

JAPAN HARVEST

Japan Evangelical Missionary Association

Summer 1996






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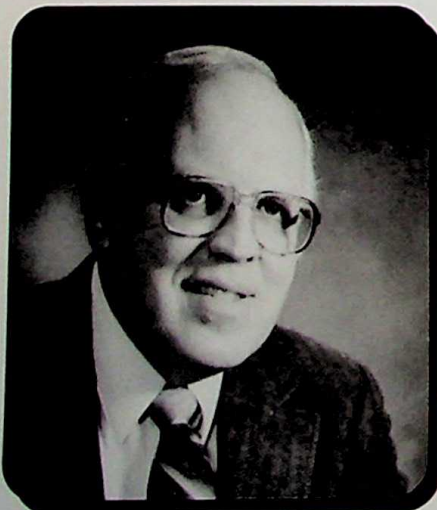
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Highlights:

1. Summer Church begins on Sunday morning, July, 21.
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 7:00 p.m.
4. JEMA SUMMER CONFERENCE is scheduled for July 28 -31, with Rev. Rollin. Reasoner as speaker.
5. DEEPER LIFE CONVENTION will be held from August 1 -4 with Dr. Martin Alphonse as speaker.
6. YOUTH CONFERENCE August 5 -7
7. KUC Annual Business meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 7, at 7:00 p.m. All members are urged to attend (Membership must be renewed annually)

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JAPAN HARVEST

Volume 46, No 1/Summer 1996

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In This Harvest ...

TO SEEK AND SAVE

In this issue we spotlight "returnees"—Japanese, young and not so young, who have been outside of Japan and been impacted by the Gospel. You could name some yourself—each one precious and each with a story uniquely their own.

Last week I received a note from a young woman who recently returned to Japan after a year in the United States. It tells one type of "returnee" story quite eloquently:

"Dear Katie,

Hello! Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter. I decided to go to the church in _____ a little longer. I'm not sure which church is best for me. For now I'll keep going to the church you introduced me to.

I had a couple of Bible studies a week when I was in the U.S. Most of my friends there are Christian, so whatever I did, even going to a movie, was done with Christian friends. I was in a good condition then.

Now, most of my friends are non-Christian. I like to spend time with them, but it turns to be temptation sometimes.

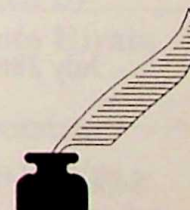
I used to read the Bible every night by myself. These days, I sometimes forget to read the Bible.

I do want to join your Bible study. Right now I feel so selfish and just worried about my job-hunting and if I'm forgetting English."

In putting this edition together, I've learned about ministries already functioning effectively and of the emerging desire to do more to seek and save this growing segment of Japanese society. What we were able to include here is just a representation of the work being done, I'm sure.

You may be one the Lord wants to make a part of the network (a popular word these days—but we mean 'God's net'). Enhanced communication in our modern world makes it a great deal easier technologically. But it is still spiritual warfare with a cost to our lives. Will we pray and sacrifice our time to be available to these the Shepherd is seeking? There are still "other sheep" whom He came to seek and to save.

Katie Sisco, ed



A reminder to our subscribers:

When you move, please remember to send your
change of address to the JEMA office!

JEMA Windows

Ron Sisco
JEMA President



The film, *Kairei*, based on Ayako Miura's novel, dramatically portrays the true story of three Japanese fishermen who find themselves outside of Japan during the 200 year period when Japan was virtually closed to all outside influence. At that time anyone leaving Japan was considered an outcast. When these three, longing for home, attempted to return to Japan they were completely rejected and ended up returning to Macao to build the first Japanese Christian church outside of Japan. The scene which to this day sticks in my mind is of each of them cutting off their long braided hair and casting it into the sea with the tearful declaration, "If Japan doesn't want us, we don't want her!"

Now Japan's airports are busy places with thousands of Japanese coming and going continuously.

A significant percentage of these travelers are impacted by the gospel even to the point of following Jesus Christ in baptism. But when they return to Japan they hit an invisible wall—a society still "closed" to the knowledge of God. Something of this spirit even seems to contaminate the church, so that in many churches there has not been an open welcome for these "returnees."

Perhaps the experience and expectation of the returnee doesn't match what they find in the Japanese church scene either, and with the caution with which the church views returnees, a good relationship from the outset is difficult.

At our February Leaders' Consultation we took steps to see how JEMA missionaries could help preserve some of this harvest by networking people, ministries and churches who see the potential in these youth, housewives, and businessmen who have responded to the Gospel abroad but have not been incorporated into the church here.

Images of *Kairei* flash through my mind as I think of the challenge to reach this unique "people group." The

net needs to be drawn tightly around such people. As you read the stories in this issue, perhaps you will see how you can be a significant part of the network. Look around you. I can well imagine that everyone of you reading this issue knows more than one Japanese who has had a positive encounter with the Gospel while outside of Japan.

Recently, while out walking, I met a neighbor who told me that when he was a university student he stayed in the home of a Christian family in California and he still keeps contact with them. They have encouraged him to go to church here in Japan. He and his wife were married in the U.S. and are obviously tender toward Christianity, which already makes them different from the mainstream. But there's another subtle difference. Their experience of Christianity is "western."

We're inviting them over. "Father, show us how to draw in the net and partner with You in this particular fishing business."



JEMA Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Place
July 28th—31st	Summer Conference with Rollin Reasoner	Karuizawa Union Church (see ad and insert)
September 24th—27th	Church Planter's Institute with Steve Childers	Okutama Bible Chalet (see ad and insert)
February 25th, 1997	JEMA Plenary Session	OCC Building
Early March, 1997 (yet to be finally confirmed)	Women's Retreat (with Kay Arthur)	Megumi Chalet, Karuizawa

KOINONIA JAPAN

by Kazuyuki Inafuku

Beginnings

Koinonia Japan opened up in 1984 to receive returnees who were saved in the US, though its actual origins date back to 1980 in Seattle, Washington where a Japanese Bible study for students was started.

As many of them returned to Japan after a few years of study abroad and wanted to have the same kind of fellowship here as they used to enjoy in the US, **Koinonia Japan** was birthed.

We began with a two-pronged focus: to provide fellowship for young believers and to encourage and help them get established in Japanese churches.

Activities

Koinonia Japan carries on three main activities:

1. *Regular meetings*

Koinonia meets once a month in Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka. There's always singing in English and Japanese, Bible study, prayer and sharing.

2. *Newsletter*

Koinonia issues a newsletter every month. Approximately 350 copies are distributed now, including some overseas.

3. *Retreats*

Every fall Koinonia holds a three-day retreat. It's a great opportunity to meet friends from Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka and many more from other areas as well. **This year's retreat will be held in Nagoya from September 14-16.**

Future

Koinonia is maintained by the voluntary work of those led by the Lord into this ministry.

In the early years, we focused on the returnees themselves. As we look into the future, we want to build more and more of a network with Japanese churches and others concerned with ministry to the returnees. We want to see an inter-church fellowship established that will provide a stronger foundation for those impacted by Christ and His church abroad who return to Japan needing Christian family to help them follow on in their walk with Him.

For those desiring information, please contact Mr. Inafuku at 045-543-3853



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FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL

by Motoo Yokoyama

My wife and I are missionaries with British Japanese Outreach Mission. We are being sent to Britain in May, not to establish a Japanese church, but to help British Christians reach out to Japanese expatriates, and to assist Japanese returnees who have had meaningful Christian fellowship in the U.K. to be able to settle well in churches in Japan.

In the spring of 1989 when I arrived in London for further theological study, I did not have any information about how many Japanese expatriates lived in the UK. Nor did I know how many devoted British



Christians serve the Lord by reaching out to the Japanese. During my four years in London, God led

me to many British Christians who were motivated enough to share the Gospel with Japanese through friendship, English classes, and Mothers and Toddlers Clubs at their churches. Having seen British Christians' compassionate ministries, I realized that if Japanese churches would cooperate with British churches, there could be much more fruit.

Generally speaking, Japanese expatriates are very open to the Gospel due to their loneliness as well as a new-found freedom from the obligation in relationships in Japanese society. Also they are usually very interested in Christianity as part of Western culture.

Young Japanese students are looking for British friends, because all the students around them are also foreigners and cannot help them with language acquisition. In these contexts, British Christians' initiative in evangelizing Japanese is very effective.

Sometimes, an approach from another Japanese makes them uncomfortable. On the other hand, a language barrier comes up as a big problem for the Japanese who starts to seek the Lord, because native language is essential for Bible learning. Very few Japanese are able to be totally fed spiritually through English.

Most of the Japanese in Britain return to Japan after three to five years. Their settlement and adjustment in the local church in Japan is a key issue that needs to be addressed before they leave the UK. Introduction to good churches and assurance of follow-up on the Japan side are strategic. And of course this cannot be done effectively without cooperation from Japanese churches.

At the beginning of 1994, I started to report to Japanese churches on the outreach to Japanese in Britain. God led me to two Japanese pastors who had lived in Britain and shared my vision. Together we started to challenge Japanese churches. Gradually we have seen increase in support from Japanese Christians. We officially established the **British Japanese Outreach Mission** on Sept. 22nd, 1995.

From May 1996, my wife and I will live in Reading, 25 miles west of Heathrow airport. Our main ministry will be coordinating needs and personnel. We would like to get information about Japanese coming to Britain, needing Bible study in Japanese, or returning to Japan soon. Also, we need information about Christians, in both Britain and Japan, able to share the Gospel through fellowship, teach the Bible in Japanese or welcome returnees with special care.

With this in view, we recently visited nearly 230 Japanese churches. In Britain we are also going to do our best to establish a good network. We plan to use "Internet" as one part of the "net."

