics? Take a few minutes to learn the following words and phrases so the next time you sing, you'll enjoy this hymn with understanding and lyrical "assurance."

讃美歌529 -- Blessed Assurance

Verse 1

ああ = exclamation うれし=うれしい, happy わが身 = my soul 主のものとなり = (I) have become the Lord's ...けり = exclamation of wonder and admiration うき世 = the (transient) world だに = だけでも、でさえ、すら (even) さながら = そのまま- as it is; あたかも/まるで- as if あまつ世 = heaven ここちす = ここちがする have the atmosphere, feeling of

Paraphrase:

Oh, my soul is happy, I have become the Lord's!

It's as if even the transient world feels like Heaven.

Verse 2

のこりなくみむねに、まかせたるこころに、 えもいえずたえなる、まほろしを見るかな。

のこりなく = all; nothing left over みむね = God's will (み= honorific) まかせたる = まかせてある (from verb まかせる): to entrust, hand over, leave in someone's hands えもいえず = inexpressible (口で言うこと出来ないほと) たえなる = exquisite, sweet, excellent まほろし = a vision かな = a particle used to express admiration, emotion

Paraphrase:

The heart that can entrust everything to the will of God will see wonderful visions inexpressible in words.

Chorus

うたわでやあるべき、すくわれし身のさち、
たたえでやあるべき、みすくいのかしこさ。
うたわでや = うたわないで、not to sing
やあるべき = や。。。べき (antonym) must be....?
すくわれし = すくわれた; past form of すくう- to save
身 = soul
さち = good fortune, happiness
たたえでや = not to praise
み = honorific 御
すくい = salvation
かしこさ = wisdom (noun of adjective "かしこい"

Paraphrase:

How can I not sing for the good fortune of a saved soul? How can I not praise for the wisdom of our salvation?

むねのなみおさまり、こころいとしずけし、

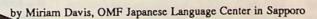
Verse 3

われもなく、世もなく、ただ主のみませり。

むね = breast
なみ = waves
おさまり = to die down, quieten (form of おさまる)
いと = very (たいへん)
しずけし = be calm (しずかである、おしついている)
われ = I, me
ただ = only
主のみ = the Lord alone
ませり = polite/respectful form of いる; (います+り = おられる、いらっしゃる)

Paraphrase:

Waves in my breast quiet down, my heart is very calm; I cease, the world ceases, only the Lord alone is here.



Meet... Living Stones

A Life Changed

At the age of forty-two, I came to a deadlock at work and left the company. For several years I went through a very difficult time. My mother died, one of our sons became ill, and we used up our savings. We had very little to eat in those days, I remember.

Then I started a new business, which turned out to be very successful. Pretty soon we were able to buy a house and a car. With success came pride and I began to look down on my former colleagues.

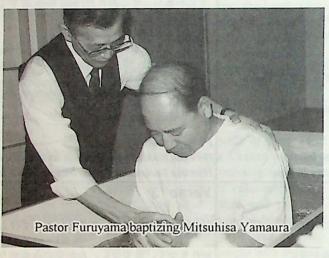
However this new life did not make me happy. I was empty in my heart. One day I turned on the TV. Two men and a lady

were talking with shining faces. Pastor Sakakibara, whose name I learned later, spoke from the Bible. It was a Christian program called *Harvest Time*. I continued to watch that station over a period of time but I just could not bring myself to go to church as they suggested.

Meanwhile my work flourished and our sons were succeeding, too. Our oldest son started working for the Maritime Safety Agency and our younger son entered a famous university. Everything was going so well...except the loneliness in my heart.

I heard about the Billy Graham Crusade in Tokyo through the *Harvest Time* program and decided to go and hear Dr. Graham. The second night I responded to the invitation. As I was paging through the Bible I received, I realized that with all my new life had brought

me, it had not given me freedom. I decided to try the church suggested in the material I had been given. It was Tachikawa Chapel, a daughter church of Musashino Chapel, pastored by the very man who had translated Billy Graham's messages. At first the Bible was very difficult to understand, but around May my heart began to open to the Word of God.



When I read John 5:23, 24, "That all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son, does not honor the Father who sent Him. I tell you the truth, whoever hears My Word and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life," I really felt the Word of God speaking to me. Among other things, I was able to forgive one person whom I had resented for a long time.

Now I am praying for the salvation of my wife who is still refusing to go to church with me.

