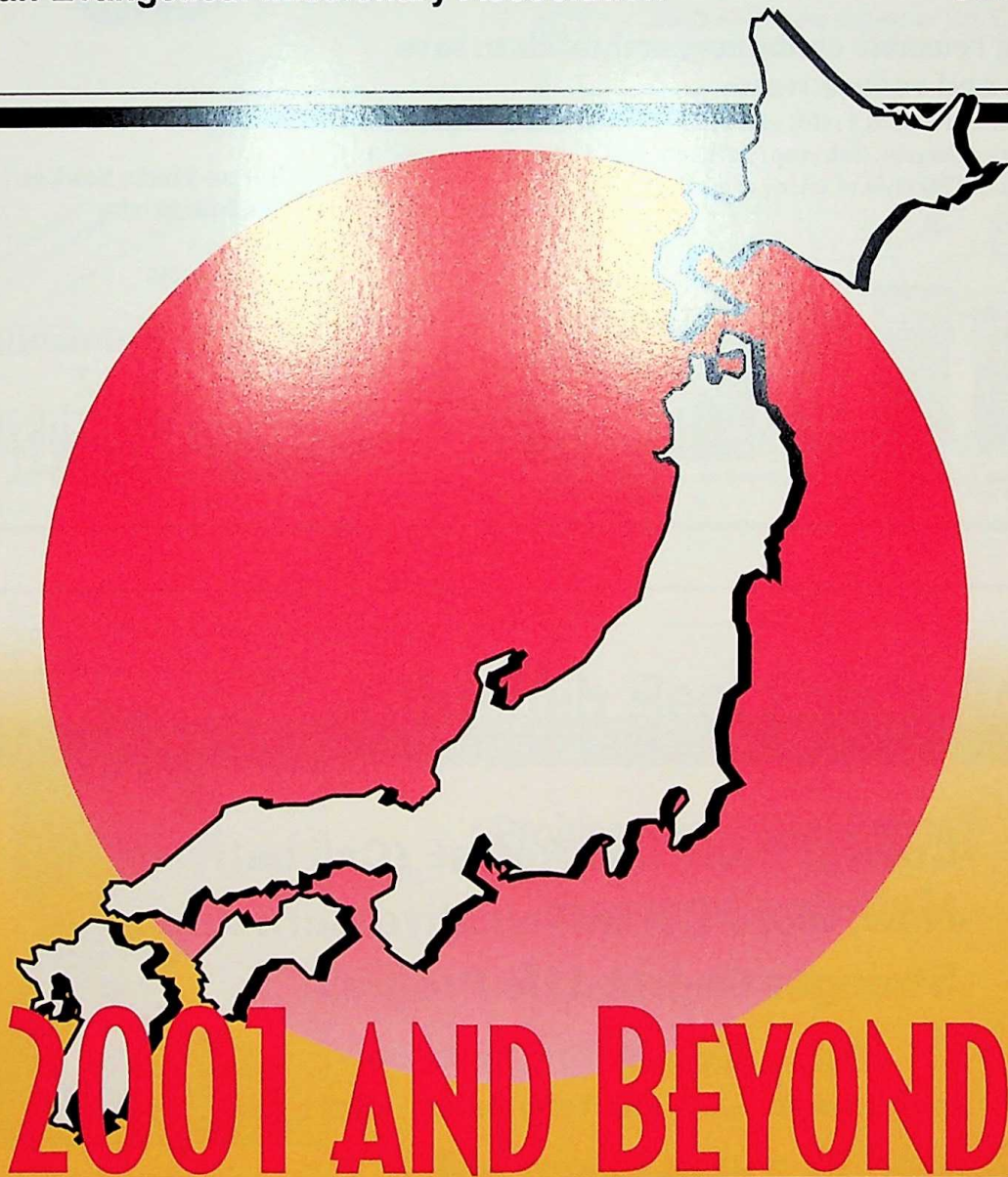


# JAPAN HARVEST

Japan Evangelical Missionary Association

Summer 1995



## 2001 AND BEYOND

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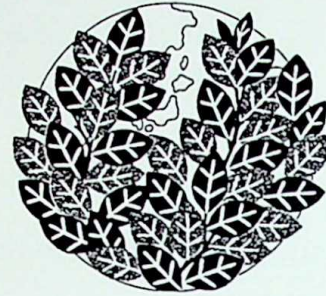
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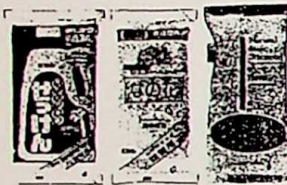


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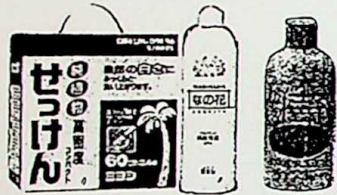
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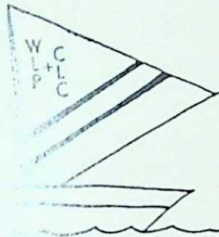
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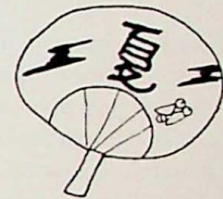
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# JAPAN HARVEST

Volume 45, No.1/Summer 1995

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The *Japan Harvest* is the official publication of the Japan Evangelical Missionary Association. It is published quarterly to promote primarily the cause of the evangelical church and mission in Japan, and secondarily the ministry and activities of the association. Individual articles or advertising expresses the viewpoints of the contributor and not necessarily those of JEMA. The editor welcomes unsolicited articles.

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## In This Harvest ...

### 2001 and Beyond

Guest Editor: Mark Ramquist

Have you ever thought seriously about your life and ministry in the year 2001 and beyond? Consider a minute:

1. What were you doing in ministry 5 years ago?
2. What kind of person were you then?
3. At that point, did you imagine all the changes to bring you to what your ministry is today?
4. Did you imagine the challenges you've encountered to shape you into who you are now?

Considering the pace at which changes occurred in the last 5 years, imagine what you will be doing in ministry 5 years from now, and what kind of person you might be then....

Welcome to the year 2001.

As people involved in ministry in Japan, we face a parabolic increase in changes—plus the proportional complexities of their accompanying challenges—hurtling at us over the next 5 years. We need to accept this fact, and intentionally prepare to successfully deal with the adjustments required. Anything less will lead to waste and chaos.

This issue of *Japan Harvest* brings focus to how we face the next 5 years, and tries to provide a range of perspectives and strategies. You'll find helpful diagnosis of current trends, practical advice for organizational changes and personal care, as well as encouragement for your spirit.

As you read these articles, my prayer is that our unchanging God will provide you pivotal insight and reliable tools to accept and adapt to change in your specific situation.

To paraphrase the well-known prayer my mother displayed in her kitchen through the years:

"Dear God,  
please give peace for what I can't change,  
please give power for what I must change,  
please give perception to know the difference."

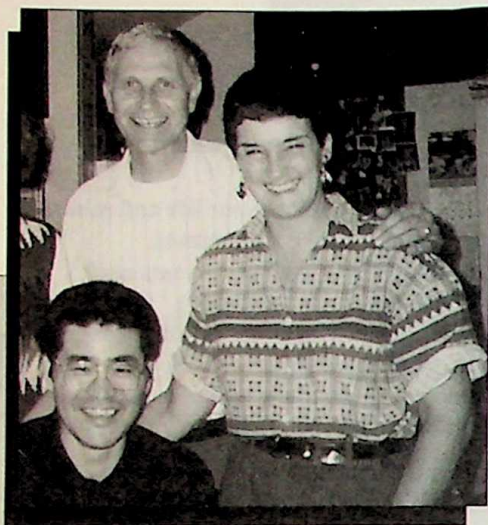
Mark and his wife Sylvia have been in Japan with LIFE Ministries since 1981. He has served primarily as founder and Dir. of LIFE's SongRise ministry. Having completed transfer of his responsibilities to other staff recently, Mark has been in transition to new ministry in communication and media.



Mark and Sylvia Ramquist.  
Corey and Shea

# JEMA Windows

**Ron Sisco**  
**JEMA President**



*This issue, with a focus on the future, deals with **change** in a variety of aspects. I don't think there could be a more appropriate time to talk about the wonder and miracle of **CHANGE** God makes in a human life. Here's the story of one man's changed heart.*

Yoshihiro Tanaka rarely even attempted politeness toward the pastors and missionaries who came to call.

His wife, Junko, had become a Christian through the love and prayers of lay people and missionaries at Kurume Christ Church, in Higashi Kurume, Tokyo. His teenage daughters, Risa and Yuko, were attending church youth activities and were responding to the Gospel.

But his heart seemed especially stubborn. When the missionary pastor of KCC (Howard Blair) dropped by to visit, Tanaka-san rudely showed him the door. And when Dave Walker and I attempted overtures at friendship by helping wallpaper his home, he locked himself in his room.

He drank heavily, very little kindness came from his tongue, and in general he made life miserable for his family day after day.

Then in June, 1993 he sustained a massive stroke. He was only 45 years old. Medically, little hope was given and for the first days the question was whether he would live. When he did rally, the doctors warned Junko that he would probably be little more than a vegetable

for the rest of his life.

Many people had been praying for him. This was not exactly what we had been praying for. Now the prayers became pleas that God would work through the trauma for His glory.

Days, weeks, months dragged by and he was eventually moved to a rehabilitation hospital close to his home in Kiyose. At least we could visit him more easily now, but it was like talking to a shell. He couldn't speak clearly and he could not remember anything from one hour to the next. But little by little we began to see changes. He became cheerful, appreciative and slowly better at communicating.

Christmas came and some of us decided to go to the hospital on Christmas morning to sing for him. Katie made a special braided bread and decorated it with candles. With the others, we looked forward to sharing God's blessing with Yoshihiro and with Junko, for whom these months had moved so tediously.

We walked out of the elevator onto his floor and realized God had much more in mind. The nurses had heard we were coming and had gathered every patient on that floor into the visiting area. We lit the candles, read the Christmas story and sang for them all. That day Yoshihiro asked his wife for a Bible.

Junko began to read the Bible to him each night, to the delight of his roommate, who turned out to be a believer!

At New Year's our mission team got together and we invited the Tanaka family to join us for a festive meal and singing. It was hard to believe the man in the wheelchair trying so hard to enter in was the man who had shut us all out for so long. We gathered around him to pray before taking him back to the hospital. As we finished, I heard his voice—quiet but determined, "Thank

You for all these people who have prayed for me. Please bless them, too." It was another step toward the Father.

For months we'd all been involved in various aspects of preparations for the Billy Graham Crusade. But we hadn't thought of taking Tanaka san. Suddenly it all fell into place. We could take him and his wheelchair in the car. Surely the Lord would work out a place for his wheelchair...even though when we called the Dome they said all the wheelchair spots were filled...

Yoshihiro's obvious excitement about going helped us face the mounting difficulties. Tokyo traffic is enough of a "mountain to cross" all by itself, not to mention the fact that I had never driven to the Dome and had no idea which entrance had elevators for the handicapped—though we were assured there were such things.

But those were not problems for God. That night was in His heart for Yoshihiro from eternity. When Billy Graham gave the invitation, I turned to Yoshihiro and asked if he wanted to accept Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. He replied simply, "That's why I came here tonight." What a joy to lead him to the Lord sitting right there in his wheelchair!

That was more than a year ago. The joy that started for him on January 16, 1994 still shines in his face. Dave and I have ministered to him with Bible study and prayer fellowship. He's not in a wheelchair now, though he does go to the hospital every day for therapy. He isn't able to go back to work yet, but he has come such a long way—and he is a changed man, new in Christ Jesus.