Britain can be called a spiritual oasis for the Japanese, where they tend

to be very open to the Gospel. In contrast, Japan is a spiritual desert where obligation in culture and relationships tie them down.

It is hard enough to live and grow as Christians, and even more so when a person has an initial contact with the Gospel abroad and comes back to Japan not knowing anything about living as a Christian in Japan. We can improve this situation as British and Japanese Christians cooperate for the sake of the Gospel.

BJOM's First Missionaries

Motoo Yokoyama, is a third-generation pastor, still a rarity in Japan. He served at Yodobashi Church in Tokyo for five years, received an honorary BA in Theology from London Bible College and an MA in Theological studies from Asbury Seminary, Kentucky, USA.



Yoshie Yokoyama was born in a non-Christian family and because of her father's work, spent some years in Brazil. She attended ICU, Tokyo, and then worked for Japan Airlines, where she became a Christian. She later studied at Redcliffe College, London. After returning to Japan, she served with KKG in Tokyo and married Motoo in 1986. She has an M.A. in Christian Education from Asbury Seminary, Kentucky, U.S.A.



Throw out a lifeline...

Sent To London To Meet Jesus

by Norie Ohnishi

Soon after I started my studies at London University, I became disheartened. I couldn't follow the lectures, couldn't understand the school system, and no one was paying any special attention to me—and I felt I needed special care.

About that time I met Chieko. She wasn't a Christian but she introduced me to All Souls Langham Place Church. Sharing in the worship service in the huge sanctuary made me forget my loneliness and that's where I met Eva. She took both my hands, "Welcome, Norie, I am so glad to see you." For the first time in England, I felt I had met a person who really cared about me.

Eva was a retired OMF missionary who had worked in Japan for thirty years. She invited me to the fellowship group that met twice a week at her apartment. The church and Eva's apartment became my favorite places.

As I became stronger emotionally, though, study became more important to me. I went less often to fellowship and went to church just to see friends.

Then a Japanese friend challenged me with Rev. 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock...." She explained that Jesus died for my redemption. I began to be aware of my sinfulness and self-centeredness. I almost could hear Jesus knocking on the door of my heart. I received Jesus and was baptized at All

Souls, together with Chieko, in November 1989.

The last day of December that year I returned to Japan. Before I left London, the fellowship group prayed that I would find the right church. I felt confident that God was leading me back to Japan and I really wanted to be a witness to my non-Christian family, but it was still very hard to say goodbye to my spiritual family in London.

A friend, Kaori, at All Souls, suggested Asagao Church and that's where I began attending. Kaori's parents welcomed me warmly and invited me to their home for lunch. I decided to make this my home church in Japan, but it wasn't as easy as I thought. At

All Souls I could make friends quickly and the relationships had grown consistently. But in the Japanese church I was having trouble finding anyone to talk to deeply about spiritual matters.

Everyone always seemed so busy. In the U.K. there was a lot of opportunity for Bible study every week, but here in Japan, I didn't know where to find such a thing. I became so thirsty spiritually. In the church in London, I felt like people were saying, "I'm so glad you're here!" But in Japan I felt they were saying, "I don't care whether you are here or not. But if you want to be here, I don't mind."

I found myself wishing I was back in England. I kept attending church but only because I was afraid to be away from God. I really needed Him to be

able to survive the week. My friends in the U.K. sent letters often. I knew they were praying for me. One of them wrote referring to Hebrews 5:13, 14, "When you were a baby you were given milk. As you are growing

you need solid food. You haven't been used to solid food, but God will help you." I realized that when I was in the U.K. I was given as much milk as I



Norie and friends in London

needed, but now I had to take the next step.

Another source of encouragement was the group of friends from the London church who returned to Japan about the same time as I had. We went to different churches but met regularly to pray. We sang the familiar praise songs from "home" and studied the Scriptures together. I began to recover from the negative feelings I had toward the Japanese church. I realized God is always with me wherever I am. I began to reach out and gradually got involved in the church. This is totally God's mercy to me because I know there are many who come to know Jesus abroad and never find a church home when they return to Japan. Six years have passed since I left London. I don't want to forget how it felt, but sometimes I realize with a start that I myself have no time to talk to a newcomer after the service! I want to be a partner with God in welcoming His children into His church.

Norie Ohnishi is presently a staff worker for JEA.

Activities of BJOM

In Britain:

Network needs and resources.

Challenge and help British Christians and churches to reach out to Japanese.

Provide orientation for Japanese in order to ease the culture shock they may face in Japanese churches.

In Japan:

Provide information of possible churches in the right locality for the returnee.

Provide more information to Japanese churches and Christians about what returnees face when they come back to Japan and try to enter the church.

Start prayer cells in support of returnees.

Encourage prayer cells to function as a supporting network for the returnees.

For further information please contact:

British Japanese Outreach Mission
c/o Eifuku Minami Church
1-2-19, Hamadayama, Suginami ku,
Tokyo, 168, Japan
Tel/Fax 03-5317-8210

THANKFUL FOR HIS NET

BY SAYOKO ANDO



From childhood, I often thought about the world after death. In senior high, I used to write in my diary things like “I don’t know why, but I don’t have peace of mind.” I was always thinking about it.

I asked a Christian friend to take me to church. I didn’t read the Bible, just attended the service. Then one day I read the Ten Commandments. I thought I could not become a Christian unless I followed the Commandments. This bothered me very much because I knew I could not keep them.

I started skipping church and soon stopped altogether. I can’t remember any message I heard. I thought none of it had entered my heart. Later, at the Christian university I attended I’m sure I learned Bible verses, but it seemed it all just slipped away.

I spent some time in London, and attended a Bible study there on and off. Still I was not ready to accept the Word sown in my heart because I was sure my heart was not good enough.

After I returned to Japan, I married and had a baby. Everyday chores occupied my mind completely. One day a lady came to my door introducing herself as a member of “*Hayaokikai*” (early risers group). She was very persuasive and told me that if I joined, my husband and I would get along very well and my son would grow up into a fine young man. She was so persistent that I agreed to try it.

One day in the group meeting they said that if my husband told me the crow was white, I had to agree completely. Even if I thought my husband was wrong, I was to obey him as this was the way to family happiness. Something told me this kind of thinking was wrong and I quit.

However, I was often irritated about my son and didn’t know what to do. An acquaintance suggested that I read “*Hannya Shinkyo*,” (the words of Buddha). Reading it somehow calmed me, but I couldn’t understand it at all. I quit searching in that path. My mind still felt empty but I did not turn to the Bible.

Then my mother-in-law died and

we moved in with my father-in-law in Tokyo. My grandparents had died before I was born, so I had not learned how to get along with my elders. Before living with my father-in-law I thought I could be very kind to elderly people—actually I guess I had never thought about it deeply at all!

I soon realized that often I could not stand my father-in-law’s behavior and found myself being nasty to him. My attitude appalled me and I tortured myself with blame. This made me bitter toward my father-in-law. During this time of deep depression a friend invited me to “*Toitsuokyokai*” (Unification Church).

Here I was told to ask for the helper which would enable me to go beyond my own efforts. The “helper” they meant were the beads, pots and other paraphernalia they encouraged me to buy. I knew such things had no power, but I was surrounded by people who seemed to have some mind control over me. I spent a great deal of our family’s money to purchase the things they suggested.

In the meetings, both Buddhist and Christian ideas were taught. One type of mind control they used was to seat us in front of TVs to watch videos of their propaganda for long periods of time. But since they also included the Bible as a part of their teaching, I began to catch words of truth I had heard years before. I knew the teaching of *Toitsu-kyokai* was wrong. I stopped going.

Shortly after that I went to a church to talk about my feelings with a pastor who listened and understood me. A Christian who was studying counseling listened to me regularly, too. When I realized the Lord accepted me as I was, I was amazed and thankful.

It was right at this time that my husband was transferred to San Jose, California. I asked the pastor if there were any Japanese churches there. I didn’t want to live without the guidance of the Lord. Shortly after our arrival in

San Jose, I began attending church. Free from the distress of living with my father-in-law, I passed my days in peace.

Without the previous tension I’d been experiencing, my need for church lessened. I felt it was dull. But my husband was growing mentally and physically exhausted. My son was tired from the stresses of school in a different culture. As wife and mother, I came under a new type of strain.

Then my husband had a car accident. He did not hurt anyone else, but when I saw him covered with blood, I had a piercing sense of my need for the Lord to walk with my tired husband, my son and me. I decided to be baptized and take a stand as a Christian.

A friend and I joined a wonderful Bible study where the Word of God started to bloom in my heart. When the news came that we would be going back to Japan, I didn’t want to be led into wrong teaching again. I knew in my own weakness I was very likely to stray from the truth.

I asked the leader of our Bible study to introduce me to a Bible study in Tokyo. She asked a friend of hers and that friend wrote about me to the Siscos. Now I am learning the Bible with great joy at the Sisco’s home.

A year after I returned to Tokyo, the woman who had taught me the Scriptures in California died of a brain tumor, but I know I will see her in Heaven, and I am forever grateful to her and to the Lord for the part she played in my spiritual growth and in helping me connect with believers when I returned to Japan.

Task Force Formed for Returnee Follow-up

Over 1600 Japanese every year have a significant encounter with Jesus Christ while outside of Japan. In the USA alone there are presently more than 60,000 Japanese students, not to mention the more than 190,000 business people, researchers and trainees. England hosts approximately 60,000 Japanese each year. Those clearly impacted by the Gospel more often than not return to Japan and never become a part of the local church. They "fall through the cracks."