Mr. Yamaura was baptized by Rev. Andrew Furuyama, on December 4th, 1994. Mr. Yamaura's testimony was translated by Mrs. Mizue Uchida, wife of Professor Uchida of Japan Bible Seminary.

Shaken For Good

I met Reiko three years ago when the Doulos, on which I was working, visited Kobe. Since then she has been my faithful prayer partner.

I soon learned that one of her greatest desires was to see her husband come to know Jesus Christ as she had, but he was deeply angered at her change of life and hated her commitment to Christ. His anger often expressed itself in actual physical abuse against Reiko and their seven year old daughter. Reiko tried to share about Jesus, but his heart was like rock. Many friends were praying with her for her husband.

Then the earthquake struck. For Reiko it was another opportunity to talk about Jesus. And this time her husband fell on his knees and began confessing his sin. That tearful prayer ended in great praising, even though the earthquake had badly damaged the inside of their home.

By Sunday it was still very dangerous to go out on the roads and it seemed impossible to get to the church. And besides they had no transportation. Even so, Reiko's husband left for church by himself on foot. He didn't want to put his wife and daughter in danger, but his changed heart longed to go to church and declare what God had done for him. It took him two hours to get there, but that was nothing in comparison to the joy of sharing with those who had been praying for him so long.

As soon as the telephone lines were fixed, Reiko called to give me the exciting news. I am encouraged that out of disaster, God is bringing rebirth in Kobe!

by Yuko Tsuruta, staff member of OM's Ship *Doulos*.

HIS FINAL SERMON

by Don and Vivian Bruck

"Help me!" were the last words of Rev. Yosuke (Andrew) Furuyama, beloved pastor at Musashino Chapel Center of the Tokyo Evangelical Free Church. Jesus did help. He opened heaven's door and took him Home at 5:00 p.m., February 27. All day he had been glancing at the clock, seemingly aware that it was his coronation day, and wanting to know the time of his departure. He was just 62 years old. So a ten month battle with terminal pancreatic cancer ended in victory over his 'last enemy,' death, and gave us his final sermon: "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil.1:20,21).

Living for Christ began at age 16, when he was invited to attend English Bible classes by US Army Chaplain, Don Carter. There he heard the gospel, accepted Jesus as his Savior, and dedicated his life to Christ. He graduated from the Evangelical Bible Institute in Japan, and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (TEDS) in Illinois, USA. In April, 1960, he married Sumiko (Rhoda) Yagi.

For the next 41 years he faithfully ministered as a gifted evangelist, conscientious pastor and Spirit-filled translator, pursuing his passion to evangelize to the ends of the earth. He believed God wanted the Japanese church to be a missionary-sending church, and was active in promoting missions. He was the second pastor of Urawa EFC, then pastored in Kyoto and Yao Evangelical Free Churches. In 1981 he started the fast-growing fellowship at MCC in Kichijoji, and two daughter churches (Tachikawa and Higashi Muruyama). His goal was to have seven churches in western Tokyo by the year 2000.

He served on the boards of numerous organizations and in 1979 was chosen "Alumnus of the Year" by TEDS. Concerning him, President Kenneth Meyer

said, "Andrew Furuyama was a friend and brother, and probably the finest interpreter I have ever worked with. Heaven's gain is our loss."

Billy Graham confirmed that in his letter to Mrs. Furuyama. "Word has just been received that the Lord has called Andrew to Himself. What a glorious hope we have in Christ that someday we will be reunited! Andrew was one of the most wonderful Christians I have ever known. I loved him as a brother in the Lord, and anything we can ever do for you, please let us know. God bless you."

YOSUKE (ANDREW)
FURUYAMA
1933—1995
For me to live is Christ.
To die is gain.

Andrew's Christ-like life was reflected in his relationships. One speaker at his funeral said, "He was sensitive and considerate in council meetings, sharing his opinions in a gentle way. He loved peace, and had no enemies." Another commented, "He was a strong leader, but he never forced us. He was Spirit-led, and we found it easy to follow."

His lifestyle and value system were biblical, not just cultural. In a society where sharing sorrow is discouraged (don't bother anyone) or joys (it will cause envy), he chose to 'walk in the light.' He shared the doctors' diagnosis, and gave us the privilege of helping bear his burden, and accompanying him through death's valley to the gates of heaven. We learned that it doesn't matter how long you live, but how well, and that living for Christ is what makes dying gain.