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"*

2 Corinthians 5:17

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10:20 ~ 10:50		Coffee break	Coffee break	
11:00 ~ 12:00		Seminar I	Seminar II	
1:00 ~ 3:00			International Picnic	
2:00 ~ 4:00		Ladies' Tea Dr. & Mrs. Ganz	@ Megumi Chalet	
2:45 ~ 4:00	"The Difficulty of Living in a Society Which is Committed to the View that People Can't Change"—Dr. Richard Ganz			
7:00 ~ 8:30	"The Power of Forgive- ness in a Changed Life"—Dr. Ganz	"Paul's Thoughts on Growing in the Christian Life"—Dr. Ganz	"Put Off the Old and Put On the New"—Dr. Ganz	Evening Service —Dr. Ganz

Dr. Richard Ganz as a psychoanalyst was on a personal search for meaning in his life when he was introduced to Christ at 'L' Abri' in Switzerland. Under the tutorage of Dr. Jay Adams at Westminster Theological Seminary he became convinced that the Bible is the only basis for answering the problems of man and his nature. Dr. Ganz has dedicated his life to the ministry of teaching and training counsellors in the practical application of the Word of God as our only "handbook" for counselling.

# TRENDS AND TRANSFORMATION

## Changes in the mission enterprise in Japan

by Doug Birdsall

In the year 2001, it is likely that historians will look back on the year 1995 as a watershed year in Japan's post-war experience. Not only will 1995 be remembered as the year in which the earth shook under Kobe, it will also be remembered as the year of a seismic shift in Japanese society. The political, economic and family landscape of the country has been altered as the stability and predictability of old ways have buckled under the pressure of conflicting values and opposing forces.

The old ways seem to be dying. What they are giving birth to remains unknown.

However, we do know that God is working out His redemptive purposes for this country through His church. As His people, we seek to be like "the men of Issachar" who "understood the times and knew what to do."

This article is an attempt to identify some current trends which have implications for the missionary community as we seek to prepare for the changes involved to successfully minister in Japan in the year 2001 and beyond. We will focus on two primary areas: trends in Japanese society and trends within the missionary work force.

### Trends in Japanese Society

In the April 29, 1995 feature article of "The Japan Times Weekly" on the direction of Japanese youth, the editors wrote, "They came of age as Japan reached the heights of prosperity, but materialism couldn't provide meaning in life. Nor could traditional religion. So

these Japanese youths broke with the past to become children of the future...they are average Japanese youths trying to find a peaceful alternative to a conformist and polluted society devoid of spiritual values."

What is written about "Japanese youths" could be said of young people in many parts of the world today. Nonetheless, it is particularly striking that in a traditional society that has successfully transferred a value system and world view from generation to generation, Japanese young people are now so

stridently rejecting the values of their culture.

Young people are not the only ones in Japan reassessing traditional values. Just as the family has been the means whereby children were socialized and stabilized, so also the company was the structure that provided a social context and a secure financial base for the nation's work force.

In spite of the strength of Japan's corporate structure, loyalty to it is no longer unquestioned. Though the perception of life-time employment persists, the reality is that less than one-third of the work force will spend their careers as employees of one company. Economic realities will necessitate layoffs and "out-counseling" in times of recession and down-sizing.

Individualism of younger workers will find expression in employees forsaking company loyalty to take jobs in other companies or industries more suitable to a person's liking.

The predictability of governmental alliances is also experiencing seismic

change. Leaders of all the major political parties were in absolute disbelief after the recent election of Mr. Yokohama as the new governor of Osaka.

As a former entertainer and comedian who refused even to campaign or spend large sums of money for the election, he nonetheless defeated a career politician who was backed by all the major parties as well as vast sums of money. Mr. Shintaro Ishihara, politician and novelist who wrote *The Japan That Can Say No*, recently retired from his seat in the Diet because of his despair over the state of Japanese politics.

Perhaps those most significantly affected by the trends and changes in Japanese culture are those who make up Japan's "graying population." This generation of traditionalists will be put at risk due to the combined factors of increased longevity and decreased birth rates. Whereas there are now ten working people in Japan for every person on pension, within thirty years this ratio will drop to only 2.5 workers for every pensioner.

It is obvious that these changes affecting the youth, the work force, the political world, and the aging society represent new challenges of an unprecedented magnitude.

Perhaps those most affected by the trends and changes in Japanese culture are the... "graying population."

Japan remains as one of the most orderly and admirable societies in the world. Thus, the changes need not be a cause for despair. Rather, they should signal new opportunities for the church and for the Gospel. In a time of social change, people are open and restless.

As His people, we seek to be like "the men of Issachar" who "understood the times and knew what to do."



If the spiritual vacuum can be filled, and if new social patterns can be established by the leavening influence of the people of God, there is reason to have tremendous hope that the best days for the church, and thus the best days for the culture, are just before us.

## Trends in the Missionary Community

Five trends within the missionary community warrant reflection and refocusing of missionary energy.

The first has to do with the tremendous influx of new missionaries into Japan from Asian churches, most notably those from Korea. In 1980, less than 100 Koreans were serving as cross-cultural missionaries around the world. Today, there are more than 100 in Japan alone.

As the culmination of the AD 2000 Global Consultation on World Evangelization to be held in Seoul, Korea in May of this year, it is projected that 100,000 Korean young people will take up the charge to serve as missionaries around the globe!

The promise of such a movement is staggering to the imagination. Obviously, the Korean church has much to offer to the church in Japan, and to the mission community from around the world that serves here.

At the same time, it is imperative that leaders within the missionary community representing groups from different parts of the world—particularly leaders from the old western mission societies—engage in meaningful dialogue with leaders from the Korean movement. Such dialogue could prove fruitful in terms of maximizing shared potential and minimizing duplication of efforts and misunderstanding with respect to motives and *modus operandi*.

It is especially important that we avoid

working in isolation of one another. Such insular work would deprive the mission community of the fresh vision of newer groups, and the combined wisdom and experience of more established groups.

A second trend has to do with the changing role of mission societies, both the denominational as well as para-church organizations. Historically, the western mission societies had a virtual monopoly on resources—people, money and information. Everything went through the conduit of the mission agency.

**Mission agencies must rethink and...facilitate the forging of "joint-ventures"...around shared vision and values.**

Increasingly, we will see people, money and information going directly from the church in one culture to churches in another culture. Even the terms "sending church" and "receiving church" will become blurred as churches will become both in an era of unprecedented migrations of people around the globe.

Thus, the mission agencies must rethink and reposition themselves as "brokers" who facilitate the forging of "strategic alliances" and "joint ventures" among compatible partners among churches and societies who come together around shared vision and values, rather than around shared organizational identities.

Thirdly, we must note the nature of the missionary work force itself. At the same time that there will be increased need for cooperation among churches and mission groups, there will be an unfortunate decrease in the pool of experienced leaders due to the fact that the average tenure for "career" missionaries will continue to shrink. The twenty and thirty year

"veterans" will become increasingly rare. Thus it will be incumbent upon current mission leaders to create opportunities for younger mission leaders to meet together to share vision, and to build relationships of trust.

A fourth trend has to do with the phenomenon of short-term missions. This is no longer a new trend. However, there is a new trend within the short-term work of missions. Namely, the trend is towards "groups" of short-termers serving together in a team, rather than as individuals coming alone. Most of these teams will be sent as a group from the same church or school. They will not be eager to fit into an established program. Rather they will want to find a specific task that fits into a broader, strategic vision of a newer ministry.

Lastly, the trend that no missionary, supported from outside Japan, wants is the trend of the surging yen. Unfortunately, what was simply conceived as an "adjustment" of currencies by the leadership of the industrialized nations has developed into a trend with seemingly no end in sight.

**The trend is toward "groups" of short-termers serving together in a team.**

In that I am not a currency broker, I will offer no projections. However, I would echo what I hear from all sources, namely that the cost of living and working in Japan will remain among the highest in the world. Those who are able to access yen sources of mission income will be in the best position to remain financially viable in the future.

## Expectancy for the Future

When it comes to making projections for the year 2001 based on perceived trends, we are on thin ice. Thus, I will not skate in that direction here.

## TRENDS

However, I would like to close by mentioning a trend that I sense among both national church leaders and mission leaders. I also sense this trend among veteran "Japan observers" around the world as well as among young believers in the churches throughout Japan. This trend is one that I would simply call "heightened expectancy."

Having ministered in Japan since 1980, I would say that at no time have I sensed such a degree of "expectancy" as now. In spite of the challenges, there is evidence in the churches of a sense that God is preparing the church for something great. The preparation manifests itself in blessing as well as in tests and trials. Nonetheless, I hear more reference to Isaiah's word, "Forget the former things! Don't you see that I am doing a new thing!"

*Doug Birdsall has served as President of LIFE Ministries since 1981, and is a graduate of Wheaton College, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and Harvard University. He and his wife, Jeanie, and 3 children live in Tokorozawa.*



The Birdsall Family

**we change, HE changes  
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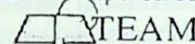
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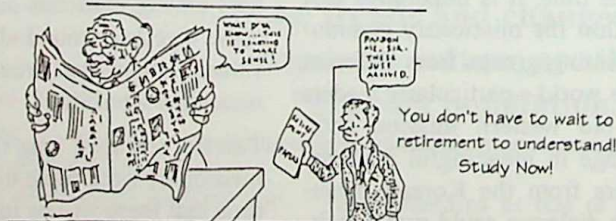
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# Making The Change

by Paul Yaggy

*Making changes is an art. Whether in a church, a mission organization, a classroom, a business, or a family, it requires skill and experience to do it well. For missionaries and ministers, making changes in people's spiritual lives is vital, and many are highly skilled in knowing how to do that; the results are peace and joy. Making changes in people's organizations is extremely important too, yet unfortunately many blunder through without knowing how to do it skillfully. The results? Waste and chaos.*

*But here's help! The following article provides remarkable insights and guidelines for making changes in our organizations. Paul Yaggy presented an expanded version of these principles in a seminar held April, 1994 in Tokorozawa, and we realized how significant these concepts are for the JEMA community. As we prepare for 2001 and beyond, the changes we have to make will not be easy, but the advice offered here will help us do it well.*

Effectively implementing transition/change in an organization (in our case, a mission or a missionary team) can be a tenuous experience. The organizational dynamics and culture, coupled with the environment in which the organization operates, all have influence and must be considered. Analysis of the people, culture, and existing situations in advance of implementation is vital. The complexities, relationship of culture and change, and the strategies and tactics for managing change are the subjects of this article.

## COMPLEXITIES

Change tends to be more complex than most people understand it to be. It has many subtleties which, if not tracked successfully, can defeat even the best laid plans. A strategic approach is vital: one that provides structure and clearly defines the expected product of the change; one that gives understanding and confidence to those involved in making the transition; one that identifies each tactical step in the process and who will be accountable for its accomplishment.

## CULTURE AND CHANGE

However, as important as is the strategy, it is not the most critical factor. Rather the factor most critical in managing transition to change is to gain the commitment to the task from each person involved. The key is effective communication of the strategy and the tactical steps to its accomplishment.

The greatest barrier to effective commu-

nication is the illusion that it has been achieved. What is clear to you is clear to you—what is clear to me is clear to me—but they are not necessarily the same. Communication is difficult enough when the communicators share a basic culture, but when two or more cultures are involved, effective communication is a greater challenge.

There are three aspects (the three C's) which are key to communicating effectively.

**Communication.** Effective communication must be two-way and have feedback (I speak/you listen and you speak/I listen—that is feedback). Though familiar, this fact is often ignored or underestimated. Dialog is not feedback, but rather articulating one's own ideas, and often is little more than argument, ending in confusion or frustration. Listening is as much or more important in effective communication than speaking.