In recent years several groups have begun working specifically with returnees: The British Japanese Outreach Mission, Japan Christian Fellowship Network (JCFN), Baptist General Conference World Reach, International Students (ISI), Campus Crusade, Koinonia, and a few others.

The need for a nation-wide network in Japan to provide a broad referral assistance came into focus for two furloughing missionaries last summer. Don Wright and Ron Sisco returned to Japan ready to pursue this in specific ways.

Under their leadership a "Japanese Returnees Consulting" team has been formed to provide a network and a "net." A cross-section of missionaries and Japanese leaders attended the second committee meeting, held at OCC. Mr. Inagaki (JEA), Mr. Kasuda, Wayne Meyers and Bill Sparks (Navigators), Mr. and Mrs. Yokoyama (British Japanese Outreach Mission), Pastor Yonai (Kokubunji Baptist), David Lindhiem (OMF), Jim May (SEND), Marty Shaw Jr. (Cons. Bapt), Ron and Katie Sisco (JEMA, OC), and Don Wright (JEMA, BGC).

The Yokoyamas, working with **British Japanese Outreach Mission**, shared from their experience of bringing the "returnee need" to the Japanese church. They send out a bulletin to 500 churches, but find that many don't read it. Personal contact is vital, they say, to educate church members and pastors.

Among ideas discussed briefly were: a computer "Home Page" for international contact and information; a text in English and Japanese to be used for returnees and those working with them; preparation of the Japanese church to welcome returnees; need for individuals willing to come alongside returnees and nurture them.



JCFN, with base in Denver, CO, and ISI, with base in Seattle, were named as important links in the network for returnees. Both Dick Durstan (JCFN) and Dan Brannen (ISI) will be in Japan in the next months and both are committed to reaching and retaining Japanese for Jesus Christ. JCFN now has about 700 members (400 in Japan and 300 in US) who are all Christians. In the last six months they have helped 60 returnees connect with Christian fellowship in Japan. Of these 60, 90% became believers while in the US.

If you have information concerning churches involved in returnee follow up, helpful texts, practical suggestions, or would like to be personally involved please contact the JEMA office.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON
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Call to Prayer

The following daily pray thoughts have great value in aiding in prayer focus as we pray for Japan. For those who do not have a JEMA Directory or have not noticed these pages there, we reprint it in this issue. *ed*

Suggested 1996 Monthly Prayer Calendar

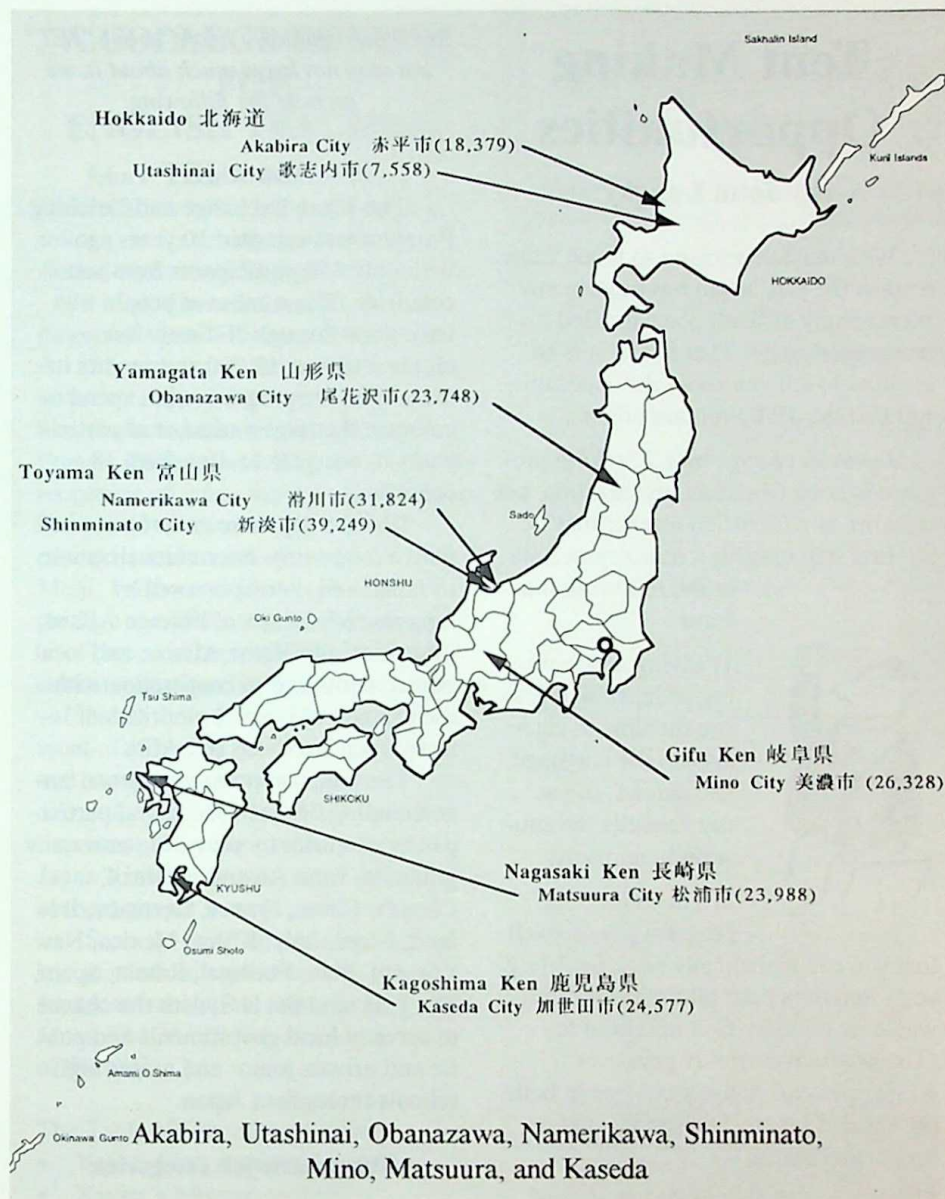
from the JEMA Directory

(pp 158-159)

1. Read Matt. 5:3-11 and pray these characteristics will be evidenced more and more in the church.
2. *Pray there would be a new awareness of God's holiness and the need to be holy as He is holy in our personal lives and in the church.*
3. Pray God would open us to deeper ministries of the Holy Spirit, so He could be poured out as fully as the Father intends. Pray the Lord would give you a greater capacity for the person and work of the Holy Spirit.
4. *Read Isaiah 57:14-21 and pray for the church as the Lord leads.*
5. Pray for the Lord to reveal any area in His church, whether in leadership or in laity, that is not pleasing to Him. Ask for more Light and Truth to expose any darkness in the Body of Christ.
6. *Pray God would show us our needs and weaknesses so thoroughly that we become desperate in our seeking and utterly dependent on Him.*
7. Pray a spirit of unity among believers and that we would be willing to tear down any barriers that hinder the Spirit's work.
8. *Pray for the Lord to bring a greater love, transparency with one another, humility, brokenness and reconciliation wherever it is needed.*
9. Take time to sing praises to the Lord for His faithfulness, power, grace, mercy, knowledge and sovereignty.
10. *Pray the Lord would raise up a new generation of visionary pioneers who would lead the church in all He wants to do in our midst. Ask the Lord to thrust out more laborers into the harvest.*
11. Read Isaiah 41:8-20. Speak to the Lord for the Japanese church regarding different aspects of this passage.
12. *Pray all believers would have a deeper understanding of their position in Christ, living a life worthy of the Gospel, fully pleasing to the Lord.*
13. Fast from one meal today and ask the Lord to give you a deeper hunger for His kingdom and His righteousness.
14. *Pray that the Lord would work in and through the government so that righteousness and justice would be done.*
15. Pray that the Lord would receive new praise in this country today. Pray He would break in with new revelation of Himself through the preaching of the Gospel.
16. *Pray the Lord would fill His church with victorious optimism, zeal, and the knowledge of Himself.*
17. Sing praises that focus on some aspect of the Lord's character you feel the church needs to know and experience. Ask the Lord to reveal that character to His people.
18. *Pray Eph. 1:16-19; 3:17-19; Phil. 1:9-11 and Col 1:9-11 for your church.*
19. Meditate on Isaiah 62:6,7 and ask the Lord what He would have you do about it.
20. *Meditate on Ezekiel 36: 37,38 and ask the Lord to bring Japanese men (especially the oldest sons) to Himself.*
21. Ask the Lord to do such a powerful work in Japan that the nations of Asia and the world will rise up and call Japan blessed.
22. *Pray for the salvation of the Imperial family and government officials.*
23. Read Psalm 80 and ask the Lord to show you how you can pray for His church.
24. *Ask the Lord to intervene on behalf of His church in the spiritual realm and contend with the forces at work against the advancement of the Gospel in Japan. Pray that the Lord would get the glory He deserves in this country. Pray that those systems, institutions and forces that resist His glory be confounded and brought low.*
25. Pray for the Lord to raise up more individuals and groups who will intercede for the church.
26. *Read Matt. 6:19-33 and pray for the church in these areas as the Lord leads.*
27. Ask the Lord to bring a deeper conviction of the power of prayer and then stir us to respond to that conviction.
28. *Pray the Lord would bring a spirit of brokenness and humility upon the church that leads to repentance, renewed zeal and obedience to her Lord.*
29. Pray the Lord would deepen the rivers of revival in Japan by blessing all organizations that are trying to facilitate revival.
30. *Pray for Japanese pastors you know, that they would have holy lives and anointed ministries.*
31. Ask the Lord to give you His burden for the church, wait on Him with expectation, then act on His leading.

—compiled by Dave Walker (OC)
Chairman, JEMA Prayer Commission.