Many prayed for his physical healing. God answered differently by preserving him from pain, which his doctor said was a miracle, and keeping his spirit—and voice—strong to the end. One hospital visitor said, "I felt like all our natural inhibitions of self consciousness, gender, status, pride and culture were gone. All earthly layers were stripped away, and there was freedom to be real, to express love, peace and even the humor of heaven. Already he was above his body, seemingly unaware of nurses poking in their needles. It was incredible—like heaven. I could scarcely get back to earth next day."

He called his hospital room "heaven's waiting room," and from his deathbed encouraged visitors, prayed for others, and led souls to Christ. He planned both his own memorial services held in the large Yodabashi Church, Shinjuku. He asked us not to be sad at his funeral but to rejoice in the Lord. Rev. Akira Horiuchi and Dr. Akira Hatori brought messages of salvation and comfort. Both services ended with the Hallelujah Chorus, and as the coffin was carried out, the huge congregation lining the steps, filling the sidewalk and spilling onto the street worshipfully sang the chorus, 'Hallelujah'. impacting everyone within hearing distance.

In this land where people "through fear of death are all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Heb. 2:15), Pastor Furuyama's triumphant homegoing left us a powerful testimony. He demonstrated, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain," and told us, like Paul did the Philippians, "As you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling." Then dying, for us, will also be gain. This was the challenge of Pastor Furuyama's last, and perhaps most powerful sermon.

Don and Vivian Bruck, worked with Andrew Furuyama at MCC for several years.



A contradiction you say! A second chance—and a privilege, I say!

In his excellent book, Finding God, Christian psychologist, Larry Crabb, describes what happened at the time of the Fall. In Eden's garden we had it all including the ultimate—Life forever! All the facets of God's beautiful plan for us had we not sinned, can only be imagined—perfect harmony, willing submission, love abounding, joy overflowing and ongoing, majestic fellowship with our MAKER!

But, in an instant, sin ruined it A-L-L and so completely did it vanish that a lifetime only begins to rebuild ALL we lost! Then, too, it was not just the loss: it was also banishment from that lovely place protected by cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to lock us OUT.

Larry Crabb says we were not just locked out, but left peering over the wall, longing for what we once had! Here we stand in our broken world, destined to die—to struggle—to fail—to miss the mark!

But, you know, it was that keeping us "OUT" that allows us to "ENTER IN!" Had we had access to the Tree of Life we would have missed God's redemptive plan. The eating of that tree would have limited us to a sinful state forever! But, through redemption we fell heir to wholeness by His suffering and His grace. The lost self image could be regained! The broken relationships could be restored! The lifeless spirit could and would be resurrected!

All of life's journey is one long reconstruction process. I take a look at myself

Potpourri & Promises

by Janice A. Kropp

Locked Out but Ever Entering In

and, as spiritual as I should be as a missionary and a believer, I see myself more often than not missing the mark. My heart under reconstruction to match the blueprint of His WORD reveals to me far too much evil and wickedness. My dear father used to remind us children that of one thing we could be very sure... "Our hearts are desperately wicked." Wickedness is evidenced in a thousand ways. I think I know my heart and I think you know yours.

In I Corinthians 10 we read of the Israelites: "For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were ALL under the cloud, and ALL passed through the sea; and ALL were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and ALL ate the same spiritual food: and ALL drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and that Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well pleased! Why? Because they were idolaters, committed sexual sins, tested the Lord, and grumbled.

I speak not to these sins, but to our commitment to remain free of them, particularly in the line of purity—of mind and body. "They were naked and unashamed" brings a longing in my heart to enter and stay in the Garden. Look at our world, the beauty of our sexual nature has been "hung out to dry." How the heart of God must be pressed in with what He sees. That's the bad, sad news! But the GOOD NEWS is that we can ENTER IN at a cost!

Japan presents sexual impurity from daily newspapers to full day television programming. Would that our precious children be spared the bombardment of the explicit, not to mention our own needed protection.

Have you heard? Do the words, "True Love Waits," and "Covenant Card" sound familiar?

Being a mother of four sons, I realize that if God does not keep these precious ones, temptations and the wickedness of the heart will soil that which God has ordained to be clean. My heart rejoiced when I heard of a movement which requires commitment in COVENANT to remain pure until marriage!