Feedback is I heard you say and I understand our agreement or disagreement/my support or non-support. Communication is not effective until feedback has occurred. Feedback must be free of ambiguities. It must be in the vocabulary of the hearer/intended doer. It must have achieved ownership of ideas by the hearer and a commitment in order to be effective.

**Clarification (Comprehension).** Each of us has our own grid through which we

see a situation. Words define meaning as I relate them to my grid and you to yours. I may have the same general view and understanding of the issue as you, but the details may be entirely different. Then when it comes to implementing the process, unknowingly I may not do what you want, or may work at odds with what you want to achieve. The issues must be pursued until there is common expression of the concepts, ideas and proposed actions. Questions should be encouraged and utilized until there is confidence that clarification and comprehension have been achieved.

**Closure (Commitment).** When there is identical exchange and ownership of ideas and concepts as well as product, closure and commitment have been attained. It is when the delegation of "you do" is identical to "I do"—i.e., I fully understand what I am to do and the product I am to achieve. Other than an exchange of information, which may be faulty at best, nothing has been accomplished until closure and commitment have been achieved.

## THE BASIC CHANGE PROCESS

The goal is full implementation of the desired change with, 1) a smooth transition and minimum disruptions; 2) a satisfied and contented team, fully involved and owning the ministry; and 3) maximum conservation/utilization of



resources. There are eight steps in the process.

**Performance Gap.** Discovering the need for change. Performance gaps are a shortfall in reaching established ministry objectives. They can be found only when performance is continuously evaluated. They can occur in any area, e.g., the Yen/\$, changes in organizational structure and relationships between the mission and the church, training ministry vs. doing, etc.

**Recognize Need for Change.** Recognition requires an open-minded attitude, alertness and readiness to make necessary changes in order to reach objectives and fulfill the vision.

**Diagnose Problem.** Research is required to assess the source of the problem and define its dimensions. Information needs to be factual, objective, devoid of emotion and personal opinion, and as thorough as time and resources permit.

**Criteria for Measurement.** What can we do about this problem? What are all the possible options/remedies? Which are within limits of our ability to respond? Which are beyond those limits? All options must be capable of/include measurement criteria and assessed for effectiveness and resources required.

**Which Change Strategy?** Options are prioritized in terms of effectiveness/resources required. Options are exposed to as many potential participants as possible for their prayer, comment and feedback. This step not only gains ownership of the selected change by the participants, but also adds the wisdom of their ministry experience to the selection process. It is a key step in facilitating change.

**Select Change Strategy.** Leadership makes decision and discloses it to the

team. Full disclosure of all elements of the selected change and its implications for all participants is essential. Extended open discussion should be encouraged to gain full comprehension and encourage mutual trust and support.

**Implement Change.** Implementation begins with full strategy and tactics defined.

**Evaluate Change/Modify.** Adequate evaluation criteria must be agreed upon in

advance by all participants and be as objective as possible. Evaluation must be performed continuously so as to be alert to lessons learned and needed modifications. Mid-course corrections are important. Leadership should not hesitate to apply them.

Taken from Dr. Darell Piersol with added comments by the writer

**Implementing Change.** Change is much more an issue in personnel and practice (internal) than in

its results (external). Major change is not so much in the size of the product, but in the potential disruption and expectations of the personnel involved. How it is perceived is a leadership challenge. The degree of success is determined by leadership acumen in handling the internal issues and gaining proper perception.

Resistance can be expected when there is a significant alteration in established patterns. Great opportunities have greater risk of disruption. There is a critical need for the affirmation of God's will by all involved if there is to be proper perception and ownership of the change.

**THE HUMAN ASPECTS OF IMPLEMENTING CHANGE**

People don't accept or resist change; they accept/resist the way change dis-

rupts their lives. Examples of such disruptions are:

- New skills required
- Patterns of communication altered
- Time spans between communications decreased
- Points of influence, authority, and control are redefined
- Roles, work relationships and reporting responsibilities are modified
- New leadership techniques may be required

From *Overcoming Resistance to Change*—Lester Coch

All of these constitute sources of resistance. These will surface when there is:

- 1 **Certainty** that negative consequences will occur (no doubt I will be adversely affected);
- 2 **Doubt** about positive consequences occurring (I am not sure this will be a good thing);
- 3 **Unknowns** that are fearful (there are monsters in the closet).

The expressions of resistance to negative change are of grave consequence and not unlike

the grieving over death as pictured by Kubler-Ross in her book *Death and Dying*. They require developing a personal profile for each person who will be affected by a change. Failure to take these into account in the planning and processing could be the source of failure of the ministry, or loss of personnel.

The role of the leader in overcoming such resistance is key to success. However, the role of the other members of the team is equally vital. Unlike the secular scene, there is a bonding in missionary teams in the love of Christ and for a lost world. Mutual submission to Christ and to each other is never more critical than at times of change. This is readily seen in the following list of the ten most common reasons leaders encounter resistance to change.

- Loss of control—over my own min-

**The greatest barrier to effective communication is the illusion that it has been achieved.**

**“Surprise, surprise”—You didn't tell me about that.**

istry, ministry of others, over resources, etc.

- Excess uncertainty—I really have no confidence in this—it just won't work.
- "Surprise, surprise"—You didn't tell me about that—it really means that?
- The "Difference Effect"—The difference in my ministry is greater than expected.
- Loss of Face—You have undermined me, demoted me, I can't live with this.
- Concerns about future competence—I am not sure I/we can do this.
- Ripple Effects—More far-reaching than I thought—getting out of control.
- More work—MORE WORK? I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH IT NOW!
- Past resentments—You always seem to have it in for me—never supported me.
- Sometimes the threat is real—If you do this to me, I won't be able to take it.

*Overcoming Resistance to Change*—Lester Coch, with added comments by the writer

Dare it be suggested that these are manifestations of the flesh and its weaknesses? Meeting the challenge of the human dynamic in change is a shared responsibility test of true Christian character and faith for all involved.

### CRITICAL ROLES IN THE CHANGE PROCESS

There are specifically three roles that are critical to the success of making a change.

**Change Sponsor**—One or a group who takes accountability for promoting, legitimizing, and/or nurturing change—lends stature, status, and authority.

**Change Agent**—Responsible for doing the work of implementing change, managing oversight, has the responsibility to see that it gets done—delegates.

**Change Target**—One(s) who must actually change mode/method of min-

istry, location, authority, or any such that will affect objectives, role, relationships, etc.

IBM, School of Business Management, Advanced Business Institute

**Sponsorship is critical to successful change.** Sponsorship cannot be delegated. Continuity must be maintained all through the process. Change agents must be credible, enthusiastic, patient, and respected. Change targets must be amenable, responsive, and cooperative. Strategies and tactics for the transition are especially important to change targets and are a key responsibility of change agents.

### STRATEGIES AND TACTICS FOR THE TRANSITION

It is vitally important for the change agent to provide structure, guidance, confidence, and trust for the change targets during the transition period. The following are some tactics that can help this process.

- Continue to reinforce the need for change and remind individuals of the benefits of successfully achieving the desired state.
- Provide as much accurate/timely information as possible.
- Allow individuals (targets) to ventilate their fears, concerns, insecurities, and grief in an environment that accepts/respects these feelings as legitimate.
- Focus attention on the future, not the past.
- Recognize those who are supportive of the change, and encourage/counsel those who are resistant.
- Assign roles/tasks/and responsibilities so targets are involved and exercising influence.
- Provide targets with the logistic, economic, and emotional resources needed to achieve what you have asked of them.
- Identify anchors that targets can trust, will remain constant, and provide stability.
- Provide targets with training in how to understand their own reactions, as well

as the reactions of others, to the transition process.

*Organizational Transitions: Managing Complex Change*,—Beckhard and Harris

These are a few basics critical to the change process. Change produces inevitable pain, but the remedy is full commitment to making it work by all involved. Do it for the sake of the gospel and building the Kingdom in Japan.

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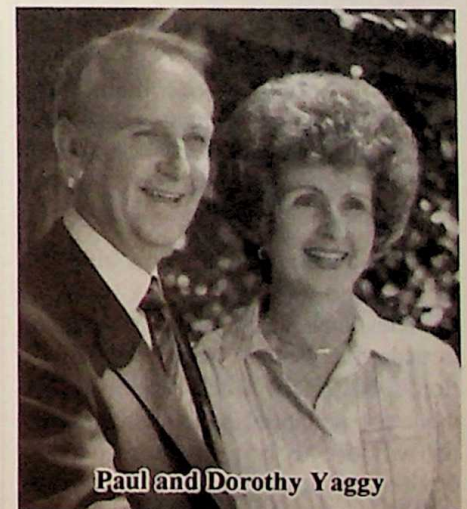
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Paul Yaggy has been a senior member of the management team of OC International since 1981. His prior experience includes seven years as a pastor, and 30 years in investigations and management of aerospace research and development with NASA and the US Army. Rev. Yaggy is ordained by Conservative Baptist America.



Paul and Dorothy Yaggy

# BEATING THE U.S. \$ PROBLEM

A Business Manager's Perspective

by Dick Owen

(The material in this article is specifically dealing with the current U. S. dollar/Japanese yen problem. Many Japan missionaries come from economies that do not suffer from the same relationship. The Japanese economy itself has suffered virtually no inflation this last year, less than 0.5%, and for some, housing costs may have even stabilized or be on a decline.)

With a world economy in a state of frenzy and money merchants puzzling over whether to shore up the dollar or stave off the yen, who knows how accurately to predict the situation tomorrow, let alone a year, or five years from now? Would you be willing to stake your future in Japan on the vicissitudes of the exchange rate? I wouldn't!

The Lord saw fit to place me here when the exchange rate was an artificial ¥360=\$1.00. I've seen the dollar's value fall to 250, 150, 130, and far less with intermediate stops in between. The drop hasn't had a great impact on our ministry, but has affected our lifestyle.

Our call to missions and our call to Japan were not contingent on the exchange rate, and I sincerely doubt that the majority of missionaries in Japan have been motivated by the dollar exchange. If they were, then they wouldn't be in missions to start with. Nor would they have come to Japan, because there are many areas of the world where... "the living is easy."

It's been a blessing to see how individuals, and to a greater extent, mission agencies, have sought innovative ways to make the most of the current situation. Perhaps in God's scheme, the monetary situation is an element that He will use to bring us together as brothers in ministry or as a "bankrupt

people" in need of a deeper trust in an all-sufficient Savior.

Questions asked of this writer, and in turn, of a fraternity of mission business managers and treasurers are nearly impossible to answer. We're asked: What will the economy be like in five years? How will we live here? What about skyrocketing individual support levels? And the cost of itinerating across the homeland?

Two specific elements must be considered in order to answer these questions. First, the individual and how he is personally affected, and second, the mission and how it is corporately affected. I'll try to speak briefly to both these elements, based on what I've been able to observe.

If as **individuals** we'll become more transparent with our expatriate and Japanese colleagues and honestly pray together about needs, goals and objectives, we'll see the Lord work in mysterious ways. And when I say "needs," I'm constrained to qualify this by saying the essentials of continued ministry! Critical individual choices must be made!

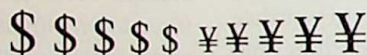
One brother who had expressed a willingness to work part-time in secular work to meet his support shortfall wasn't

permitted by elders in his church to do so. Rather, they wanted him full-time in evangelism, and said they'd cover any shortfall! Another church has contributed English-teaching revenue. It even added students because nationals wanted to help!