“You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued... God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, **prayer** is essential in this ongoing warfare. **Pray** hard and long. **Pray** for your brothers and sisters.”
from Ephesians 6 (The Message)



Pray For The Eight Unchurched Cities

by Don Wright

I would like to give a call to pray and set a goal that by AD 2000 we would have at least one church in each of the eight unchurched cities in Japan. Let's seriously do three things:

1) *Daily pray*

2) *Find out and inform.* As we pray and get the names of these cities in our hearts, perhaps some will be led to some kind of connection to these cities—a known Christian there, a relative, some returnee, or an existing Bible study. If

we could gather this kind of information, perhaps we could network people and resources for the beginning of a Bible study or some outreach.

3) *Go.* Is it unrealistic that there would be eight units ready to actually go to begin church planting? What about the possibility of missionaries and national Christians going with a gospel team or a prayer team? What about a prayer pilgrimage—visit all 8 cities in 8 days on a special JR pass?

If you are interested in receiving regular bulletins to help you pray for these eight cities, please contact Don Wright by e-mail at 71351.1160@compuserve.com

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TOWARD MORE EFFECTIVE ENGLISH CLASS EVANGELISM

by Don Wright

This last year I have been especially pleased with the results of using evangelistically oriented Japanese handouts. What we do: we hand out the Christian Shimbun Fukuin Ban each month and also the New Life paper. The students are told to read any of the articles during the week and be prepared to say something about what they read in English.

The next week we take the first 10 minutes or so of class for them to share their thoughts. Often there are several who will forget to do the assignment and/or forget to bring the paper. I give them another right then and ask them to at least skim an article or even say something about a picture in the publication.

Why is this a good method?

- * The papers have a variety of articles, from a clear gospel presentation to human interest stories. So the student can pick something that ties into their spiritual interest.
- * They are in Japanese, mostly written by and about Japanese people. This helps them see that Christianity is not just a missionary's religion.
- * It allows English teachers, not able to minister in Japanese, to influence the students on a deeper level. Especially the non-Japanese-speaking teacher can honestly ask the students to teach them about the contents.
- * It exposes the students to a variety of spiritual issues. Often a Bible study or a thematic based study deals only with one or two issues.
- * It allows the students to grow. At first in our class the students would choose articles farthest from spiritual issues—like cooking or exercise. Now over half of them are picking the article that deals with the salvation presentation.

Tent Making Opportunities

by John Loucky

With the dollar losing so much value against the yen, Japan has become an increasingly difficult place for God's messengers to go. That is why it is so exciting to tell you about the opportunities that the JET Program offers.

Japan Exchange and Teaching program is not a Christian organization, but working as a Christian teacher may be the first step towards a ministry in Asia in the following four ways:



- 1) Living and working in Japan will give you the time to get a taste of the language and culture, so you can consider the situation here wisely.
 - 2) The money! the program pays so well that you can realistically work for 1 or 2 years and then pour all the money into whatever ministry God leads you to. (The program currently pays over 40,000 per year and it's tax-free in both the US and Japan. You can be self-supporting here!)
 - 3) Japan is a perfect place to begin exploring chances for ministry here or in other parts of Asia. Participants in the program now regularly use their holidays to travel all over Asia.
 - 4) Teaching English still seems the most effective way to begin telling the Japanese about Jesus, so why not take advantage of the training and experience JET offers?
- God has clearly opened this door of opportunity. We want to communicate this to as many Christian college students as possible (a B.A./B.S. is required). For more information and an application and interview, contact any Japanese Consulate.

For those who have heard about "JET" but may not know much about it, we include the following:

About JET

The Japan Exchange and Teaching Program was initiated 10 years ago with only 848 participants from just 4 countries. The number of people who have gone through JET now has climbed to over 12,000 and reports indicate that the program will expand to embrace the largest number of participants in one year coming from 18 countries.

JET is a Japanese government initiative to promote internationalization in Japan and is co-sponsored by Japanese Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education and Home Affairs, and local governments and in cooperation with the Council of Local Authorities of International Relations (CLAIR).

The program promotes mutual understanding between Japan and participating countries by providing university graduates from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, Russia, Spain, The U.K. and the U.S. with the chance to serve in local governments and public and private junior and senior high schools throughout Japan.

Three basic job categories:

- 1) Assistant Language Teacher (ALT)
An ALT may work in one school or teach in a number of schools.
- 2) Coordinator for International Relations (CIR)
CIRs are placed in local government institutions and international exchange centers and may help with translation, giving advice on exchange programs and language instruction, edit pamphlets and newspapers.
- 3) Sports Exchange Advisor (SEA)
SEAs first joined the program in 1994 and provide assistance with international sports exchange projects and sports training.

A COLLEGE READER FOR ENGLISH TEACHING

John P. Loucky, missionary in Kyushu since 1980, has put together a college reader for intermediate and advanced students of English.

Titled, *Famous Leaders Who Influenced Japan's Internationalization*, the 335 page text follows a biographical, historical approach, covering Japan's first contacts with the West through Francis Xavier (the Catholic Period), the reopening of Japan through Commodore Perry (early Protestant period), great educators and social reformers of the Meiji, Taisho and Showa periods, through the MacArthur Post-war period.

There are comprehension and discussion questions, as well as bilingual vocabulary lists. It is useful for development of advanced reading vocabulary and comprehension skills, but more significantly provides better knowledge of important characters in the history of Japan's internationalization. A majority of these people were great Christians.

Sections on Christian founders of key scientific disciplines, with a brief Japanese translation, and a history of the Japan YMCA/YWCA also form a part of the book.

The Table of Contents includes:

- Yajiro, First Japanese Christian
- Xavier's Mission to Kyoto
- Anti-foreign Shoguns
- Seven Ship-wrecked Sailors
- What Did William Clark Really Say?
- Educating Displaced Samurai
- Contributions of Christian Schools
- John Mung Manjiro Nakahama
- The Two Swords of Niishima
- Pioneer of Women's Education
- Toyohiko Kagawa
- Japan's Greatest WWII Pilot

Published by Campus Crusade Asia
Anyone interested may contact the
Louckys, 1-10-7 Kami Itouzu,
Kokura-kita, Kitakyushu,
Fukuoka Ken 803.

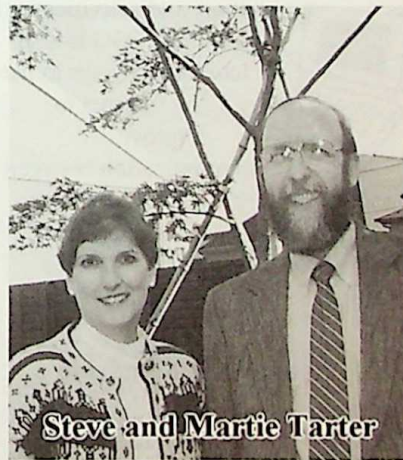
JEMA SUMMER CONFERENCE July 28th— 31st in Karuizawa

To Win For the LAMB the Reward of His suffering

This summer's conference speaker is Rollin Reasoner, for many years a SEND missionary in Japan. Rollin and Esther Reasoner arrived in Japan in 1951 and played a vital part in SEND's pioneer work here. Since "retirement" in 1993, they have continued to be pioneers in SEND's international outreach. They have much to share from their recent experience in Europe as well as from their years in Japan. Mrs. Reasoner will be the speaker for the Ladies' Tea.



Rollin and Esther Reasoner



Steve and Martie Tarter



Leading worship at the Conference are Steve and Martie Tarter, SEND missionaries since 1974.



JEMA SUMMER CONFERENCE is a time for the whole family. It's a special opportunity for fellowship. It provides times for united prayer. It's a place to be refueled spiritually through the ministry of God's Word. It's a time for YOU personally and it's a time for US as God's people together.



Caring For "Foreigners"

Christian Support Group

The Christian Support Group (CSG) was established in 1988 as a special interest group under the auspices of the **Association for the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme (AJET)**. The JET Programme is a Japanese government-sponsored program which employs foreigners with college degrees to work in public schools and offices. CSG was founded to help JET participants find local church fellowship and to build a support network through retreats and a newsletter.

In recent years CSG membership has grown to include foreign teachers who are not on the JET program, as well as tentmakers, missionaries and Japanese. CSG members come from a broad spectrum of church backgrounds, although from its inception CSG national coordinators have been staunch Christians equipped with mission vision and firmly rooted in a local church.

We strongly encourage CSG members to become a part of a local church, as well as build support with other Christians to remain true to their faith. We have a Statement of Faith that clearly distinguishes us from Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses.

CSG Activities (a brief sample)

- Bimonthly newsletter
- National retreats held 3 or 4 times a year at various locations
An annual fall retreat at Megumi Chalet, Karuizawa
Retreat speakers generally Japan missionaries
- Book and tape libraries available on loan by mail
- Networking and meetings at JET Programme conferences

Opportunities

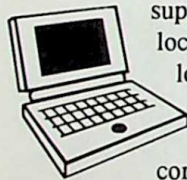
CSG is in a unique position of supporting Christians as they bring Christ into the schools and offices of Japan. Many members have a chance to discuss Christianity with those who might never have contact with a missionary or a pastor.

An excellent relationship with AJET allows CSG to provide Christian information at JET Programme orientations and conferences.

Each year over 2000 new JET participants enter Japan. We are happy to report that a few JET participants do become Christians during their stay in Japan. Past members have gone on to seminary, evangelism, and/or missions. Others have remained in Japan to become tentmakers or full-time Christian workers.

Future Aims

CSG is appointing regional representatives to increase the amount of support and activities at the local level. CSG is also looking for ways to use the Internet to improve communication between members and with other Christian organizations. CSG is entirely volunteer-staffed and does receive donations.