"True Love Waits" founded by a Baptist Minister, Rev. Richard Ross of Nashville, Tennessee, USA, challenges the youth of our day to the following commitment: "Believing that true love waits. I make a commitment to God, myself, my family, those I date, my future mate and my future children to be sexually pure until the day I enter a marriage relationship." covenant 500,000 teens responded immediately to the challenge and the numbers are rising as this movement spreads around the world! Praise God.

During the recent Spiritual Emphasis Week at Christian Academy, speaker Greg Speck challenged our young people to chastity. Many went forward to take the commitment cards he had available!

"True Love Waits" is a campaign sponsored by the Southern Baptists, Youth for Christ, Campus Crusade and twenty-six other denominations in one hundred and fifty countries. Here in-Japan the campaign was officially kicked off in a meeting presided over by Evangelist Koji Honda and lead by Kenny Joseph at Ochanomizu Student Center in October 1994.

Our children deserve and need protection. WE, as men and women preaching the Gospel, need to be on guard, for "when we think we stand...be careful lest we fall!" Our Japanese churches and communities need this message urgently. Young girls being pulled into

prostitution are winked at by the police and aided by mobsters as a good way to keep AIDS from spreading. Japanese inside and outside the church are not well informed of God's standard of sexual purity. One college student in a church where we served asked with surprise one day, "Do you mean we are not to do that?" I was shocked. Didn't she know? Had we missed the teaching of that important truth?

Let's not miss the marvelous opportunity to teach and support the cause for moral living!



For further information regarding an OHP bi-lingual presentation, please contact the office of Kenny Joseph, 7-39-6 Higashi Oizumi, Nerima Ku, Tokyo. Tel: 03-3922-6402. FAX 03-3922-7655.

God bless you and keep you as you guard and teach this very vulnerable area of our humanness—our sexuality! jk EVENT FLASH: Thirty ladies gathered at Berachah Church in Sasebo, Kyushu for a three-day seminar on the video series *Happiness is a Choice!* This series, on "ever-waiting-to-devour depression," speaks to all as most of us will fall into depression at some time. The degree to which one falls depends on coping skills, which are Biblically taught both in the book and video series.

Two of us from the JEMA Women's Commission had the privilege of facilitating the video and of meeting each lady pictured here.! How special each one of you are! May God bless and continue to encourage each one!

A one-day seminar on the same topic was held for Japanese ladies and was gratefully received. Maybe this is a message our Japanese need to hear!

(Janice Kropp and Georgia Landis did a great job in Kyushu! -ed.)



Recommended Books

Finding God, by Larry Crabb, published by Scripture Press

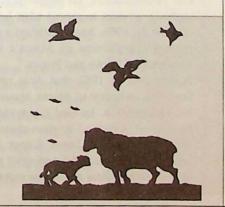
The Pursuit of God, by A.W. Tozer, published by Christian Publications

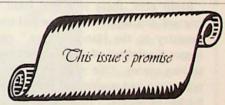
Happiness is a Choice, by Minerth and Meier, published by Baker House

Videos

Sex, Lies and the Truth, produced by James Dobson

Happiness is a Choice, produced by Minerth and Meier





"If we CONFESS our sins, He is faithful and righteous to FORGIVE us our sins, and to CLEANSE us from ALL unrighteousness." John 1:9

In The Dark Place

In the dark place of olive trees YOU had a chance to turn your back on us and say,

FATHER, forget them, They're not worth the price.

Instead, in the dark place above the taunts of men and sound of dripping blood,

YOU, (precious Jesus) paid with YOUR 1-i-f-e for mine.

Nancy Spiegelberg

Gleanings From The Christian Shinbun

by Steve Friesen

クリスチャン新聞

Hanshin Earthquake Area Pastors in Need of Care

For those who have suffered the loss of family in the great Hanshin earthquake, and are now being forced to live in evacuation shelters, the tremendous physical and emotional strain of an uncertain future is taking its toll.

Pastors and Christian workers have been saddled with double and triple loads of responsibilities, and a good number have been pushed past the limits of emotional well-being.

While enduring not only personal and family loss, pastors have also been caring for physical needs inside and outside of the church, giving emotional and spiritual support to their members, as well as accomodating volunteers and directing general relief efforts. Emotionally and physically depleted, the number of pastors who have come down with influenza due to total fatigue has grown considerably.

"Right now, there is a real need to counsel and support those in full-time ministry in the Hanshin area," says Pastor Kachihara of the Kansai counselling center. "We need to organize systematic and profesional care for our fellow ministers." Individual pastors are doing what they can to help others in ministry, but nothing has been organized to meet this need.