More than one missionary has shared with me that they are here on far less than their mission's prescribed rate of support for Japan. Therefore, these people have simplified their lifestyle—and the ministry continues! Others use personal funds to supplement mission funds.

Let's consider what **mission organizations** can do under these circumstances. Some have questioned the desirability of continuing use of the New York Organization Resources Counselors' (ORC) index that is based on an artificial breadbasket. Others have seen fit to discontinue charging administrative fees on this "inflated" amount.

My mission was one of the first to adopt a "regional missionary concept," where we are not allowed to itinerate outside of a carefully defined area. Consequently, family stress and travel costs have been minimized, and we can spend far more productive time among supporting churches and individuals. This has been



### *Here are some one-liners from the April 1995 meeting of Business*

Accelerate multi-mission interaction on logistic support issues to maximize the return on our investment, e. g. cooperative purchasing and shipping, joint use of containers, etc.

Partner with Japanese pastors to plan and implement church-planting endeavors; the churches fund program design and implementation, and missionaries become involved as staff.

Maximize missionary teaching opportunities, not only in English but in other

languages and/or disciplines for subsidy, and to provide a wider base for evangelism.

Continue to look to the Japanese church as a funding source, and especially for missionary staff that will be involved.

Some churches are already contributing as much as 25% to 50%!

A nursery school/kindergarten has developed its own Japanese bookkeeping software; independently incorporated;

a boon to the mission and to missionary families!

Partnering in missions is a viable concept. One mission supplements other ministries with like-minded denominational groups. If such cooperation can occur in Brazil, India, or Pakistan, then we in Japan should find principles that would cause us to do the same. Through sharing administrative, conference and work assignments, we should lessen the financial burden.

Another option and opportunity might be through partnering with commercial entrants, or tent makers. Many of these Christians have come to a foreign country for the distinct purpose of evangelizing from a base in the marketplace.

Resource management is another area. The church of Jesus Christ wasn't intended to become a storehouse of wealth, to hoard assets, even as the Rich Young Ruler seemed to do. Perhaps we would see significant spiritual gains if we were to invest more of His resources into His ministry rather than bank them for insignificant interest, or buy residential property.

Let's remind ourselves of the Lord's promise, "I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it!" The Great Commission hasn't changed with the economy, and there is no reason to think that it will!

### **Managers and Treasurers . . .**

and now markets the product commercially in support of missions.

Some missions affected by eroding North American dollars are recruiting missionaries from collateral ministries in Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, etc.

Engage tradesmen with a missionary vision to establish an associate status with the mission, and come as fully or partially supported co-workers, or tent-makers.

*Dick Owen and his wife, Rita, are Japan Conservative Baptist Mission members on staff at the Christian Academy in Japan. For 25 years before that Dick was a tentmaker on staff of the PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES newspaper assigned in Tokyo, Japan. He has been in Japan since 1951. He and Rita are returning to the States this summer after almost 45 years here. They will be greatly missed.*



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# "HELP! THESE CHANGES ARE KILLING ME!"

by Steve Edlin

The only thing we know for sure about change is that it is inevitable. The fact that God created a world in which growth is a foundational element means that life and change are often synonymous. As human beings, our journey from birth to death involves a series of major and minor changes. Some of the major changes we acknowledge as milestones such as being born, starting school, becoming a teenager, leaving our parents, starting a career and/or getting married, having our first child, mid-life evaluation, retirement, aging, and death. Family Therapists call these the family life cycle transitions. Other changes happen gradually and these we call growth.

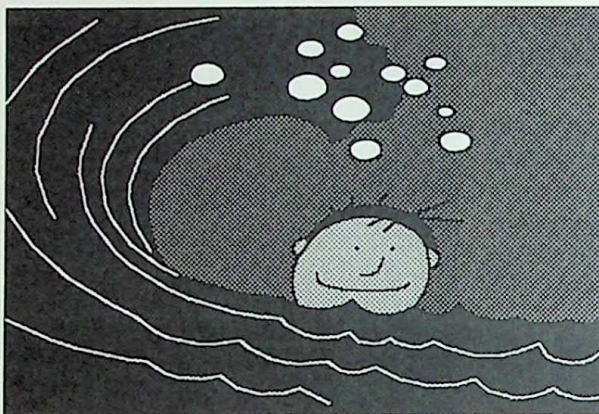
Someone once said, "Change is great until it happens." This is because change is frequently stressful even though we may look forward to it, want it, and need it. Change calls for adaptation and learning, and may demand more from us than is comfortable. Often our personality determines how we react to change. Some of us like to be challenged and stretched, others prefer the comfort and stability of continuity.

However, even those who enjoy change can become overwhelmed with too much of it. Some change we invite into our lives, while other change is forced upon us by circumstances and the world around us. This latter change is likely to produce distress. Paul (Romans 5:1-5) suggests that the choices we make adapting to change can produce positive growth in character.

What can we say to missionaries and cross cultural workers about change as we look ahead to the year 2001 and beyond? The pace and amount of change in the world will only increase. Apart from becoming a hermit there is likely no way to avoid facing it.

In Newport (Balboa), California there is a section of beach called the "wedge." A

sea wall makes the waves echo in such a way that they overlap each other. When a couple of reasonably sized waves are superimposed over each other they amplify and become a huge wave. It is a great thrill to body surf one of these



waves, but you must get it just right or the wave will tear you apart. It is not for the faint of heart or the weak. Even the strong climb out of the water after a half hour, exhausted with a headache from being battered by the waves.

Persons who live and work cross culturally naturally have more change to deal with. Change stress amplifies the normal and unexpected stresses that come in life. When these stresses are added to the stresses produced by the changing world we live in, the waves are getting pretty big. God has called us to surf in this "wedge." As we approach the year 2001 the waves will only get bigger. The Lord expects us to be wise in how we surf, and to keep ourselves resilient so that we do not wipe out. Here are some suggestions that might help. They are practical, but I trust you will see they have a Biblical foundation.

First, as far as it is within your power, when you are already adjusting to major changes, limit decisions which would increase the amount of change in your life. If you are moving to a new area, taking on a new role of leadership, starting a

new work, or learning a new language, don't plan to have your first child at the same time, or send your kids home for college, or have your elderly parents come live with you. When God told newlyweds to avoid going to war or start a new business, He was emphasizing this principle. The point is simple, when going through stress and change don't add to it *if you do not have to*.

Second, take time to maintain primary relationships. To me primary relationships are with the Lord, our spouse, a best friend, and our children. In the midst of change we need some constants. The

plaque, "Home is where they love you" is more than a nice saying. Primary relationships are where we can go and know what we will get; love, understanding, and grace.

The first year back from overseas as I was going through the stress of re-entry transition, I drove 45 minutes each way once a week to spend a couple hours with my best friend, Alistair Bradley. We had both returned at the same time from overseas. Our relationship was a nurturing constant in a sea of potentially anxiety-producing change.

Third, use wisdom in regard to your physical health. I have been struck again recently as I read through the dietary laws God gave to the Children of Israel. To enter and subdue the promised land they needed to be stress-hardy. God set them apart physically as well as spiritually. The same principle comes across in Daniel.

My point is that we need to take care of ourselves physically, as well as spiritually and emotionally, to be ready to endure the stress of change. This includes eating regularly and in a healthy way. It



CHANGE

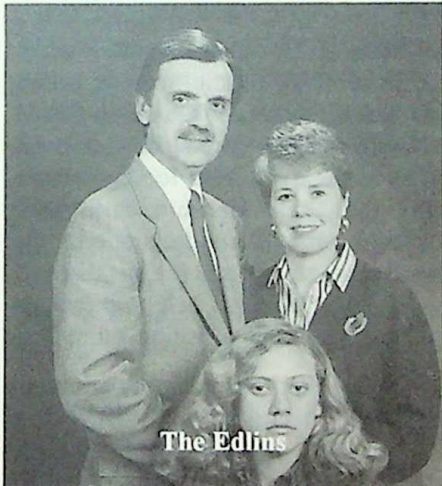
also means adequate rest, exercise, and weight control.

Finally, learn to see change as a positive rather than a negative. Both Paul (Romans 5) and James (James 1)



**Good Health**

remind us to rejoice in our suffering and trials because they produce good fruit in our lives. Since they are inevitable we might as well see them positively and welcome them. As I said, we can have some control over change in our life, but we cannot eliminate it. We can learn to expect it, prepare for it, and benefit from it. If we do, it will help us to be ready and able to endure the changes we will face to the year 2001 and beyond.



The Edlins

Steve Edlin works with LIFE Ministries as coordinator of Member-Care. He is a licensed Marriage Family Child Counselor with the State of California and has a part-time practice there. He spent 21 years with Campus Crusade in Europe as Director of Missionary Training from 1970-1991. He and his wife, Miriam, have one daughter, Aimee.

## SOUTHERN BAPTISTS JOIN JEMA

On February 14, 1995, JEMA voted to welcome the Japan Baptist Mission (JBM) of the Foreign Mission Board, SBC into full membership. This marked a big step for the JBM and we look forward to a long and exciting future of cooperation through the JEMA organization. It is the purpose of this article to introduce our Southern Baptist work in Japan.

Southern Baptist mission efforts began on the island of Kyushu with the arrival of two missionary families on November 5, 1889. Until World War II, JBM work continued to be centered in Kyushu with the founding of two Baptist schools (Seinan Gakuin in Fukuoka and Seinan Jo Gakuin in Kitakyushu) and the beginning of 16 Baptist churches. During the war, work was severely curtailed. After WWII, Southern Baptists decided to reach beyond Kyushu to all of Japan. The 16 congregations that formed the postwar convention have now grown to 228 largely self-supporting churches. Institutionally, besides the two schools in Kyushu, there are two Baptist nursing schools, the Kyoto Baptist Hospital, and the Baptist Assembly at Amagi Sanso.

Presently the JBM has 146 career and 30 short term missionaries in Japan. The JBM relates to two conventions, the Japan Baptist Convention and the Okinawa Baptist Convention. JBM's central strategy emphasizes church planting while continuing to support the Baptist institutions. Over half of the JBM missionaries are now full time church planters and all missionaries who are trained in the Japanese language are involved in church plants. Currently, over 50 new church plants are lead by missionaries. In addition, missionaries serve in three friendship houses and one student center. These centers offer English conversation and Bible classes, other interest classes and outreach programs for adults, students and children. There are also missionary pastors leading seven English language international churches.

The media production arm of the JBM is located in the Baptist Media Center which includes facilities for the production of both printed and electronic media. Printed media includes such bilingual tools as *Survival Kit for New Christians*. The electronic media center includes a fully equipped three camera studio and editing bay which produces video outreach and training tools with such projects as the *Video Bible for the Deaf* now under production.



The news of the acceptance of Japan Baptist Mission's application for JEMA membership was received with great rejoicing. Although some missionaries have been long-time individual members of JEMA, it was not until the Billy Graham Crusade that many of our missionaries became aware of the potential benefits in joining this fine organization. It is with great anticipation that we look forward to working hand in hand with other missions in sharing our common vision that all of Japan should hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.