Contact Information

Ray Hanson
44-28-1 Katase
Katsuyama-shi, Fukui ken 911
HM (0779) 88-4977
WK (0768) 88-1122
Internet: pxq01325@niftyserve.or.jp

Ken Ikeda
Lumiere Nishijo #102
466-3 Asakawa Nishijo
Nagano-shi, Nagano ken 381
HM (026) 295-9666
WK (026) 295-7107
Internet: keike@cc.nagano-nct.ac.jp

**In another arena,
a different kind of
"care for foreigners."**



The Rees Family

Bill and Roberta Rees began missionary service in Japan in 1970. In addition to their six "home grown" children, the Reeses have adopted three others, two of which were born to Asian women working in Japan. The Rees's struggle to gain legal status for these two children, denied citizenship by the Japanese government, began as their own personal battle but soon drew national attention to the plight of countless children trapped in legal limbo.

Annette was able to gain Japanese citizenship through naturalization in 1993. In the meantime, volunteer lawyers took Andrew's case to the Tokyo District Court and won in January 1993.

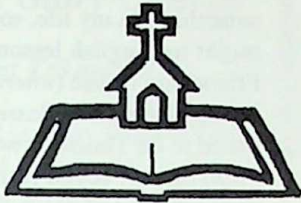
However, the Minister of Justice appealed that decision and in February 1994 Andrew lost at the Tokyo High Court.

The Reeses appealed and in January 1995 the Supreme Court of Japan granted citizenship to Andrew. This landmark decision sets precedence for the interpretation of the nationality law.

The Reeses are amazed at how God has used Andrew's legal problems to open many unusual doors for witness. Their prayer is that through it all, Japanese will be pointed to Christ and that He will receive the glory.



**JEMA
CHURCH PLANTER'S
INSTITUTE
September 24-27, 1996**



**at SEND Mission's
OKUTAMA BIBLE CHALET**

**Need encouragement?.....Practical help for church planting?.....
Or just a chance to get out of the trenches to renew your vision?
Then don't miss this year's Institute!
You will return to your church with a new excitement
for what God can do!**

Dr. Steve Childers will be the keynote speaker. A church planting professor at Reformed Theological Seminary's Orlando Campus, and former Dallas area church planter, Dr. Childers is a respected lecturer and writer in the area of church planting and church growth. The last two years' conferences have been a great success as Dr. Childers' interactive style provided us with valuable and practical insights.

Here are a few comments about last year's seminar.

*The most comprehensive
church planting conference
I ever attended!*

*Being able to share
with the other missionaries
was tremendous!*

*Dr. Childers helped us apply
church planting principles to
our work here!*

Please join us for a ministry-changing experience!

What is the vision of the Church Planter's Institute?

It is: 1) to provide JEMA missionaries with a three-part overview of church planting principles, 2) to establish mentoring, resourcing and accountability networks for growth as church planters, and 3) to ignite a church planting multiplication movement to the end that our Lord Jesus Christ might be honored throughout Japan.

SEMINAR OPTIONS

(Each option includes instruction and training materials)

Church Planting Course #1 (Tuesday 1 p.m. to Friday lunch) ¥29,500
Church Planting Course #2 & Elective Track (Wednesday 1 p.m. to Friday lunch) ¥19,500

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday						
	Vision and Philosophy of Ministry Development	Coaching	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Ministry Management</td> <td>Support/Accountability Teams</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Pastor's Personal Life</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Prayer</td> </tr> </table>	Ministry Management	Support/Accountability Teams	Pastor's Personal Life		Prayer	
Ministry Management	Support/Accountability Teams								
Pastor's Personal Life									
Prayer									
#1 Vision	#3.1 Methodology	Elective Track	Six Contextualization Workshops						
#2 Philosophy of Ministry	#3.2 Methodology	Elective Track	Contextualization Workshops Cont.						

To register please call the JEMA office Tel/Fax 03-3295-1949
Sponsored by JEMA's Pioneer Evangelism Commission

Whatever it takes to lead people to You, Lord.

by Janet Brooks

As a I stand in front of the vacant lot where our house once stood, and gaze at the name plate still on the gate, a flood of emotions overwhelms me.

Thankfulness to God—that we are all safe; His provision of another place to live; the safe removal of the possessions still intact—but there is a sadness, too. After all, we lived here for five years. Began our ministry in Kobe, here. My five-year-old daughter knows only this house—but it was ripped away in the space of twenty seconds. All but the memories, and the pictures, blotted out with one quick movement of earth.

Then God reminds me, “Multiply your sadness by hundreds of years, by generations of families who lived in that house; multiply your sorrow not by the small amount of key money your mission lost, but by millions of yen, the savings of generations to come; multiply your sorrow by the loved ones who died on that spot, by pictures sucked up in the mud or reduced to ashes; multiply your sorrow by a tiny six mat prefab on the other side of the mountain, away from friends and familiar faces. Multiply that sorrow by life without God, without hope—on sinking sand.

As with most trials in the midst of turmoil, God has provided a blessed state called “shock.” It seems as though you are on automatic pilot, continuing to do the things you need to do to survive, not thinking much about past or future. But the shock state is quickly over for most, and there is only living

with the reality of the loss and pain.

The people in Kobe are now living with the every-day-ness of their loss. The vacant lots stare at us as constant reminders that something traumatic has happened. Large gaps in the landscape call up scenes of crumbled walls, caved in roofs, piles of rubble. But they are now only images in the mind or in the photo books.

On the surface everything appears to be ‘*shiwase*’—happy—again, but on the inside there are cracks, some as wide as the ocean, some tiny as slivers of glass. Cracks that only God, the Great Physician, can mend.

After the earthquake, I expected thousands of Japanese, shaken to the depths of their souls, to flock to churches everywhere. “Surely an earthquake such as this will bring them to their knees before Almighty God.” But it hasn’t happened as I expected.

“Multiply your sadness by hundreds of years...generations of families who lived in that house...without God, without hope—on sinking sand.”

Many have turned to their old gods as evidenced by the thousands visiting shrines to pray for protection from earthquakes; many have questioned whether they would ever want to believe in a god who allows such horror; many have turned to their human strength and effort. “*Gambare Kobe!*” (Don’t Give Up, Kobe!) Many have chosen not to learn from this trial and go about as though life has not changed.

But some, the chosen, the few, have turned to the only living God.

On April 21st, one year and three months after the quake, we baptized two ladies and added another lady to our membership. In two of the testimonies, the experience of the quake was mentioned.

One lady said, “After the earthquake, our house was okay, but my heart was full of cracks. It was so bad I had to go to the doctor and get shots. He

said it was stress. I knew I needed something in my life, so I thought I might try English lessons. I came to the Friendship House (*where we teach the Weekday English Classes*) and it happened to be Thursday worship time. From there, I began coming to church and experienced peace and soothing of my nerves. I know Jesus can change me.”

Another lady, who lost her house in the quake and had to live in a nearby high school, where our church prepared hot meals, said, “Everything I had worked for and thought was important was destroyed in the quake. I realized how great a sinner I am, only thinking of myself and not others. I know Jesus died for my sins and I want to live my life as a Christian.”

The black tar streaks and white chalk marks, identifying the millions of cracks in the streets of Kobe are an ever present reminder that our lives are streaked and marked by sin and hurt. How long a person remains in that condition is up to him, but the paver of the streets of gold is waiting.

There may not be in Kobe, or Japan, the mighty revival that I had expected but God is still going about the business of bringing people to Himself. And we continue to pray, “Whatever it takes to lead people to You, Lord.”

Janet and Michael Brooks are Southern Baptist missionaries serving in Japan since 1986.

God is a safe place to hide,
ready to help
when we need Him.
We stand fearless
at the cliff-edge of doom,
Courageous in seastorm
and earthquake,
Before the rush and roar
of oceans,
The tremors that shift mountains.
The God of Jacob fights for us,
God of angel armies protects us.

from Psalm 46 1,2 The Message

Update on Glory Church

by Kent Tokumoto

We stopped at Glory Church today and found lots of activity still going on. When there was no longer a need to serve lunches, they continued their ministry to the neighborhood by having a regular tea house from Tuesday to Saturday as well as *takoyaki* (fried octopus) on Sundays.

While it doesn't draw the hundreds the lunch service did, there are about 20 regulars who come to have tea and talk with church members who are running the tea house. We had a chance to talk with two of the main coordinators we worked with last year. They put out a publication to keep people updated on their post-earthquake ministry. We also met a 72-year-old man doing volunteer carpentry work on the church. He had come to the church to eat every day and became a believer and was baptized.

The neighborhood looks very different now—lots of temporary buildings, lots of empty lots, lots of activity—people trying to gain some sense of normality. The city is emerging from the ashes, but that is only cosmetic. To REALLY live again may take a generation.

They asked that we continue praying for Kobe and the ministry of Glory Church and others. Shimizu san mentioned that it gets tiring for the church members who are involved in this daily tea house ministry to listen to people all the time. We need to pray for their spiritual well being.

Incidentally, people have tried repeatedly to re-open the pachinko parlor across the street, but the pastor had been praying that they wouldn't be able to. So far, fifteen months later, it remains closed! Also, the people next door, with whom they'd had such a difficult relationship, decided to sell their land to the city and move. The church is now able to borrow part of that land for a parking lot.

More About Kobe

One Year After Hanshin Earthquake

by Iwao Shimada, Pastor,
Japan Free Methodist Church,
Nishinomiya Kyokai

Many homes near my church collapsed in last year's quake. Now new houses are being built one after another and it looks like a housing exposition, but the reality is that still only half the homes are being rebuilt.

Our church moved to this area several years ago. At the time of the disaster, we received relief goods and much help from outside and inside our mission which enabled us to serve the community, and we are grateful. Although our service was very small, I believe all of this will surely bear fruit when we least expect it.