One pastor in Moriguchi City, Toshio Mukai, observed, "This earthquake is testing the quality of the pastor-to-pastor fellowship and cooperation that has been built up to this point."

Photographer Meets the Lord of Life

Sixty-nine year old photographer, Shiroh Arai, has been pursuing one theme since the end of the Second World War...the value of life. As a member of a special suicide attack force waiting for orders to move out, Arai was spared from sure death when the war ended. His orders never came.

Though relieved to be still alive at nineteen years of age, Arai could not erase the pain of knowing that two thousand five hundred fellow soldiers in other attack units had died tragically in their prime. He mourned.

After the war, Arai married and became the father of two daughters. Being struck with the beauty and value of life, and in particular, motherhood, Arai spent ten years photographing the daily life of his own mother. In 1970, he published a collection of photos entitled, "Ofukuro" ("Mom").

During his forties, Arai finally felt the liberty to deal with the wartime issues of his youth. He decided to uncover the tightly-kept secrets of his suicide squadron activities. Using his annual vacation time, Arai spent seven years traveling Japan, visiting and photographing surviving squad members, gathering materials as he went. A book on the subject was published in 1980.

Through a pastor who read a newspaper review of Arai's book and contacted him, God began to deal with the photographer. Also involved in the suicide forces, Kiyoshige Miura had been injured in a pre-attack explosion and as a result completely lost the use of his legs. Later, confined to a wheelchair, Miura met the Lord and entered the ministry, caring especially for the handicapped, a reflection of his conviction concerning the value of life.

As the two men got acquainted, Arai was deeply moved by Pastor Miura's peaceful attitude toward his own difficult circumstances. He began to attend worship services to record what he felt on film. In 1986, Arai published a photographic collection on Miura's ministry entitled "Love and Prayer."

It was also in 1986 that Arai retired from his company to devote himself to his real passion. In God's providence, he was led to visit a Christian center for the handicapped in Seoul, Korea. Witnessing God's beautiful and quiet work at this facility, Arai again was moved to

record his impressions on film. After a stay of three months, in 1987 Arai produced "Flowers of the Field," a pictorial account of what he had seen of God's handiwork there.

In the trip to Seoul, God raised up another person to impact Arai's life. A pastor and leader of Japan's prolife group, "Chisana Inochi O Mamoru Kai," Kenzo Tsujioka had joined Arai in Korea. "Having narrowly escaped with my life, I had developed an appreciation for life, but I had nowhere near the intense love and respect for life that Pastor Tsujioka displayed." explains Arai. Again he felt compelled to photograph the efforts of those dedicated to saving the unborn, and a new endeavor began in 1987.

In God's grace, it was during this project that Arai realized who the true God is. "As I thought about the unborn baby "breathing" the amniotic fluid in its mother's womb, and then suddenly at birth switching to inhaling air into its tiny lungs, I came to see that only God could have designed this process. I was able for the first time to acknowledge Him as the only Creator and Lord of all. Killing an unborn child was no different than killing a person in war. Both are sins before God." He saw that it was for these and other sins that the Lord Jesus died, so that we could be forgiven and receive the gift of life. This was what he had been searching for all his

In 1994, Arai published the results of eight years of photography for Japan Prolife in a book called, "Little Life."

Looking back, Arai senses God's hand

on him while his own hand was on the shutter of his camera. "God drew me to



Himself, as I was drawn to shoot subjects that captivated me." No doubt the Lord will continue using Arai's gift to highlight the precious gift of life from the Creator's hand.

KANSAI NEWS

by Nancy Sorley

Food for the Hungry

Japan International Food for the Hungry headquartered in Yao, Osaka, near the hardest hit area in the earthquake, are feeding their neighbors. JIFH has helped financially in Japan before, but this was the first time they assisted with personnel and supplies. On January 19th, they started delivering blankets, water, onigiri, bread and other supplies to the victims. With Mukonoso Free Church as their base, they sent supplies on to other locations.

They are now working on rehabilitation as well as relief. A Korean mobile medical team is visiting sick and elderly. Teams and individuals from Canada, Thailand, Cambodia, Bangla desh, Bolivia and the US are helping. A main project is cleaning rubble from churches and their neighborhoods. By working through the churches they can demonstrate Christian love. Financial donations are still needed.