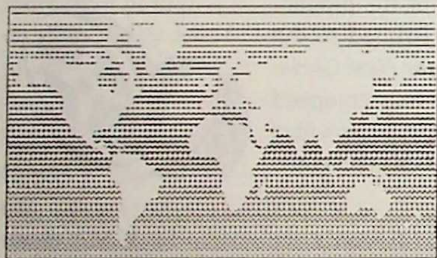
We look forward to cooperating in projects, prayer, developmental and inspirational conferences. The challenge we have before us is great. But, as parts of the same body, with our Lord as Head, we look forward to the day when Japan becomes known as a Christian nation and the day when it becomes the greatest missionary sending country in the world!

by Mark Edlund, Japan Director for Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board

# CHARTING A COURSE THROUGH CHANGE

by Vivian Bruck

*Change is well known to the Brucks. During 44 years of marriage and ministry, Vivian and her husband, Don, have set up housekeeping on the average of every 2.75 years, living in everything from a basement vault in Niigata, to the Canadian Embassy in Hong Kong, a rustic cabin in Canada, a missionary home in Kenya, and a Chinese mansion in Java. Thirty-three of those years were spent in the North American offices of the Japan Evangelical Mission (JEM), with four "furloughs" in Japan. From 1988 to 1993, they pastored the English department of the Musashino Chapel Center (MCC) in Kichijoji. This January, due to the illness of Senior Pastor Rev. Furuyama, they were called back to Japan after three months of retirement. Their three children with their families currently live in three countries, on three continents.*



*"Change and decay in all around I see. Oh, Thou who changeth not, abide with me." So said the hymnwriter. And so should we pray, especially today, in our fast-changing world speeding toward the next century and the end of this age.*

Don and I have experienced numberless changes in the forty-five years we've been connected to missions in Japan. Many changes seemed enjoyable advances and adventure, but others seemed agonizing collisions and catastrophes. Yet underlying all has been the stabilizing conviction that we were in God's will. This has kept us on course,

consistently pursuing the advancement of God's kingdom, especially in Japan.

Oh yes, there have been struggles. At times I have envied the Japanese who have lived in a routine, predictable world. But ours has been a joyful life. God's will is "good, acceptable and perfect." And we've learned some timeless lessons about coping with change. Let me share a few.

## Keep Focused

Center your life on the One who says, "I change not!" See all your circumstances

**See all your circumstances through the character of God.**

through the character of God. That will put a solid rock under your feet. Do not look at God through your circumstances. That will devastate your faith. Remember Job? When the final blow was struck, the last disaster reported, what did he do? "He worshipped." In other words, he reviewed some foundational facts about God: You are still loving, wise, powerful, good. Then, and only then, could he say, "The Lord has given and the Lord (not Satan!) has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:21).

A modern-day Job is Cho Chang-ho, a South Korean Christian and Army Second Lieutenant, now age 64, who spent 43 years in a North Korean prison. Recently he escaped via China and was reunited with his brother (World, Feb. 11, 1995). When asked how he survived all those torturous years without a Bible or any fellowship, he answered in one word: "God."

We must constantly choose to re-program our minds, bombarded today with negative input and numbing amusements. Dwell on God's sovereign control. Declare His goodness. Bask in His trustworthy love. Listen to the Bible on tape. Play praise music. Memorize and quote Scripture. Verbalize to the Lord. Feed your mind with food that will

focus your vision, and you'll be able to sing, "When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay."

## Keep Detached

Recently a missionary mother shared with me her longing to have, fix up, settle down and enjoy a home of her own. The instinct of every mother is to "feather a nest" for her young, to give her family security. But it is more important to focus the family on things eternal. My mother moved

fourteen times, and used to say, "A tent or a cottage, why should I care? They're building a palace for me over there!"

In India, we saw mothers sitting under pieces of tin or plastic, nursing babies and making meals as mud ran in from a downpour of rain. I remember, and am rebuked. Learn to live loosely. Hopefully the Great Hanshin earthquake jolted us with John's declaration, "the world passes away, and the lust thereof" (1 Jn. 2:17). Changes help to detach us and to "set (our) affection on things above."

## Keep Growing

Deepen your personal love relationship with your Lord. After all, He is more interested in who we are, and what we become, than what we do. Ministry flows out of relationship. I find it challenging to contemplate, "If today I suddenly found myself entombed in a prison cell, would the Lord Jesus be more real to me than He is in my freedom, comfort and activity? Do my blessings blight my relationship to my Lover?"

Toward the end of his life, the Apostle Paul, who lived with perpetual change, said he kept pressing on for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

We must not let things like the collapsed dollar, or the sarin subway scenario dampen our zeal, stunt our spiritual growth or retard the speed of our race. This is no time to sit and pine, but to keep growing in "Christlikeness" and be about our Father's business.

### Keep Watching

After describing violent upheavals and drastic changes that would accompany the end days, Jesus told His disciples, "Watch, for you do not know on what day your Lord will come...Lift up your heads, for your redemption draws near." (Matt. 24:32; Lk. 21:28). The upward look of hope enables us to soar above the downward drag of change, and to sing, "It is well, it is well with my soul."

The principal of our Bible College used to say: "If I knew the Lord's return was tomorrow, what would I do today? Exactly what I am doing!" He believed he was in God's will, and was pressing on in training disciples for Christ, motivated to serve wholeheartedly each day because his hope was in God's "tomorrow."

No matter what changes come into your life, these lessons will help you steer a straight course and *keep on* through all the changes in triumph.



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## MORE THAN FORTY YEARS OF PRAYER

By Gotthold Beck

I believe that missionary prayer letters should be material for prayer. They should be written before the Lord in the assurance that He will pour out a spirit of prayer.

In order to help those who pray for us in Germany, we have also had the habit of taking Japanese believers with us to Germany, and this has been a great help to encourage continued prayer. Last October we had 400 Japanese visit Germany.

We missionaries are forever foreigners in Japan, but if our hearts are open to His guidance, and if the Japanese recognize that we truly love them, there is oneness and the result is His blessing.

Of course it can never be said how a missionary has to work, because the Lord leads individually. For us, looking back, we know that it was good to stay in Tokyo for 30 years, after our start in Ibaraki Ken. In that time we have seen not just one generation saved, but their children, too.

For many years now, though, I've been in Tokyo only once a year on a Sunday. The whole of Japan is our responsibility, that is what the believers know. Nearly 20 brethren go out with me from Tokyo to proclaim our Lord from Hokkaido to Okinawa, even to Los Angeles, New York and other places every Sunday.

These are hardworking businessmen, but they return refreshed from their missionary journeys. They pay their own way and the Lord blesses them.

Our experience is that the Japanese are very open because they have a lot of problems. The Lord prepares their hearts and He is much more interested in souls being saved than we. We just need to remain open and pray, "Speak, Lord, I hear and am willing to obey!"

After our return from Germany we received many letters telling how much the believers there were blessed through

the 400 Japanese. Next year we are bringing out a book telling the experiences of the 400 Japanese as well as how the German believers were encouraged through them.

Please enjoy a few of their testimonies:

"Since I came back from Germany, everything in the world looks different. When I left Nagoya I was busy with my own preoccupations. My heart was heavy as well because of the troubled relationship of one couple traveling in the group. I had no faith to believe that God had a solution for this difficult situation.

Through the past few years I kept trying to seek the Lord, but I would soon fall into temptation. Through the love and faith of the brothers and sisters in Germany, I was enabled to open the door of my heart fully to the Lord. I knelt before Him and asked His pardon for my sin and neglect of Him. I thank the Lord for this release from guilt and His transformation of me into a truly new person."

*Toru Kawai*

"I praise the Lord that my husband, Toru, received deep assurance of salvation in Germany. He has become my prayer partner, sharing in praise and thanks to our wonderful Lord with me. I sometimes feel as if I'm dreaming! Toru is looking forward to his baptism soon with our son, Ryusuke.

*Mizue Kawai*

"I participated in the meetings in Germany with my wife, who has been ill. A few days before our trip, we were very shocked to find out that my wife had to undergo a detailed physical exam because of chronic pancreatitis. We considered canceling the trip, but finally ventured to go along.

Since we married twenty years ago, I have gone to church with my wife, but I refused to accept the Lord. I felt I was

strong enough to live without God. But through the trauma of my wife's need, God called me again to come to Him. It was the day before we left Germany that I understood my total weakness. I turned to the Lord and accepted Him as my personal Savior. That Sunday I was able to participate in the Lord's Supper for the first time! That same day my wife became seriously ill and was taken by ambulance to the hospital.

By God's grace, my wife was raised up from a critical condition, and we returned safely to Japan. I am so thankful to Him. It was, I'm sure, a necessary trial of my faith as well as a revelation to me of the great Love of the Lord.

*Hiroto Mizuuchi*

"Four days before leaving for Germany, I was diagnosed with chronic pancreatitis. I left Japan, with my unbelieving husband, in very bad physical condition but clinging to the Lord. I am staying in bed since our return from Germany, but I am full of thankfulness.

It is a miracle that my husband was saved. Before the last meeting in Germany, some brothers and sisters got together for prayer and praise. Someone led me to the room where they were meeting and I saw my husband weeping in repentance and joy. I began weeping for joy myself.

Though I could not attend the last meeting because I had to be treated by intravenous in my room, I was told that the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people. I am convinced the Lord does what is best for us. My husband and I were led to Germany for His glory and were touched by the Love of God through brothers and sisters from Japan!

*Mrs. Mizuuchi*

*JEMA secretary, Miss Mizuko Matsushita, attends one of Mr. Beck's fellowships and is responsible for obtaining this manuscript for the Harvest.*

## SIX BARRIERS TO REVIVAL

By Dr. Thomas Zimmerman

**FIRST, the visible elements of an institution tend to replace the invisible.** The focus settles on the external—buildings, budgets, and outward success—rather than on the work of the Spirit of God in the believer, His convicting work in the life of the unbeliever, and His work in the life of the church. Corporate prayer and deep hunger for God diminish, evangelistic fervency fades and a maintenance mentality develops.

*How much of our ministry is focused on evangelism and church planting, and how much on the needs of current church members?*

**SECOND, self-continuity becomes the reason for being, means become ends in themselves.** Some things are good for awhile, but they can outlive their usefulness. Programs and ways of doing them become “sacred cows.” There is a tendency not to touch them.

What we need most is a new infilling of the Holy Spirit. We must emphasize dynamics more than mechanics. We need the fire of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of our people. We must learn to focus on the important, not the urgent.

*Do we need to evaluate all the ministries and activities in our church?  
Do we need to wait for a fresh filling from the Holy Spirit?*

**THIRD, orthodoxy in belief is substituted for reality in experience.** There is a tendency to get doctrine into our heads rather than life, vitality and trust into our hearts. A dangerous dichotomy develops between what we confess with our mouth and what we demonstrate with our lifestyle.

*Are our church members living daily a Christian lifestyle that is noticeable and attractive to their non-Christian family, friends, and acquaintances?*

**FOURTH, quantity is substituted for quality.** The measure of a ministry lies in more than numbers. There must be profound changes in the lives of people. Spiritual life and evangelism are two sides of the same coin. When spiritual life declines, so does evangelism. When evangelism is spontaneous, spiritual life is enhanced.

*Do we stress quantity over quality, or do we stress that we need both in order to be growing healthily?*

**FIFTH, conformity to a master-plan tends to replace individual initiative and creativity.** The Bible says much about the need for both planning and creativity. Having a master-plan is good, but it must be flexible. It should help orchestrate the combined efforts of everyone to produce a concert of ministry for the glory of God.

*Do we even know where we want to go—do we have a master-plan? Is our master-plan flexible enough to allow for change and creativity?*

**SIXTH, there is increased dependence on liturgy and corporate worship, with a professional staff, instead of a continued cultivation of lay participants.** Shepherds do not bear lambs, only sheep do. Far too often pastors have tried to birth all the lambs through their pulpit ministry. But the task of the clergy is to keep the sheep healthy so they are capable of bearing lambs.