Unfortunately the number of seekers has considerably declined since the earthquake. The most crucial reason is that we could not extend total and consistent care to the seekers, which we deeply regret. It also seems that the disturbance over AUM has had adverse affects on the church.

Compared to the previous year, the attendance at worship services is down 14%.

Most church members who lost their houses are still in temporary housing situations. Our mission board gave assistance for half a year and it was a great encouragement, not only to the victims, but also to the church. Church members who were not victims of the disaster put on a drive to raise funds for their brothers and sisters in the church and this was such a help. Without these acts of love, our church might have received a greater blow spiritually.

It is hard for those not mature in the faith to be healed of the memories of seeing their loved ones perish before

their eyes. They need special pastoral care.

Visting those who are in temporary housing or with relatives has not been carried out sufficiently, I feel. As a pastor, I am sad about that. They have been able to attend services, even coming from a distance, up until now, but I am concerned they may tire soon.

We must continue compassionate care for all the victims of the region and especially the church members who suffered so much, giving them the comfort of the Gospel and walking with them.

(taken by permission from Ministry News/Hanshin Great Earthquake Reconstruction Ministry, February 16, 1996)

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From Our Bookshelf

by JMLI faculty



Recently, missionaries seem to be more and more motivated to read and write Japanese. They are setting higher goals and challenging themselves to reading and writing fluency.

At JMLI we have sought to serve such language learners by providing useful information and learning tools.

One way we have assisted is by recommending books for various reading levels. We would like to use this page to introduce good Christian books in Japanese. We hope you will find our book reviews interesting and helpful to language acquisition.

In this series, the JMLI staff and faculty will do their best to select books pleasing in content as well as language. It is our contention that when you encounter a really good book, you forget that you are reading in a foreign language and simply begin to appreciate the book and in so doing learn from it.

From books you can learn the thought and culture of a people as well as increase in knowledge of vocabulary and expressions idiomatic to the language. In reading the *Japanese* language, of course, you continue to acquire *kanji*, as well.

To start with, we have selected from Tomihiro Hoshino's work. In future issues, our selections will be from testimonies, biographies, novels and other interesting material. Please enjoy this book *from our bookshelf!*

The Book

Title: *Hayasano Chigau Tokei*
 Author: Tomihiro Hoshino
 Published: 1992, by Kaiseisha
 Price: ¥1400

Author's Profile:

Tomihiro Hoshino was born in Azuma Village in Gunma Prefecture in 1946. He started enjoying gymnastics in high school. After graduating from Gunma University in 1970, he became a junior high gymnastics teacher in Takasaki City, where he had a serious accident while demonstrating an acrobatic exercise, which left him paralyzed from the neck down.

During his nine years in hospital, he learned to write and draw with a brush held in his mouth. He also encountered the Bible and became a baptized believer in 1974. Since returning home, he has been engaged in creating mouth-paintings and poems.

He married Masako in 1981. The Tomihiro Museum in Azuma Village, which opened in 1991, has more than 300,000 visitors a year.

Review:

Hayasano Chigau Tokei (Clocks of Differing Speeds) is the third *Shigasuru* or collection of pictures and poems by Mr. Hoshino. His first two are now in English. This collection of 79 pieces appeared in monthly installments in the *Asahi Shinbun* between 1981 and 1991. Because they were drawn for the newspaper, all the pictures are made with a fine-point black pen. Readers familiar with his multicolored flowers may find it less attractive at first. However, as you turn the pages, you will find how each piece of his work shows God's wonderful care.

The title was taken from one of the 11 essays in the book, in which Hoshino writes about a ride to Kawagoe via Kanetsu Expressway. His wife, with a

newly acquired driver's license, was at the wheel. It was their first time on the expressway. They were a little worried, but once on their way, they found themselves driving as fast as 120 km/h and thoroughly enjoying it! Later they learned the speed limit was 80 km/h.

Hoshino wonders why they drove that fast and imagines that perhaps they were compensating for their slow life. Slow not because he is disabled but because he is like his father, who never hurried or rushed but always kept a steady pace. He thinks that everybody has a clock that keeps time differently. Although his own clock moves slowly, Tomihiro is thankful that God has provided him with opportunities to write and draw.

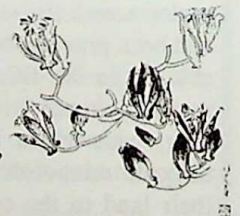
Language:

Both the poems and the essays are written in relatively easy Japanese. Some *kanji* have *furigana*. Here are two poems for your enjoyment.

 * ほととぎす *
 * 呼べば答えてくれる *
 * 人がいる *
 * 苦しくても *
 * 寂しくても *
 * 誰もいなくても *
 * 名を呼べる *
 * 人がいる しあわせ *

ほととぎす is a small wildflower.

Because of the omission of subjects, learners often find Japanese sentences difficult at first. Poems appear to omit more subjects than prose, and our two poems are no exception.

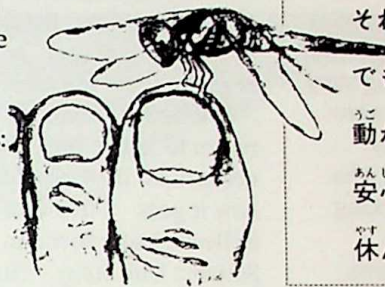


In ほととぎす, the subject of the first verb 呼べば is わたし, which is understood from the benefactive auxiliary, くれる.

The subject of both 苦しくても and 寂しくても is also わたし. Again in line 6, わたし is the subject of the verb 呼べる. And the last word しあわせ is of course わたしのしあわせ.

Thus, ほととぎす could be interpreted as follows:

 * 私には、私が呼べば答えてくれる人がいる。 *
 * 私が苦しくても、寂しくても、 *
 * 近くに誰もいなくても、 *
 * 私には、私が名を呼べる人がいる。 *
 * そういうしあわせが私にはある。 *
 * *****



とんぼ
 トンボよ
 それは 足の指だよ
 でも そこでも良いのなら
 動かないから
 安心して
 休んでゆけよ

とんぼ is a dragonfly. In this poem, the poet tells a dragonfly that it is welcome to rest on his toe, or that his toe is a safe place to rest. Note that 動かない is an intransitive verb and its subject is 足の指. However, because the subject is not mentioned, this passage could be interpreted in two ways. One is that his toe does not move," and the other is "I will not move." Either way we can feel the poet's empathy with the dragonfly.

Ayako Miura once told Hoshino, "The truth of your words makes me wonder if God Himself sends them to you. They are awakening. What you have created are all prayers — drawings, words, and poems full of grace." With a cheery laugh he answered, "Well, the copyright belongs to God."



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

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HIRO'S STORY

Hiro Banba's story is perhaps very typical. It's a story of God's net around a young man. It's an encouraging story because all the people involved were ordinary people—God's ordinary people—plus a few He included who didn't even know they were working for Him.

When Hiro arrived in Bellevue, Washington, to attend Bellevue Community College he had no idea his whole life was going to be dramatically changed. Neither did the college office workers who assigned him to the home of Jake and Jane Biernoth.

Jake and Jane took Hiro to church with them from the very first week. Even though he could barely understand English, he still remembers the friendly Christians he met there. The Biernoth's son John took a special interest in Hiro and invited him to a fellowship group in Seattle where he took the time to make sure that Hiro understood as much as possible. John spoke slowly and patiently explained all that was going on and being said. On his second visit to John's church, Hiro accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior.

Then he began to meet other Christians at Bellevue Community College—some of them Japanese. He was invited to a retreat for Japanese young people put on by Faith Bible Church in Seattle. His circle of Christian friends was enlarged once again—some of these young people attended a Japanese church near Bellevue—and so he was introduced to "Glory Church" in Kirkland, Washington.

Pastor 'Mike' Komai and his family are touching the lives of many Japanese expatriates, and Hiro is one of them.

Now in a setting where he was able to learn from the Scripture in his own language, he really began to grow spiritually.

When it came time to return to Japan, the Lord had a network all in place. You know how it goes: a friend in Bellevue had a friend in Saitama University—Hiro's school. That friend 'happened' to visit Seattle and was able to tell Hiro about a Bible study on the campus. Through the Bible study, he learned about an English club on campus taught by a missionary, Russell Board. The club's name is TGIF—*Thank God It's Friday*—and Hiro does thank God for that Friday class where he not only keeps up his English but found a 'family.' Hiro has been living with the Boards for the past 2 years, while finishing his studies at Saitama University. He is now worship leader in their small but growing church.

His own family, who live outside of

Tokyo, at first ignored his Christianity to the point of personal rejection. Now, though they are still not happy about

his choice, they are no longer rejecting him and that is a big step along the path of Hiro's witness to his relatives.

There is at least one other significant family in Hiro's story. One reason he was so ready to

respond to Jesus Christ in his very beginning days in Bellevue he traces back to the British missionary family who lived in his town when he was a child. He played with their children and attended their Sunday School as a 3rd and 4th grader. The good seed of God's Word had been planted when his heart was tender. God's net had been spread out in love for Hiro over many years and God used many people in different places to 'bring it together.' All the praise goes to Him.



Hiro

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Karuizawa Deeper Life Convention



Dr. Martin Alphonse has served with the Methodist Church in India since 1976. He has been pastor, evangelist and Bible College teacher in India, and missionary in the Philippines and Singapore. He has been actively involved in world evangelism as a speaker in several international mission conferences.

In August 1994, Dr. Alphonse was appointed as the Director of Evangelism for the OC International Ministry Team. His responsibilities include worldwide travel to motivate, teach, and train church leaders in evangelism. Dr. Alphonse, his wife, Padmini, and their three children presently make their home on the East Coast of the US.