World Vision Japan

World Vision, known for their humanitarian projects around the world, had their first opportunity to send supplies and personnel within Japan. On January 19th, they started to deliver food, water, medicine and other supplies to 17 refugee centers in six cities. They were able to help 7,000 people. At two Kobe parks they distributed necessities to 5,200 in three days. Many churches in Kansai cooperated with their efforts. Based on reports of needs, they will evaluate their continuing role. They plan to help with reconstruction as well. Their goal is to raise 96,000,000 yen for this project.

Churches Aiding Churches

JEA is supporting churches hurt by the Great Hanshin Earthquake. Their first step was to visit the churches and pray for the pastors. "Many pastors are facing a myriad of problems stemming from the earthquake," says Pastor Kimio Shirai, who heads up the project. "When we visit we give the pastor 50,000 yen. Because of members leaving the area, even churches that weren't damaged are facing a financial crisis because of low attendance." The Sunday after the earthquake some had only one-tenth their regular numbers.

JEA will continue to act as a contact point between funds received and churches with needs. Financial response is coming to JEA from around the world.

Tears Turn To Joy

After the earthquake, Ashiyagawa Church was the only structure standing in its



neighborhood. Forty people took refuge in the sanctuary. But Pastor Juji Ojima's son, Ken, died in the quake. Ken's body, however, saved his own son's life Ken's wife was pulled from the wreckage after five hours and needed 15 stitches in her head. Five church members died.

The Sunday after the quake, some of the evacuees staying on the first floor attended the worship service on the second floor. In the midst of personal sorrow, Pastor Ojima had the joy of having many neighbors, whom he had been trying to reach for 40 years, come to a service for the first time.



Kansai News continued

YWAM's Mission to Victims

YWAM'ers were literally shaken by the earthquake at their headquarters in Osaka. They immediately felt the need to go to Kobe and take Christian love and joy along with a lot of material supplies to those who were suffering. They set out but the roads were closed. It wasn't until they obtained a pass for their vehicles from Kobe City Hall a few days later that they could begin their relief program. They found the government couldn't use their help or supplies, so on their own found places where relief was not getting through. YWAM has been going to Nishinomiya for day trips and into Kobe for two to four day trips. Their aim is to relate to people, not just drop off food and leave. At some places without water, they have washed people's hair with a special alcohol-based shampoo.

YWAM has been a contact point for other organizations which have sent money, volunteers and supplies. Several truckloads came from the misssionary community in Kanto. YWAM sees their help as long-term. Outreach teams are already planning to help with construction, medical aid, school helpers, openair evangelism and church programs. They request the support and prayers of fellow missionaries.

Missionaries Affected

Many missionaries reside in the Hanshin area affected by the earthquake. Among the over 5,000 who died some were foreigners. Jean Miller, an English teacher who attended Kobe International Church, was among them. Although some missionaries lost their homes or were forced to evacuate, there were no reported deaths among them. Some have evacuated to other houses, schools or camps. A few have returned to their home countries. "Most missions and missionaries I contacted were more concerned with the loss that the Japanese churches sustained. Quite a few church buildings and pastors' residences were damaged or destroyed," reports Reimer Clausen, chairman of Kansai JEMA. "A lot of missionaries mentioned that church members had lost their homes and they were concerned for their well-being."



All Kansai Fellowship

On Monday, April 24th, 1995 JEMA will sponsor a time of fellowship at the St. Aven Chapel in Umeda, Osaka. Come and bring some food for a time of worship and fellowship from 10:00-12:00 followed by a potluck luncheon. This is a good opportunity to meet fellow missionaries Call 06-375-4111 for information

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"The rest of the story..."

The house immediately next to the church was nothing but a pile of sticks. When I swept the street, I'd dump the dust on the pile of garbage that used to be someone's home. Wednesday a volunteer from Myanmar came running upstairs to tell me about an elderly man (actually the owner of the rubble next door) who had come in to eat lunch that day. He was obviously distraught emotionally-so much so that he could not even put the food in his mouth. He just sat there on his stool and trembled. A lovely Korean volunteer noticed and asked him if something was wrong. He began sobbing, explaining that he had just come from signing the contract for the city to bull-doze his house into a dump truck and carry away his life. It was to happen in two days. The workers ministered to him out of the love of Christ.