*Are we pastors still trying to do it all, or are lay persons being given ministry responsibility and authority?*

*Dr. Thomas Zimmerman is former General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God. His article on barriers to revival was printed in JCGI News Sept. 1990, with questions added for application to the church in Japan.*

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# Gleanings From The Christian Shinbun

by Steve Friesen

クリスチャン新聞  
THE CHRISTIAN

## MISSION BARABBAS

Former Japanese mafia gang members who now belong to Christ have come together in a unique and colorful evangelistic ministry called "Mission Barabbas." Formed under the leadership of evangelist Arthur Holland and pastor Hideaki Matsuzawa in late 1993, Mission Barabbas offers former *yakuza* an opportunity to gather monthly for Bible study, prayer, praise and training in evangelism. In addition to faithful church attendance, Barabbas members also participate in dynamic street evangelism.

Mission Barabbas co-founder, Arthur Holland, began his street evangelism in 1989 outside Shinjuku station's east exit. Wearing his trademark white double-breasted suit with a red handkerchief in the pocket, Holland would hold up his Bible and preach the love of God to night-time revelers. Holland's earnestness struck a chord in the heart of Keisuke Suzuki (39), a man who had grown weary of seventeen years as a *yakuza* and had been led to church and to the Lord through the prayers of his wife. Suzuki was the very first person to offer his cooperation to Holland.

Holland's creative street evangelism took him on several trips spanning the length of Japan...one time walking and preaching the whole way while carrying a forty kilogram cross! On trips like these Holland began to hear of former gangsters who were attending church, but living without victory and peace, afraid to reveal their past. Others shared that they wanted to leave the *yakuza* but were worried about how they would survive on the "other side." Realizing that here were a special group of men needing someone to minister to them, Hol-



land shared his concern with his friend, pastor Matsuzawa, and not too long afterward "Mission Barabbas" was born.

God has uniquely prepared Holland for this ministry. Born to an American soldier and his Japanese wife, Holland was raised in a rough section of Osaka city that he says "was the *yakuza*'s Jerusalem." Living a rough life in his junior and senior high days and glorying in his unusual strength and ability to fight, Holland caught the attention of gangsters, who took a liking to the violent young man. Coming from that kind of past, "I can understand how *yakuza* feel and think," shares Holland.

Moving across the Pacific for college, Holland capped a stellar athletic career in wrestling by winning the national championship. Yet the praise of people never satisfied his heart, and Holland kept trying to fill his emptiness with alcohol, drugs and women. In 1978, he suffered a broken neck while wrestling. In His grace, God used this time of utter weakness to bring Arthur to Christ and fill him with the joy for which he had been searching.



Pastor Matsuzawa also knows the pain of a troubled history, spending restless nights in Shinjuku sniffing thinner and stealing money. That both he and Holland were led into ministry to people with violent and dark pasts is a sign of God's grace and design.

The Barabbas group meets monthly at Narimasu church (which Matsuzawa pastors). The singing comes from rough voices but there is no doubt of the genuineness of their praise. Gratitude drives the worship. "That God would save a person like me..." is the theme that echoes through the prayers and praise of these former gangsters. "If we betray *this* boss (Jesus) we know we've got nowhere else to go." This total commitment to Christ seems more indelibly

imprinted on their hearts than the tatoos on their bodies.

Though these brothers still face the struggles and temptations of the "old ways of darkness," their joyful and clear testimonies—"True life is in Jesus!"—are having a profound impact.

In 1994, Mission Barabbas traveled to the west coast of the US for a month of evangelistic mission. Sharing their testimonies in Japanese/American churches and schools, the group was greatly used by the Lord.

The "Former Gangsters' Evangelism Tour" to the US was featured in State-side newspapers as "Men with short baby fingers and tatoos praising the Lord." When Holland and the Barabbas members preached and shared in Los Angeles' "Little Tokyo," people were so moved that it was not uncommon to see them hug the tatoosed messengers. One church service saw the front pew filled with gang members who themselves bore gang tatoos. By the time the service was over, these toughs had come with tears to the Lord. Over 300 people accepted Christ during the month-long mission.

Mission Barabbas members have been featured in Japanese media as well. Some question the dramatic approach of showing tatoos. But members answer, "We can tell people how sinful we were but that doesn't get through to their hearts. When we show them our tatoos and shortened fingers, people get the message that Jesus saves even sinners like us."

After leaving the *yakuza*, Keisuke Suzuki felt called to be an evangelist and entered seminary. "Even if it's just for a little while, I want to, like a *semi* (cicada), give everything I've got to cry out for Jesus." At present, in addition to pastoring in a church, Suzuki serves as an associate evangelist with Arthur Holland Ministries. Once, after Suzuki gave his testimony on TV, two gangsters showed up at his house and threatened him. "Do not be afraid, but go on

speaking...’ has been the verse that has kept me going,” Suzuki shares. “If I don’t preach the gospel, I’m useless.”

Another Barabbas member, Yoshiyuki Yoshida (52), had been a gangster for twenty-five years and could boast of a hundred men under him when he came to Christ through the earnest prayers of his wife. He now works as a realtor in Osaka and says, “I want to serve God through my business.” An elder in his church, Yoshida has many opportunities to share his testimony. Already through his witness, twenty-seven of his relatives have been saved.

Several of the Barabbas men were former members of gangs that fought each other. Now they are brothers in Christ, united in love, prayer, and service for Jesus. They are living testimony to the power of light over darkness, forgiveness over sin, and love over violence. Indeed, they are God’s new creations.



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## Karuisawa Deeper Life Convention



Dr. Denis Applebee, pastor to the missionaries and homeland staff of World Gospel Mission

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.

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 interests have led to his serving as chairman of World Gospel Mission's UK Executive Council.

#### Meetings Schedule

Contact:

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

Sunday July 30th,	10:30 AM, Communion Service & 7:00 PM
Monday July 31st,	10:00 AM & 7:00 PM
Tuesday Aug. 1st,	10:00 AM & 7:00 PM
Wednesday Aug. 2nd,	10:00 AM Final Service



# Potpourri & Promises

by Janice A. Kropp

## GOD'S MOSAIC

The Making of a Mosaic

1. Draw the mosaic design on paper; then trace it on a surface.
2. Cement the tiles along the edge first, working toward the center.
3. After the cement hardens, apply grout, or filler, to fill cracks.
4. An hour later, polish the finished surface with a soft cloth.

During the Greek, Roman and early Christian times, mosaics were widely used. The beautiful reliefs on floors, walls or ceilings outlasted designers and generations alike, leaving a message without ever saying a word.

Have you seen a mosaic lately?

I have! Just a couple of weeks ago I had the privilege of taking a second look at a "tesserae" (technical word for a mosaic piece). Although this tesserae was more than a few decades old, it was still vibrant, intact, and it spoke to me a thousand words. Let me explain.

The Word clearly states, "In the beginning God created..." Now, whether God sketched a plan or not, I don't know, but I am sure He gave the plan deep consideration. After all, this whole creation, though marvelous and beautiful, was going to COST Him a great deal!

Step # 1 "draw the design...trace it..." "God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, AND the Spirit of God was hovering..." My Bible "helps" explain that this "hovering" means providing for, protecting. Step by step, God carefully brought all things into being. Each step brought His evaluation of "it is good" mentioned six times and "it was very good" in climactic expression.

Step # 2 "cement the tiles" And God did just that. All things functioned in the order of His creation, each piece doing as He intended. Birds did what they were to do. Fish what they were to do. Plants mysteriously carried out intended function in obedience to the Master Creator. I say all, that is, with one exception. Though created in God's image, we, the human race, tragically missed the mark. But, missed marks are not my reason for writing today. Rather, I wish to present the mosaic of God's sovereign will in His purpose and design. Through the ages tesserae after tesserae is placed into position. Then one glorious day, GOD'S MOSAIC will receive its final tesserae, and then the end shall come!

Step # 3 "after the cement hardens" connotes the secured position of a chosen tesserae which gives meaning and contribution to the whole.

Yes, as hard as it may be to get a clear, up-beat picture of Japan and God's Kingdom work, the pieces, the tesserae, do fit! Go...teach...preach...baptize...I will build My church...the gates of HELL will not prevail!

Two special tesserae in GOD'S Mosaic have been glued forever into the Kingdom work in Japan, particularly in Higashi Kurume. Having served faithfully, without a full year's furlough since 1965, HOWARD and PHEBE BLAIR are in the throes of moving back to their homeland for a while! For a while, I say, because Howard and Phebe will probably never retire. Already there are plans in the future for continued service abroad.

Permit me to share just a little about Phebe with you. In my introduction I said, "I had the privilege of taking a second look at one tesserae of a mosaic." By that I meant I had the privilege of talking with God's chosen vessel—Phebe Blair.

At the age of four and a half Phebe

went to live with her Christian aunt because of the death of her dear mother. At an early age Jesus became her Savior, but years of straying followed and Phebe knew something was missing. It was at a summer Keswick meeting that Phebe made a new start with the Lord. That year the speakers were Ruth Paxon, the famous Bible teacher, and Irene Webster-Smith, home from Japan because of World War II.

After working for several years following high school, Phebe went to Columbia Bible College in South Carolina to study for just one year. One year turned into three and before graduating Phebe had met a fine ex-GI. Upper classman, Howard, had returned from serving in Japan with the Army Air Corp. At the age of seventeen, Howard had dedicated his life to the Lord—to go anywhere HE would lead. Assigned to a small base in China with almost no Christian fellowship, it was little wonder, when transferred to Japan, that Howard got involved with the G.I. Gospel Hour. It was out of the Gospel Hour that SEND Mission was born. SEND celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year! Congratulations!

Together Phebe and Howard came to Japan in 1953 and plunged into language study for nine short months. Phebe's one "regret" is in the area of language. Her advice—"LEARN THE LANGUAGE, and if you are disciplined you CAN learn it!" With less than one year of Japanese under their belts, the Blairs were asked to "parent" dorm children at CAJ, then known as Japan Evangelical Christian School. And Howard, having taught school before coming to Japan, took up teaching at CAJ right up to 1981.

What wonderful years Phebe spent in connection with CAJ! When I asked her the areas of her involvement she said,



Need a refreshing taste in a snack or dessert for a hot, muggy summer's day?

Try this: Take a can of fruit cocktail and freeze for several hours  
Open both ends of can with can opener  
Push frozen fruit on to cutting board  
Slice and accent with sprig of mint  
Serve on a fancy saucer!



.....have a great summer! jk

"You name it, I did it!" I guess that says it all.

School related activities were only a part of Phebe's life. Keeping up with Howard was one thing! Mothering four precious daughters, all born here, was another. When I asked Phebe about raising four girls in Japan, she testified, "It was a good deal to be raised here, and the girls think it was a good deal, too!" That says a lot, doesn't it? (Do you sometimes feel cheated or shortchanged because you are parenting here? Don't let yourself feel that way! Let Phebe's long experience encourage you today!) Other footnotes to parenting, Phebe advises, "Be positive about every situation! Bring your children up in the fear of the Lord." When I asked Phebe for a

She left most of her CAJ responsibilities in 1981 when Howard took up full time work with the Kurume Christ Church, which he had started back in 1961! It was a real adjustment returning in 1982 with no official connection to CAJ, plus suffering the "empty nest syndrome." But Phebe found her way! She cheerfully served on the CAJ Board, and even found time to sell napkins, wrapping paper and candles at PTA Food Store. From 1968 until 1994 one of Phebe's joys were her Bible classes in Tachikawa and Yokota. During those years she saw growth not only in her own faith, but also the maturing process in the lives of numerous precious women. Praise God! He always completes us, doesn't He?

to His praise and His glory!"

P.S. Today we honor Phebe for her faithful, loving and Christ-like personhood. AND there are others of you, like Howard and Phebe, who will be leaving this land of missionary service this year.

