

JAPAN HARVEST



Obedient to His Voice

inside:

Living Cameos

Change Methods Not Message

They Waited/God Answered

Harvest Time TV Program

Okinawa Christian School

Revival Signs

“CHRIST IS ALL” (Colossians 3:11)

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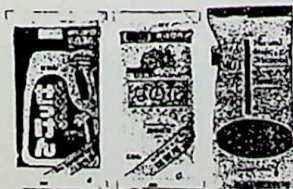


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JAPAN HARVEST

Volume 48, No. 2/Fall 1997

Obedient to His Voice

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Cover Photo *courtesy of Bostrom family*

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In This Harvest ...

Obedient to His Voice

As this issue came together I saw the recurrent theme of obedience to the Lord's voice. There's Armin and Evelyn Kroehler who have worked steadfastly in Japan since shortly after the War, in the face of Evelyn's experience as a teenager here during the War.

Neil and Peggy Verwey, who also arrived in Japan in the 50's, have a sweet testimony of obedience to His still, small voice in big things as well as the seemingly insignificant.

You'll read about Kiyoshi Togasaki, who couldn't live with himself unless he was obedient to the Lord.

Our "cover couple," John and Naomi Bostrom, waited a long time for their special day in obedience to the Lord.

Ken Nakagawa, of Harvest Time Ministries, obeyed the Lord step by step into a growing TV outreach to Japanese.

Years ago in Nagoya, a small group of believers, led by Clark Offner, had the vision to start an unusual ministry via telephone—and people have responded to the Lord's voice.

Hundreds of years before that, a young Japanese boy in obedience to God called his people to "tachikairi."

Another precious testimony of obedience to God's voice is in the story of Koji and Susie Ishikawa—God's people with big hearts and a big vision for the Japanese church.

The Okinawa Christian School International is experiencing God's blessing because of people like Mark and Sarah Zosel's obedience to the Lord's voice.

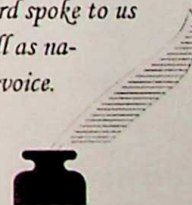
At GCOWE this summer Japan rep Hugh Nelson joined with brothers and sisters from all over to hear the Lord's voice concerning world mission.

In prison in Australia Chika Honda learns trusting obedience to the Lord in continuing trial.

Ioanna Sillavan shares a personal story of how prompt obedience to the Lord's voice eternally impacted a family and a neighborhood in Kyoto.

I heard God's voice through all these stories—as well as at JEMA Conference this summer as the Lord spoke to us through Tom Phillips about personal, as well as national, revival. I want to be obedient to His voice.

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

Jesus' disciples asked, "Tell us...what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

I wonder if they were thinking that if they knew the signs they could relax until those signs became apparent. This summer at the Karuizawa JEMA Conference, Dr. Tom Phillips shared with us the seven signs of revival as outlined by Charles Finney. (See the "Echoes" report on pp. 17-19.) It would be a temptation to look at these signs and evaluate our times by them, and completely miss what God is speaking to our hearts personally.

Let me confess something to you. (I'm not trying to fabricate one of the signs of revival—confession of sin one to another.) By the nature of my position in JEMA I hear reports from various parts of Japan that allow me to make some reasonable evaluations regarding the times in which we live. It would be

easy to check off the seven signs and make some predictions of the coming revival in Japan. For example:

By sheer statistical chance, if God is going to make a sovereign move in Japan by His Spirit, the odds are higher today that revival is just around the corner than, say, fifty years ago or even five years ago.

On the train I ride to the JEMA office in Ochanomizu I see young men pouring over porno comics and businessmen unashamedly reading sports newspapers revealing pornographic pictures in plain view of all sitting across from him. I fight with conflicting feelings of indignation along with complacency that this flood of media smut cannot be stopped.

JEMA's annual Prayer Summit is becoming a highlight of the year for more and more missionaries as well as Japanese pastors. "Prayer movements", "Revival movements" and even Japanese Promise Keepers are placing more and more emphasis on prayer here in Japan. I hear of these things from a variety of people—not just one particular group.