Sure enough, two days later, the bull-dozer and dump truck pulled up early in the morning and began levelling the kindling. The neighbor and his wife sat at the church door stoically watching, inwardly crumbling. I watched the workers again minister to this couple, bringing them chairs, coffee, masks.... At lunch that day I sat with a church member and relayed this story. She was astounded! THAT neighbor? He had actually come in for lunch on Wednesday? He sobbed? He had sat at the church door this morning??

Then I learned that of ALL of the neighbors, this one HATED the church. He had found many ways to cause grief to the pastors and church members with his constant complaints. Even after the earthquake, he would storm into the soup kitchen with accusations like "You used the sticks from my house to make a fire." Patiently, the leader of the soup kitchen answered each complaint until the neighbor, exasperated, gave his final jab: "Well, when the leader of this neighborhood hears about what you're doing with this soup kitchen, he's sure going to be upset with you." To which the church leader replied, "The leader of the neighborhood eats

here every day!" The angry man had stormed out then, silenced. But he would come every day and GLARE from the street into the soup kitchen. One day, however, his wife began coming to eat at the church. And then, as though the power of the Holy Spirit magnetized this dear man, he had come on Wednesday and been broken as he wept out his grief. And the Spirit of Love was there to come alongside with comfort and encouragement!

The neighbor in this story is the father of the young man who had "just happened" to grab his Bible on the way out of the house when the quake struck. (told in Letter from Ruth) The second part of the story came from Sylvia Ramquist, who spent a week in Kobe Feb. 26—Mar. 4

Volunteers Help Rebuild Hachinohe Church.

The earthquake which struck the north eastern part of Japan on December 28, last year did most of its damage in the fishing port of Hachinohe City. Hachinohe Gospel Church building sustained such damage to its foundation as to be rendered useless. Pastor Miura said perhaps the greatest blow was to the spiritual lives of members, some of whom not only saw their church ruined but had damage to their homes in excess of ten thousand dollars.

Since the earthquake, the Christians have been meeting in the pastor's living room and it was not until the Extraordinary General Meeting on February 20th that signs of new life and vigor began to emerge. The believers voted to build a new church and this decision has brought renewed vision to the group. Already the twenty-five members have given or pledged about 90,000 dollars for the project. Work on the new building will start May 10 with the major part of the construction done by a team of volunteers from Canada using materials from the USA. John Elliot and Martin Ghent, OMF missionaries in the area, will be supervising the project.

by Paul Pike

MK Honor Roll

After Kenny Joseph's list of MK returnees in the last issue of the Harvest, we asked you to let us know if anyone was left out. You did! Thank you!—ed.

Ingrid Aske Mark Bowman Nathan Bowman Paul Bridgman Doug Conrad Daniel Dellming Kent Edefors Jack Garrett Mark Hoshizak Priscilla Kunz Dale Little Martin Meyer Harold and Ruth (Ford) Netland Becky (Shook) Petite Jonathan Prins Annette (Vatter) Schuster Robert Sherer Joan (Youngquist) Stoller Oyvina Tjelle Lars Sigurd Tjelle Robert Verme Bill Walker Chad and Esther (Zook) Wright Are there more of you out there?

Precept Seminar

On February 24th and 25th, SEND Mission sponsored a Precept Bible Studies' Training Seminar at SEND headquarters in Higashi Tokorozawa. Janet Kunnecke spearheaded and implemented the two day study. Missionaries from a variety of missions enjoyed the challenge of the training and also the fellowship together. The teaching tapes were made available by Precepts Ministries, Chattanooga, Tennessee as a gift to the missionary community.



Member Pare

Being a Christian involves change, growth and maturity. God's measuring stick for this is not neccessarily like ours. Each missionary has been divinely placed here by God at different levels of maturity and status. But that's part of what it's all about. Jesus can use each of us as the various parts of His Body, and we are here not only for the Japanese, but for each other.

Take the recent Kobe tragedy. What a change. It has directly and indirectly become a chance to genuinely reach out oward one another. Kansai missionaries have been crossing denominational lines to meet others' needs. Some missionaries found themselves homeless and heartbroken after the quake. But "member-care" was working.

One missionary family lost their home, but because of a relationship they already had in the community with another mission group, they were taken in and given a place to stay. This is just one story—it has been multiplied in the Kansai in the past few weeks. But we do not need to wait for earthquakes to find opportunities to care for each other.

I personally know four missionaries who in the past six months have experienced illness or death of a loved one. Our Father is always there, but He has "set us in the Body" to be there for each other, too. Sometimes our opportunity to care is only a phone call away.