**We HONOR you today! YOU have been part of GOD'S MOSAIC, important and faithful. We shall deeply miss each of you.**



Phebe Blair

As to her happiest memory to date, Phebe thought for a moment, for there were mostly happy experiences, then she said, "The happiest memory...when Ann came back!" Ann, daughter number 3, is here with her husband who serves as News Editor with "Stars and Stripes (the military newspaper). Phebe enjoys her three darling grandsons: Blair, Wesley and Mason! How will she ever pull herself away?

P.P.S. Remember the "glue, the cement" used to keep the mosaic in place. If, today, YOU are counting the cost of missionary service, don't give in to "going home" yet. You, too, are a part of God's mosaic. Without you the design will be incomplete and lacking. Phebe is, well, into her 7th decade! I'm sure you haven't reached there yet! Let the "cement" harden, won't you! God bless.—jk

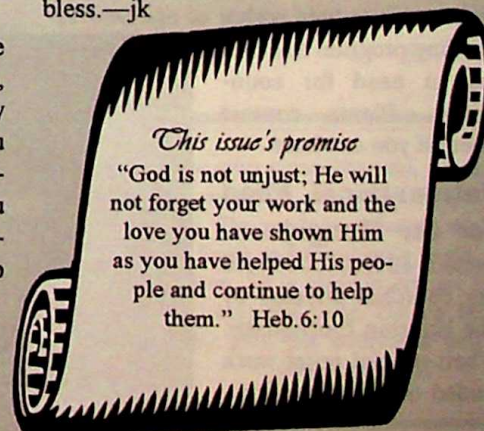


Howard and Phebe Blair and family—circa 1965

few words to describe her overall experience here, she said in a soft, sure tone, "I've enjoyed every minute!"

That's not to say it was easy! Phebe's first daughter, Ginny, was born with club feet. It seemed that it was forever "off to the doctor." It was God's mercy and grace and the knowledge that in God's sovereignty He would not fail that kept Phebe going day after day, year in and year out! It is with ambivalence that Phebe thinks about leaving.

There is no way to give justice to the life and ministry of Phebe, our friend, our colleague, our model. So I close my tribute with the words.... "Phebe, you have been a vibrant piece of GOD'S MOSAIC in our midst! God firmly glued you into His plan, into the hearts of numerous students and parents alike, and into the lives of men and women of many nationalities, who will never be the same because you came! Your tesserae in God's mosaic remains for eternity,



*This issue's promise*

"God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them." Heb. 6:10

# KANSAI NEWS

by Nancy Sorley

## EARTHQUAKE UPDATE

**JEA** pastors have visited 106 churches in the Hanshin area to investigate earthquake damage and the effects on church attendance and finances. Ninety-six of these churches suffered minor or major damage. Some are still using other meeting places, and some have been repaired. Attendance has fallen to 80% of what it was before the earthquake and offerings have taken a steeper plunge. Many of the worshippers have moved or are still in relief shelters, and some have lost their jobs.

JEA gave ¥60,000,000 yen to help the churches. Their prayer is that the churches will return to normal within six months. But it may take longer than projected.

**YWAM** is continuing to give assistance to those in relief shelters. They have started a new phase of helping provide better shelters for those still living in tents. With the rainy season and typhoon season coming, tents are inadequate. YWAM is gathering wood and other materials and looking for volunteers to help teams build wooden shelters to replace the tents.

Cults, like Children of Light, are going into the areas, so there is a need for a strong Christian witness. YWAM is continuing to help with a feeding program and also has a need for counselors. Please contact them if you can help.

**International Food for the Hungry** collected ¥35,000,000 aid for churches affected by the Hanshin Earthquake. Their official relief work ended on April 1. How-

ever, the week before pulling out, they sponsored a camp for children who suffered in the earthquake. Sixty children from various Sunday Schools attended a three day camp at Nosegawa. From May 31—June 1, they will hold a counseling conference for leaders providing mental health care for victims of the earthquake. Rhon V. Carleton, a retired army chaplain who has counseled many during the Vietnam War and after, will be the main speaker at the conference.

**World Vision** is still raising money



for Kobe Earthquake Relief. Their goal is ¥96,000,000. In March they began putting up prefabricated buildings at schools, kindergartens and churches. Most are for classrooms but some are for housing. The buildings started to arrive from America and Korea in March. By

the end of May they plan to have 16 of them completed throughout the Hanshin area.

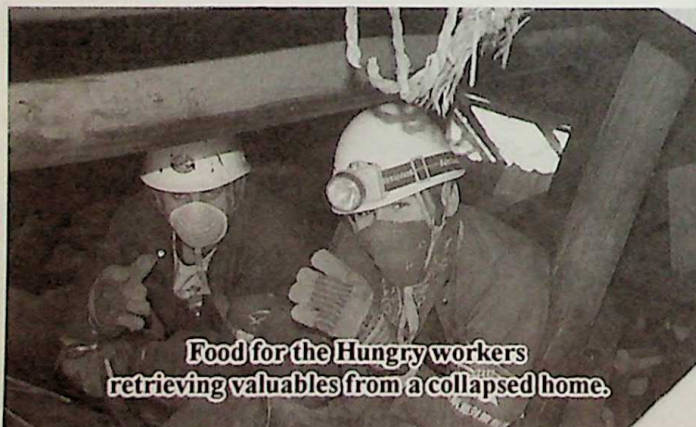
## LOVING THE HOMELESS

Every Wednesday and Friday night between midnight and 5 a.m. you can find a group of volunteers wandering the streets of Osaka. As they walk the streets, they offer hot soup, riceballs, and a gospel tract to those whose only home is a piece of cardboard. They are here ministering to the thousands who make the streets their home.

In 1992, Sam McGeeown started a ministry to the homeless with one blanket and a box of old shirts. Now he is joined by an ever-expanding group of Japanese and

internationals. God has been generous in supplying them with over a ton of rice and a factory in which to store their clothing and bedding supplies. Blankets are often rescued from the trash or received as donations along with clothing.

Day laborers were hard hit by the bursting of the economic bubble. Many were left without job or home. Men over 50 are the hardest hit. They are the first to be "let go" when the volume of work decreases. These people are stranded, forgotten and hopeless. Last year 320 street people died. Some Christians are seeking to bring them a glimmer of hope and love. If you would like to be involved, call the Lighthouse at (0722) 21-2175.



**Food for the Hungry workers retrieving valuables from a collapsed home.**

## KANSAI NEWS CONTINUED

### CHANGES IN MISSION IN JAPAN

"Before, people wept their way to the Lord; now people argue," observes Neil Verwey, missionary to Japan for over 40 years. As the social and economic situation in Japan has changed since World War II, so has the reaction of the Japanese to the gospel. Japan Mission, an interdenominational faith mission, has also learned to change with the times.

"We should do something that works, and drop what doesn't work," advises Neil. The Scripture tells how Peter had been fishing all night but caught nothing. Then the Lord said, "Throw the net on the right." Perhaps Peter had been throwing the net on the left side of the ship. When Peter tried the new approach, he caught lots of fish. Through that Scriptural example, the Lord taught the Verweys to be willing to do away with approaches that stop working and try new ways to reach the Japanese.

Japan Mission is not a church planting mission. Their goal is to assist churches and Christians. After the war they found hospital evangelism, especially to TB patients, very effective. Then they added radio evangelism, literature and film evangelism. Now they do less hospital work, have others involved in doing their printing and have changed their film ministry to a video outreach.

Since 16 mm films have lost their popularity in Japan, Japan Mission has put many films onto video. They also make "voice-over videos", putting English videos into Japanese. They have done the "Origin Series" produced by Films for Christ about creation vs. evolution. With the recent popularity of dinosaurs, they have voiced over Dinosaur Mysteries, about dinosaurs mentioned in the Bible. These videos are all available for purchase by contacting their office.

Their son, David, says, "Besides the video ministry, they are now supplying churches with English teachers." These come from Canada, Australia, England, South Africa, and America. They teach in about 40 evangelical churches of various denominations in the Kansai area. Through the classes they help encourage the churches as well as bring many people in contact with the gospel. The Bible is included in all of the classes. A few years ago, Japan Mission relocated their headquarters to Ikoma mountain where most of their staff also live.

As they look forward to the 21st century, what new approaches do they see? "We are aware of the growing needs of senior citizens. What can we do to help the churches reach that group?" The Verweys are also enthused about the possibilities of JEMANET and similar bulletin boards to share and transmit information in the missionary community, and to encourage those in isolated situations. Their advice: "Give it a try."

### CHURCH ARSON

Around 11:00 p.m. on March 28, 1995 a fire broke out at the Agape Family Church in Dai Koku Cho, Osaka. Arson is suspected. There is an estimated damage of ¥3,000,000 not covered by fire insurance.

Peter and Kim Lundell, missionaries with World Outreach, have a special ministry at the church with Korean bar hostesses in the community. The church provided a place for the hostesses to stay. "When women decide to leave 'mizushobai' (bar hostessing) they need a place to stay and a way to make money," explains Lundell. "Usually their only recourse is to marry or become the mistress of a 'yakuza,' (member of an organized crime gang.) It is a very close-knit community and even when they

leave the business they still maintain their friendships." The church has faced trouble before when they were ransacked; windows were broken, the pulpit, hymnbooks, and other items stolen.

The landlord says he doesn't have insurance to cover the damage, and the Lundells as tenants don't have fire insurance for the building. They have to cover the repairs themselves. But God has been providing help in other ways. The people from the Minami Kata Church have responded by giving their time and finances to restore the building. Missionaries with building skills have given advice and help. Sam Benedict helped with the electricity.

The Lundells were especially praying for someone to do the sheetrock. On the very day they needed help with sheetrock, Bill and Deann Flint showed up. The Flints, specialists in sheetrock had come to help with recovery work in Kobe. However, things were slow and they were wondering why the Lord had brought them to Japan. When they found out about the Agape Family Church they knew.

As the Lundells have experienced the Lord providing and caring for them they have been encouraged. Kim is convinced that their battle is not against flesh and blood but against the spiritual forces of evil. Romans 12 has taken on a deeper meaning for them. "We are not in bondage to anger. We want to overcome evil with good," says a smiling Lundell.

"Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is Mine to avenge; I will repay,'" says the Lord. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."  
*from Romans 12*

## We Change, He Changes Not

### Some Things Don't Change

It was November, 1939. War was escalating in Europe, but in Japan life still moved along fairly normally. A young missionary couple, on their way from Vancouver to Peking, were facing a forced two week layover in Osaka. They were taken in by two lady missionaries who graciously shared their tiny apartment in the center of town.

The next morning they were awakened early and escorted to the Mission headquarters on the outskirts of the city. It was Sunday, and they were welcomed to the worship service of the Japan Rescue Mission.

Apart from the mission leader, Rev. G. Dempsey, the congregation was composed entirely of women. Mr. Dempsey and his wife led a team of dedicated single ladies—"foot soldiers of the cross"—who dared the wrath of the "business men" whose trade was in human flesh. All the other women in the congregation that morning were former inmates of the brothels in the notorious Red Light district of Osaka.

Though they understood no Japanese the new missionary couple recognized the opening notes of the first hymn. "Holy, Holy, Holy." But as the sixty or so ladies began to sing, they were awed into worshipful silence. This was a paean of praise such as they had never heard.

Their attention was drawn particularly to one singer in the front row. With face uplifted, her pure soprano voice rang out like a prima donna, and it seemed the other voices surrounded hers and supported it as they all extolled the One Whom above all they revered and loved.