I have been in meetings with Japanese and Korean pastors in the past couple of years where it seems the central event has been the confession of sin against one another. It seems the meetings can't really get started until this happens.

I understand that in just this past year there have been church leaders who so believed in revival that they sacrificed their denominational affiliations to make "revival" happen.

Desperate men do desperate things. I sense in the Church of Japan a growing desperation to see something happen.

All of these signs of the coming revival we could check off the list and declare with confidence, "Revival is on its way in Japan!" but as Tom Phillips admonishes us, we have missed the point if we are looking at these signs.

When will revival come to Japan? When I open my heart to Him in personal revival and am Obedient to His Voice. As Tom Phillips reiterated at the Conference, "I, if no one else, can be a walking revival."

JEMA Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Place
October 20th~24th	<i>Church Planter's Institute</i>	Okutama SEND Bible Chalet
October 30th~November 1st	<i>JEMA Women's Kansai Retreat</i>	Okayama Hiruzen Camp
February 1st~3rd, 1998	<i>Leaders' Consultation and JEMA Plenary Session</i>	Okutama SEND Bible Chalet and Ochanomizu Christian Center
March 17th~19th, 1998	<i>JEMA Women's Retreat with Barbara Hughes</i>	Karuizawa Megumi Chalet

Obedient to His Voice



Armin

Evelyn

Living Cameos

by the editor

Evelyn Schroer didn't want to be a missionary to Japan. She knew what the cost could be. She was fifteen years old that December morning in 1941 when the Japanese police appeared at their door and took her parents away.

That story is beautifully written in a book called *Through The Storm*. Gilbert and Cornelia Schroer had already been missionaries in Japan for almost 20 years when the Japanese bombed Pearl Har-

bor and their personal "storm" began.

Evelyn believes that the main message of the book is her father's testimony of God's presence and keeping power during his six months in a Japanese prison in Morioka. Evelyn experienced internment, too, along with her mother and younger sister, Nancy. Earlier in 1941, when other foreigners had decided to leave for their home countries, each of the Schroers had made the decision to stay. They believed that God had called them to Japan and would keep them through whatever might be ahead.

In the end, they were repatriated in exchange for Japanese prisoners from the United States in the summer of 1942. But it wasn't really the end. Mr. and Mrs. Schroer returned to Morioka in the mid-50's where they worked together until Gilbert's death in 1980.

for two years of language study and then went to Aizu Takada Machi in Fukushima Ken at the specific invitation of a pastor Endo.

As a youngster Endo-san had first heard the Gospel from missionary H.H. Cook, whose testimony had been influential in Gilbert Schroer's decision to give his life to Christ as a missionary to Japan. Years later, shortly after WWII, Endo Sensei traveled to Tokyo to talk with another missionary, Mr. Kriete.

"What is it you need most?" Mr. Kriete asked him. "How can we help you? Do you need food? clothes?"

"I want the first new career missionaries that arrive," was Pastor Endo's answer. And that was Armin and Evelyn Kroehler. Now 47 years later, they are still there as "active retirees."



With believers in Miyako in a church Evelyn's parents worked with, July 1997

Armin's brother, William and his wife, Laverne, joined them in Japan in 1959 and are still teaching in Saitama Ken.

In the Aizu area the United Church of Christ in Japan has eleven churches now and they are waiting and hoping for new missionaries to come and fill Armin and Evelyn's shoes.

Through The Storm can be obtained from the Kroehlers, 3651-1 Monju Higashi Ko, Aizu Takada Machi, Onuma Gun, Fukushima Ken, 969-62. Tel: 0242-54-4685 Price: ¥1200, including postage



The Schroer Family in 1941

Meanwhile Evelyn, who thought no one would love her enough to marry her (and she DIDN'T want to go to Japan as a single missionary), was already in Japan with her husband, Armin Kroehler, to welcome her parents back!

Armin was assigned by their mission to Japan when Evelyn met him and that is how God brought her back to the land of her birth. She doesn't think she's linguistically gifted—but God had already prepared her with the language. And she loves being here—this is 'home.'