We have so much to give one another. I personally have found great encouragement and sometimes just release of stress by having a prayer partner at the other end of the phone. Try having a fellow missionary over for dinner or just for a cup of coffee.

Get to know someone you've been wishing you knew!



by Davon Meng

Antidotes for Tension and Stress

Are you feeling tense in your daily walk?

Here are ten reasons why you may be feeling so with an antidote for each.

- 1. I may be tense because I feel inadequate in the place God has put me. (Read I Cor 4:2,6) It will not rest with my cleverness, but will rest with my taking God as my RESOURCE.
- 2. I may be tense because I'm looking at my immediate circumstances rather than the overall purpose of God. (Read Rom 8:28) We ask God to work in our situation, then when He begins to stir things up in answer to our prayers, resulting in conditions contrary to what we expected, we get nervous and panic!
- 3. I may be tense and upset because I am not content with the way things are or with what I have. (Read I Tim 6:6-8) I may be coveting what someone else has. Remember: Keep the things of the world in the open palm of your hand and keep them out of your heart. To have them or loose them is fine either way, just so God's will be done.
- 4. I may be tense because I have not been studying to be quiet before the Lord. (Read Ps 46:10) Definition of a quiet spirit: "the confidence that God will use even the mistakes of others to achieve His character in me."
- 5. I may be tense because I am inwardly resisting God's will for my life. (Read Rom 5:3-5) I need to come to the place of complete submission to the circumstances I am in. I need to accept them and be patient. Definition of patience: "accepting a difficult situation without giving God a dead line to change it."

- 6. I may be tense because I am harboring an unforgiving spirit toward someone or toward a situation I don't understand. (Read Matt 6:9-15) Take care of an unforgiving spirit immediately.
- 7. I may be tense because I am worrying. (Read Phil 4:6,7) If I haven't given God 'time' I soon discover I am worrying about what I should have committed to Him and trusted Him to do. Definition of worry: "assuming responsibility that God never intended me to have."
- 8. I may be tense because I have gotten involved in other people's business, talking or listening to what is none of my business. (Read Matt 18:15,16) Definition of gossip: "We should not share or listen to private information with those who are not part of the problem or part of the solution."
- 9. I may be tense because I fail to believe God to be the EVERLASTING ONE, ELOCHIM, GOD OVERALL, JEHOVAH JIRAH, GOD AT WORK. There is no attribute of God more comforting than His SOVEREIGNTY!
- 10. I may be tense because I blame other people for my present situation. (Read Isa 38:11) There are no second causes. "Things don't just happen to those who love God---they are planned by His own dear HANDS---they are molded and shaped by His CLOCK---things just don't happen THEY ARE PLANNED."

Given by Miriam Taylor at the C&MA Mission Family Gathering in October 1994 (Miriam Taylor is Janice Kropp's mother and veteran missionary of over 60 years.)

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and homeland staff of World Gospel Mission

Dr. Denis Applebee was born in Kent, England and was converted while serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps. Following his graduation from Emmanuel College, Birkenhead, he served three pastorates over a period of twenty-seven years then went on to become director of Emmanuel Bible College and Missions.

As vice chairman of the Southport International Revival Convention and associate editor of The Flame, Great Britain's leading holiness journal, he was active as a convention preacher throughout the United Kingdom. Dr. Applebee's missionary inter-Dr. Denis Applebee, pastor to the missionaries ests have led to his serving as chairman of World

Gospel Mission's UK Executive Council. Dr. Denis Applebee has lectured throughout the United Kingdom with Scripture Press and for many years has held the lectureship of homiletics at his own college. In addition, he has been adjunct professor of preaching at Wesley Biblical Seminary, Jackson, Mississippi. Denis and his wife, Mary, are now traveling widely to the fields of World Gospel Mission, including an evangelistic and Bible-teaching ministry in the United States and Great Britain.

Contact:

Mr. Peter McRoberts 182-1 Futatsuka Ibogawa Cho, Ibo Gun Hyogo Ken 671-16

Aleeting Schedule

Sunday July 30th, 10:30 AAl, Communion Service & 7:00 DAl Monday July 31st, 10:00 用船 & 7:00 到船 10:00 月州 & 7:00 利州 Tuesday Aug. 1st,

Wedensday Aug. 2nd, 10:00 AAl Final Service

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