After the service, the missionary wife asked one of the workers about the young woman who had sung so beautifully. "Oh, you mean Keiko-san. Yes, she is one of our special treasures. You wouldn't know to look at her, would you, that she has been given only six months to live. She is dying from a sex-

ually transmitted disease. Her joyful song is in anticipation of heaven!"

Keiko san was one of many precious jewels rescued one by one by the Lord's servants at the Japan Rescue Mission. There was a government decree at that time that any girl who "got away" could not be forced to return. (Though the "business men" found plenty of other ways to fight back.)

The young missionary couple went on to China, but they never lost the memory of that morning service in the Land of the Rising Sun. I know because I am their daughter and through the years I have heard them tell this story many times. I was reminded of it again as I received the news of the arson against the church where another young missionary couple are reaching out to the "Keiko's" of today. God bless you, Peter and Kim, and grace you with strong encouragement. Our hearts are with you.

—the ed.

*If anyone knows about Mr. and Mrs. Dempsey and what happened to them after they returned to the US, would you be kind enough to send the information to the Harvest office? My parents would love to know. Thank you. —ed.*

Former Covenant missionary to Japan, Rev. Harry Engeman went to be with the Lord on April 1, 1995.

Harry and his wife, Eleanor, arrived in Japan in July 1950 and served until August 1981, when they accepted a call to serve as pastor at North Park Evangelical Covenant Church in Rockford, Illinois.

Harry is survived by his wife, Eleanor, and children, Stewart, Joyce and Joan. He was preceded in death by a son, Steven.

### Letters to the Editor

Dear Katie,  
Congratulations on a powerful *Japan Harvest*!! Steve and I read it cover to cover...and cried. What a truly horrible thing has befallen Japan—earthquake, gas attacks, copycaters, assassination attempts. Oh, that some of the seed sown over the last 50 years would sprout up!

We were wondering if we could reprint some of the stories and articles for our donors and prayer partners. There has been much interest here about how the churches have fared and how Christians have been able to minister to their communities.

We are praying for you all,  
Martie Tarter

Anne Wigglesworth arrived in Japan on Feb. 2, 1949. Anne Krauss arrived with her and these two girls were known as the "Two Annes." They worked so well together for such a long period that donors sometimes thought that we in the Japan Mission had a couple named "Tooannz." In 1949 Anne Wigglesworth joined with five missionaries from the Independent Board to found the Japan Christian Theological Seminary. (Now TCU) This meeting was truly an historic event in the post-war history of missions in Japan. From 1950—1983 she served on the faculty of the JCTS. She made an outstanding contribution to the advance of the gospel here following the invitation of General MacArthur to send missionaries to Japan.

Anne went to be with the Lord on April 26, 1995. Among the many accolades she has received, perhaps this by Pastor Obata says it all, "She was like rice, we never got tired of her."

## Second JEMA Women's Retreat April 4—6, 1995

How do you feel when you meet someone and they understand exactly what you're talking about and can relate immediately to what you're feeling?

Those are very special encounters that remain in our hearts and affect our lives in an ongoing way. I think that's how we all felt about this year's speaker for the Women's Retreat.



Muriel Cook, center, with friends at the Retreat

Muriel Cook is that kind of woman. She shared her own life experiences and we knew that she knew just where we live and what we needed to hear.

Her theme was "SEEKERS OF HIS HEART" (mistakenly announced as *Celebrate the Son*—sorry, ed.). Muriel spoke four times leading us from our personal relationship to Jesus Christ, through suffering and victory in our walk with Him, and into vibrant ministry in obedience to Him. Her messages were "First Love," "Teaching Trust in Tragedy," "More Than Conquerors," and "Like A Watered Garden."

Muriel and her husband, Norm, are on the faculty of Multnomah Bible College in Portland, Oregon and especially love to minister to missionaries whenever they can. They were missionaries in Taiwan for twenty-eight years under what is now OC International.

"Molly Missionary" made only one appearance this year, and although we

missed her (!), we greatly enjoyed the "visits" of three women—famous for their work in Japan, Amy Carmichael, Irene Webster-Smith and Mabel Francis.

As we gleaned from their lives of faith and childlike love for the Lord, we were steadied in our own lives. Janice Kropp led these times of reflection on the past that gave us insight for the future. Janice, from all of us, thank you so much!

Small groups were again a big part of our time together, providing opportunity for sharing needs as well as joys and victories and receiving prayer support from caring sisters.

This year almost 50 women attended the retreat in the peaceful surroundings of the Ranzan Women's Educational Center. The timing was difficult for many others who would like to have

come. We are sorry, it was unavoidable as it was the only free spot in Muriel's schedule all year!

Because we want these times to be of benefit to as many women as possible, we are announcing next year's retreat NOW. More details coming in the fall issue of the *Harvest*. But we do know THIS:

**Time:** End of February  
First of March  
**Speaker:** Kay Arthur

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*Make plans now to join us for...*

## The KARUIZAWA UNION CHURCH 1995 Summer Program

*We are privileged to have as pastor Dr. Ernst Vatter from Germany. Dr. Vatter served in Japan with the Liebenzeller Mission from 1952 until 1967. Health reasons prevented him from returning to the field but Dr. Vatter carried on worldwide ministry as the overseas director of the Liebenzeller Mission. He is much in demand as conference speaker. Dr. Vatter retired in 1994 but continues a busy and fruitful ministry as international coordinator and serves on many boards. He is also the rector of Freie Hochschule fur Mission at Korntal (FHM). He received an honorary doctorate from Biola University (California). Dr. and Mrs. Vatter look forward to renewing old acquaintances and a reunion with their daughter and family, Liebenzeller missionaries in Japan.*



### Highlights:

1. Summer Church begins on Sunday morning, July 23. The morning worship service is at 10:30 and the evening service at 7:00.
2. SUNDAY SCHOOL will start at 9:30. Volunteer teachers are needed.
3. PRAYER MEETING will be held each Wednesday at 7:00PM.
4. DEEPER LIFE Convention is scheduled for July 30-August 2, with Dr. Denis Applebee as speaker.
5. KUC Annual Business meeting will be held on Wednesday August 9, 7:00PM. All members are urged to attend.
7. YOUTH CONFERENCE August 7-9, with Steve Friesen as leader.

**SEE YOU THIS SUMMER!**



**part•ner•ship** *n* 1: being united with others in action, purpose or enterprise

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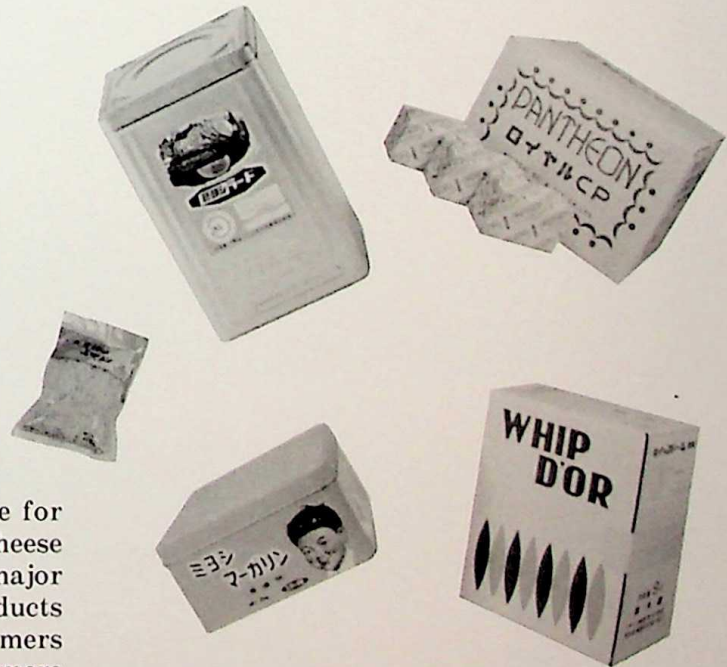
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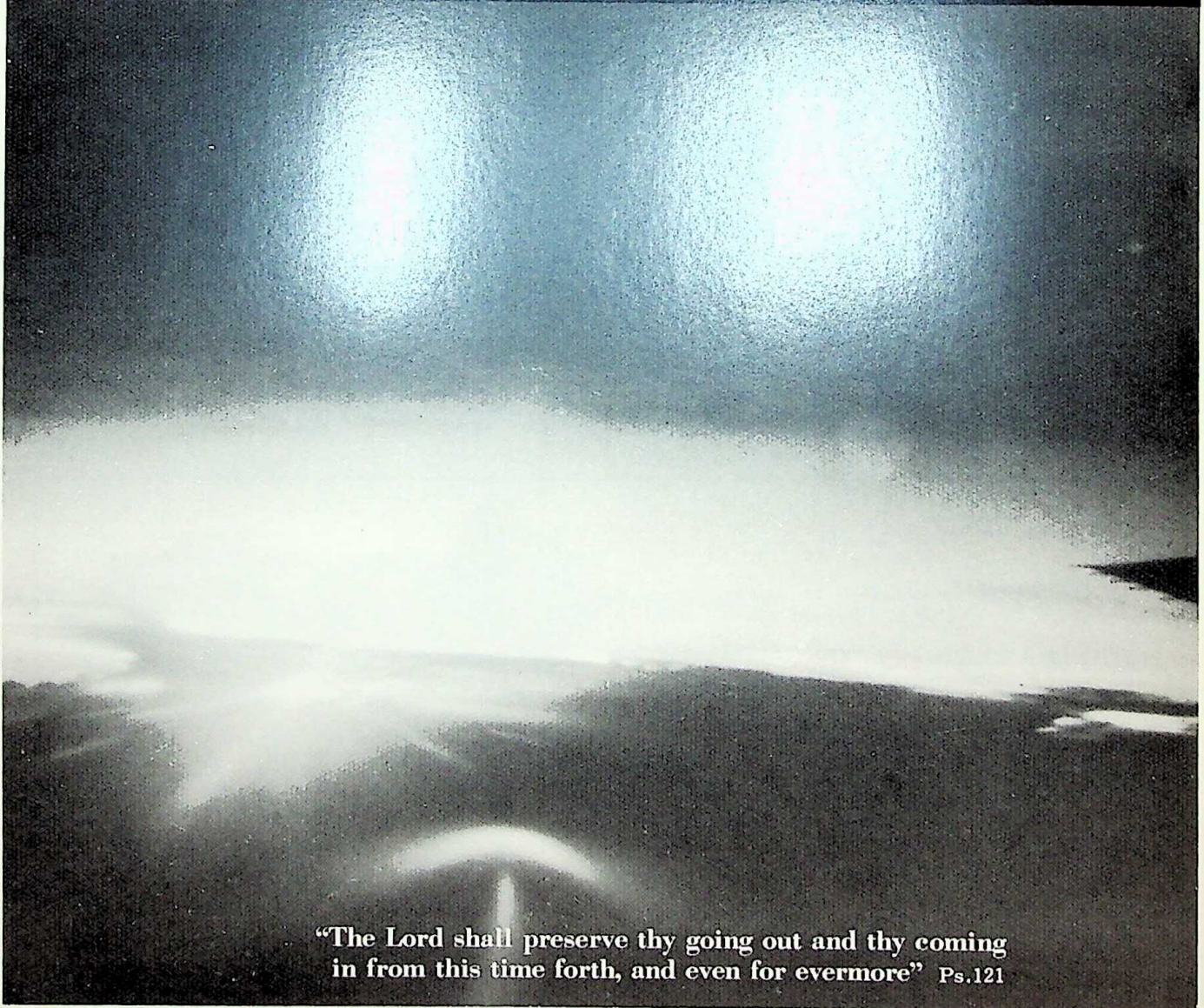
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