Contact:

Karl-Heinz Kress
738-3 Shiraoka,
Shiraoka Cho
Minami Saitama Gun
Saitama Ken, 349-02

Tel: 0480-92-6825

Meeting Schedule

Thursday	August 1st	10:00 A.M and 7:00 P.M.
Friday	August 2nd	10:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.
Saturday	August 3rd	10:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.
Sunday	August 4th	10:30 A.M. Communion Service and 7:00 P.M.

KANSAI NEWS

by Nancy Sorley



HOMESTAY COORDINATOR TO CHURCH PLANTER

Usually we plan homestay programs so that Japanese students will become interested in the gospel and eventually become Christians. But in this case, God used a homestay program to give Darryl and Kathy Webb a burden for Japan that led them to a church planting ministry in Kyoto.

The Webbs were serving on the pastoral staff of a church in Spokane, Washington, when they were asked to coordinate a homestay for a secular Japanese organization. They jumped at the opportunity to set up the three-week homestay for high school students, using families from their church.



Darryl and Kathy Webb with friends

As a result of those three weeks, eight of the twenty girls accepted Christ. But more than that, "God touched the hearts of the host families," Darryl recalls. After the girls left, Darryl got calls from host fathers in tears. The families had gained a burden for the Japanese people.

A strong desire to introduce the young people to Japanese churches led them to several follow-up trips to Japan and the continuation of the program for three more years. Visits to Japan brought confirmation of the Webb's

call to full time ministry here.

Their initial vision was to begin a Christian homestay program. "We felt it was a significant way to touch the hearts of the Japanese."

The Webbs came to Japan with Youth With A Mission and soon their vision expanded as they felt a burden for the students in Kyoto. In February 1994, they began a College Coffee House program in an old Japanese inn. In a year and a half, 2,000 students came to the coffee house and over 100 accepted Christ.

Every Friday night, is International Night, and from 7-10 p.m., for 300 yen, you can drink all the coffee you want.

The program begins with free English conversation with foreigners, followed by a ministry hour.

This varies from contemporary Christian bands, to testimonies, or special guests like Arthur Holland. The final hour is more free conversation aimed at spiritual matters.

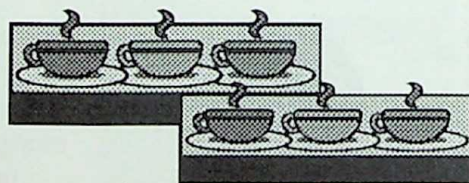
Because of the young people that came to the Lord through the coffee house ministry, the Webbs have started the Kyoto City Church. Every Sunday

evening at 7:00, the Kyoto City Church meets at the ANA Hotel Chapel. The bilingual service with contemporary music focuses on young people. Darryl's vision is still growing. He wants to see "a church for young people in all 11 wards of Kyoto."

Though the Webbs are now church planters they are still involved in the homestay program. Their present programs fall into three categories. 1) A standard summer three-week group program for high school and college students, including English classes, sight-

seeing, parties, time to build relationships with Christian host families, and a trip to Disneyland. A bilingual Christian escort goes along to minister to the group. 2) A long-term, very inexpensive program, which includes a year of English study at ORU campus in Oklahoma. 3) Short term (4 weeks to 3 months) individual programs where the Christian host family plans most of the program. In the future, they want to plan a fishing trip for Japanese businessmen to a Christian lodge in Alaska.

If missionaries would like to help coordinate the programs or if they introduce people to the homestay program they will receive a financial remuneration. For information call the Webbs at 0771-22-8194.



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80 People Trained in 10 Years

The Missionary Training Center (MTC) (Director Minoru Okuyama) will celebrate its tenth anniversary on June 2nd and 3rd. The Center, located in Nasu Gun, Tochigi Prefecture, began its new school year on April 9.

MTC offers training for cross-cultural missionaries and support workers regardless of whether they are professional ministers or lay people. This year eight people are taking their training (two families and four single people) at the center. Some have received a vision to work in Africa, Afghanistan and other places. One is preparing to become a Wycliffe Bible translator and another will serve as a mechanic in a support ministry.



Rev. Okuyama explains, "The MTC training is not a program that centers on the accumulation of knowledge, but includes training in communal living and an emphasis on the spiritual disciplines needed to prepare the whole person for missionary ministry."

God has blessed the Center, and they have been able to graduate 80 people in the last 10 years, sending workers out into mission fields around the world. "In this era there is a tendency to minimize evangelism and the preaching of the Good News, but here at the Center we will continue our wholistic training program." (4/28/96)

The Driving Force Behind the Cults

"What is the purpose of life?" "Why is there no end to ethnic wars and corrupt politics?" So begins the conversation that quickly leads to the open Bible and a logical explanation....

Husbands in their "working prime" get transferred. The wife is lonely at home in the new community.... Then the kind visitors appear, considerate to the nth degree, willing to give needed advice on raising the children....

In Japan there are approximately

200,000 "Trinity-deniers," the Jehovah's Witnesses. "They offer a systematized view of history, the world, and values that encompass the changes in modern life. On top of that, they are pros at expressing love," states Keisuke Nakazawa (54), pastor of the Ono Christ Church of the Japan Baptist Church Association.

Nakazawa explains that this systematization is typical of a cultic mind set. "For instance, the founder of AUM, after first being initiated into a new esoteric Buddhist group, started the AUM Wizards' Association (*Shinsen no Kai*). He mastered Tibetan Buddhism, added some aspects of Christianity, and his religious organization quickly took cultic form. Holding to Buddhist doctrine that preaches 'emancipation' is in itself insufficient to create a cult.

Indeed, it is the eschatological perspective supported by the system of Christianity that became the driving force."

The craving for systematization is essential to the humanness of man, who "has eternity set in his heart," (Ecclesiastes 3:11). Historically the systems offered by past philosophies vanished like the clouds with the development of science. Then Socialistic thought that had fomented the *Zen-KyoTo* (student protest) generation died with the collapse of communism. "In an era that has no system of thought, the 'New New Religions' offer systematization, however absurd it might be. Though mind control is also covertly at work in proselytization, a cult is a substitute that has sunk deep roots into this universal craving of mankind and profited much from it.

"Only Evangelicalism can effectively counter the cults. Evangelicalism has a world view system which is based on the Bible. We need to deliver it in a form that will reach people of the 20th century. We must make sense to the Japanese society now." AUM preached a salvation for mankind, something



Christianity was supposed to be conveying all along. 4/28/96

(this article translated by Gil Zinke
Baptist General Conference)

Evangelizing Geographically

As we approach the year 2000 voices are calling for broader cooperation within the evangelistic effort in Japan. Certainly if churches and Christians are divided and fighting, it will be next to impossible to evangelize this country. It is the Lord's will that we be united so that people can see the living Christ.

I would like to make a proposal that could challenge us to see the importance of reaching the whole of Japan while emphasizing our local church ministry.

Where we are coming from

After the war there was much demand for pioneer evangelistic ministries, as we sought to reach our own areas. Most of our local church planting work was done in the main cities or in major cities in the rural areas.

It is natural for evangelism to be centered in places of high population-concentration, but on the other hand this has resulted in a lack of church planting in the harder places. Also it was not uncommon to have to withdraw from the difficult areas.

The same tendency was true of other aspects of Japan's life after the war. The nation chose to move along the road of industrial business. A surplus in the labor force was created by restructuring laws like the 1961 law that reorganized agriculture and wooed people to the big cities.

There is always the natural pull of the city which attracts people to flee the hard work and poverty of the rural area, but the choice toward industrialism accelerated the problem for Japan, and has a direct connection with the present uproar caused by the Jusen scandal. Our evangelism can also be placed in the midst of this rural to urban mentality.

Reaching out in a Japanese way

It is time now for churches that are already established in the cities to look at all of Japan through the eyes of our Lord. Our basic ministry must be to those in our local area as we meet people and share the gospel. However, along with this ministry we need to bring our people to remember Japan's broader geographical needs.

There are probably a number of people in your fellowship who have left their home area because of work or schooling. They have left family and friends back home. Is it impossible for us to stretch our concept of the local ministry to include those back home? Perhaps you can not do something immediately, but it should be possible to include this in your planning, remembering these places.

Then perhaps you could develop some kind of a relationship with the church in that area, following the natural relationships already present. There are probably already churches that have developed such relationships, but what power it would be if every church established these connections! This type of emphasis will help local churches to expand their vision for the whole of Japan.

What is needed now

Christians before and during the war were continually in conflict with the old family structure. After the war the foreign missionaries who came brought a style of evangelism which most often emphasized bringing individuals one by one to Christ from heathenism. This was certainly a necessary process and through their efforts many of us have come to Christ and enjoy the results of that work.

Now fifty years after the war it is time to launch out with a new understanding of our situation in order to share the gospel of reconciliation through the cross and proclaim the Creator God. This is not an easy task.

There is the urgent cry for supporting our parents, taking care of the elderly, and other pressing concerns. Issues of other religions and how best to present the gospel to them also need

our attention. But even more urgent is the need for us to become united and reach out to the whole of Japan.

Editorial by Rev. Nobumitsu Kataoka
3/3/96

Also Noted:

The Southern Baptist Media Center is now in the process of moving from their present location to new facilities near by. The new facility will permit an increased ministry in Japan and Asia.
4/7/96

Cooperation in Offerings for North Korea Flood Victims

For the first time the Japan National Council of Churches and the Japan Roman Catholic Church are cooperating in a fund raising project to raise up to ¥10,000,000 for the North Korean flood victims.
4/7/96

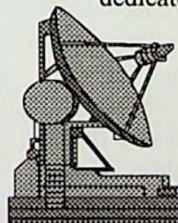
JOMA to Celebrate 25th

The November Meeting will celebrate the 25th year for JOMA (Japan Overseas Missionary Association). At the annual meeting held in April two new missionary agencies joined JOMA to increase the number of organizations to 20.
5/5/96

25th

Japan Satellite Evangelism Association Forms

In April interested groups gathered to form a new cooperative association dedicated to the regular use of satellite transmission of the gospel in Japan. Dr. Akira Hatori is the chairperson. They plan to have three satellite broadcasts during the year including a Christmas program.



Satellite broadcasting was first used for the gospel in Japan in November of 1990 with the Billy Graham Hong Kong Crusade. Subsequently several organizations have transmitted Christian broadcasts in Japan by satellite TV.

4/21/96

Nippon Revival Association (NRA) Organizes on May 27

(commentary by D. Wright)

The committee to organize the NRA has taken out full-page ads in the Christian Shinbun monthly for a total of five months including the future advertisements.

The advertisement heading includes reference to NCC and JEA, saying the NRA will now be the third major national group. It does appear that in contrast to the other two groups, NRA will include not only churches and para-church organizations, but also emphasize membership of individual Christians. This is in contrast to JEA which has strongly held to a church-based organization with no individual membership, and parachurch organizations having associate membership. As of the April 21st advertisement there are 501 individuals who have publicly expressed their commitment to the forming of NRA.

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15. Church Begins: Acts - 35 Lessons ¥1200
16. Chinese Art Calendars - from each October. Cheaper in quantity ¥150

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Letters to the editor

Dear Mrs. Sisco,
Thank you for the complimentary copies of *Japan Harvest*. The article is perfectly edited! Thank you. There is one correction I would like you to make, which is about the picture. The lady in the picture is not Mrs. Sweet, but Miss Dorothy Jeanes, a retired SEND missionary who worked for many years in Saitama Ken. I am sorry that I did not write an explanation of the photo.

In Christ,
Nobumasa Mitsuhashi



David Sweet
Dorothy Jeanes, Nobumasa Mitsuhashi

We are also very sorry for the assumption we made. *ed.*

Dear Mrs. Sisco,

As a missionary to Japan until 1973 and a professional in the field of CARING ministries to the Aged since then, I would like to commend *Japan Harvest* and Mrs. Beth Fuhriman for the excellent article which appeared in the Winter '95/'96 edition.

This article effectively reviews the real pain encountered when a loved one suffers from the impairments of advanced age or disease, and did an excellent job of reporting the difficulties involved in making the crucial

decisions concerning most appropriate setting for care.

Through its medical and social day care centers, residences and other supportive services, CARING, Inc. has been serving the frail and impaired aged for 19 years, providing a "today-worth-the-living" with our Lord Jesus Christ as our meaning in life and our hope in death. This is done through alternatives to institutional placement. We are acutely aware of these issues and I congratulate *Japan Harvest* for dealing with this timely topic.

Christians
Aware of their
Responsibility to
Individuals in
Need of
Grace
In His caring,
A.J. Underland, DHL
President and CEO

Dear Katie and Ron,

Greetings from my new address—the last, I hope this side of Heaven!

I was very interested to read in the *Harvest* the translation of that old *Christian Shinbun* article—but amused about the reference to the missionaries' teeth! I can verify that was not true. My sister certainly has her own teeth still, and I have met others who did, too, I'm sure. Also, there were only, I think at the most, 12 in the group, not 30.

Incidentally, have you seen the video which the NHK made of "Beulah Son" which Mrs. Kayama (mentioned in the article) runs in Fukuoka and where Violet McGrath of that mission lives? Kathie Morris of Victoria was one of the JRM group and another, Miss Florence Penny, is still in Japan.

I do enjoy the *Harvest* these days!
In His love,
Elizabeth Palmer,
England

Dear Katie,

What a pleasure to read your magazine, *Japan Harvest!* Thank you so much for the copy. I enjoyed every article. I would like to subscribe and I've enclosed a check to cover the cost plus a small donation.

I was very sorry I was unable to attend the conference with Kay Arthur, but I am so happy that some from our community could attend. At the very same time, we were conducting the Precept Level I training for 13 people.

We will be in Japan for another year and a half, so I have hopes that at some time I will be able to meet you. May God bless you richly in your work!

Donna Moorefield,
Misawa Air Base

Alliance Dedicates New Headquarters

May 19, 1996 was a great day of celebration when the **Christian and Missionary Alliance** dedicated their new building in Higashi Tokorozawa. The Alliance has just marked 103 years of ministry in Japan. Now these new offices, chapel, guest apartment and residence will take the C&MA into the year 2000 and beyond.

Richard Kropp, field director, gave the dedicatory message. Bringing music was the "Deborah" group, four talented women from C&MA's Kotesashi church.

The building was constructed by **Master's Service**, under the able direction of Bill Walker. The property was obtained through the services of Takeshi Sato, head of Goho Shoji Real Estate Company.

The new address is: 36-3,
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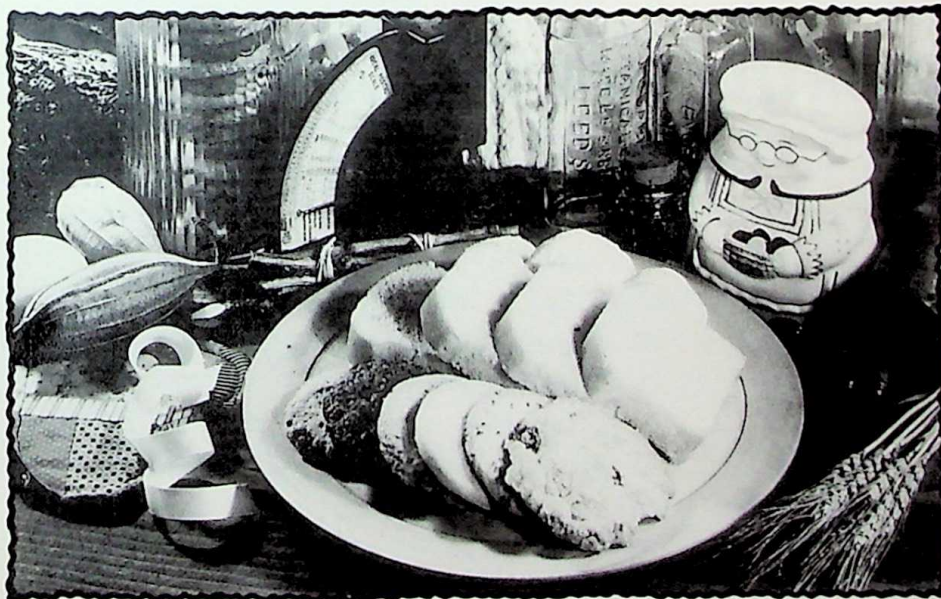
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Warm heart communication by Aunt Stella



Aunt Stella's home-made cookies

In the later part of the 18th century, when the German settlers came to Pennsylvania, they brought with them not only their culture but also their old family recipes. One of the German families by the name of Dunkle, whose daughter Stella liked to bake, developed many cookie recipes which we are happy to introduce to you.

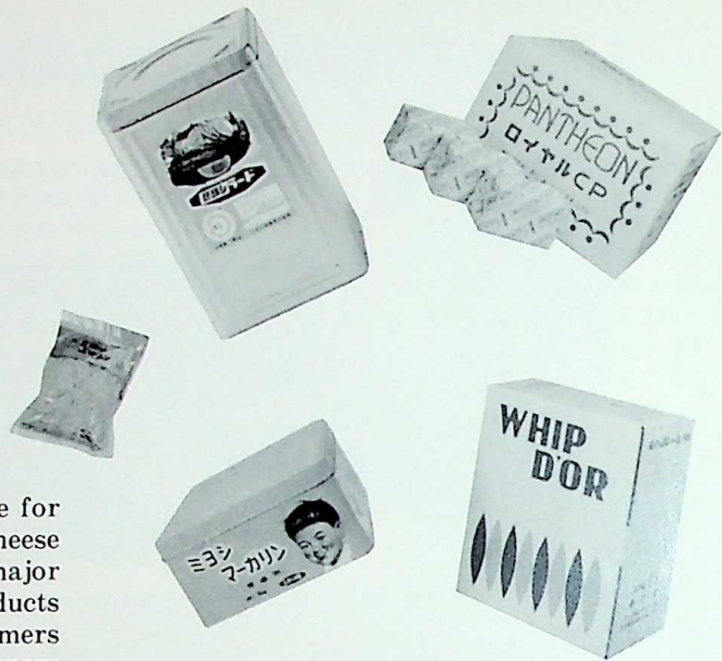
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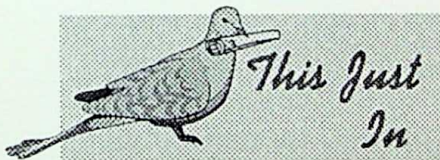
*Seiji Nishimura
President*



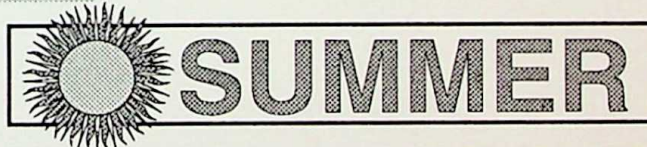
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Due to the closing of the WLPM English Book Department, all imported English stock must be sold this summer. Imported English books and Bibles 50% off, cassettes ¥500. Children's books galore! Many other bargains for ¥100, ¥300, ¥500. Get more for your yen!

Those who cannot come to the summer stores can contact Don Regier and come to the WLPM warehouse in Hachioji and buy their bargains before the end of June.



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