When they arrived in 1950 they stayed in Tokyo



SCHROER Gilbert & Cornelia Schroer's grave, Morioka, July, 1997

Change the methods, keep the message

by the editor

Neil Verwey believes that Jesus' advice to His disciples after their night of fishing failure has a strong application to missionary ministry.

"Children, have you any fish?"
'No.'

'Cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.'

So they cast it, and were not able to haul it in, for the quantity of fish."

Obedience to the Lord's voice, sometimes against "common sense," is the key to "fishing" in Japan. Neil and Peggy Verwey have been listening and changing methods with the times to share the unchanging truth.

In the early 50's Japan was still recovering from the War, people were very aware of their need, TB was a deadly killer and there were hungry souls wherever the Verweys went. The Lord led them into a very specific hospital ministry, so that by 1960 the **Japan Mission**, which they founded in '57, was reaching patients in eighteen hospitals through one on one visitation.

Yet within a 100 mile radius of their headquarters there were 1,117 hospitals, and those were only a fraction of the then 7,500 hospitals throughout Japan. What method could they use to reach all these hospitals?

As they and their growing Japanese staff of workers (they eventually had 30) visited patients, they noticed that many hospitals were equipped with radios, and patients could listen through earphones. In hospitals without radio equipment, the patients often had transistor radios of their own. Neil's investigations revealed that PBA, broadcasting 50 programs a week from Tokyo, was getting 40,000 requests for Bible correspondence courses—about half of those from tuberculosis patients!

He knew then how the Japan Mis-

sion could reach out to Japan's 3,000,000 TB patients. They were to set up their own broadcast. PBA staff encouraged them to ask the

Lord for a sponsor for an initial 15 minute program. With their staff they set aside a day of fasting and prayer, and the Lord gave them unity to believe Him for this giant step of faith. (A 15 minute program would require a budget of \$900 a month.) They decided on the program format, the speakers and technicians, and the name—"The Voice of Joy."

Letters began to come in response to the broadcasts. At first hundreds, then thousands, and later tens of thousands of letters a week. God added to their staff in order to handle the enormous amount of mail—but it was soon evident that they needed another form of communication to remain in touch with all their listeners.

And so the little leaflet, *Fountain of Joy*, (*Yorokobi no Izumi*) which their right-hand-man, Mr. Sato, had begun for patients and ex-patients, was expanded into six pages suitable for the radio listeners as well. After 40 years, 50,000 of these pamphlets continue to go out each month, with pertinent testimonies of Japanese who have come to Christ. Printed by New Life League, "*Fountain of Joy*" can be ordered in quantity with the back page available for the church or individual ministry to add their own article and information.

Neil had thought of the possibilities of a tract ministry and calculated that it would cost about \$10,000 to publish a million tracts and another \$10,000 to mail them to a million homes. He figured that with their present staff of fifty, in

cluding all the wives and children old enough to stuff envelopes and lick stamps, it would take at least 3 1/2 years to get the mailing ready.

In contrast, he realized that the same task could be accomplished in one afternoon, for less than a thousand dollars—by buying newspaper space. Japan is one of the world's most literate countries, with printing presses pouring out over 26 million newspapers every day. Again the Lord provided the financial resources and exactly the right people for this new evangelistic outreach. On October 5, 1964 the first advertisement ran in the Mainichi paper. By the end of that year 3,869 people had requested and received free New Testaments, 649 had enrolled in the correspondence course, 72 asked to be introduced to the nearest church, and 48 had accepted Christ.

Typical of the letters received was that of a woman who had grown up thinking money was the most important thing in life. She had lived through sixteen years of a loveless marriage because of this attitude, realized in reading

the ad that money is not everything and asked for a Bible. Or that of the man with an incurable disease, trying to drown his troubles in *sake*, who saw the ad and found help in God's Word.

There were days when 1000 communications came in response to the newspaper evangelism, and all this time responses were still pouring in to the "**Voice of Joy.**"



Answers were carefully and prayerfully written. One man wrote saying he wept when he received a seven page letter in answer to his questions.

A desperate man in a hospital on Awaji Island heard the "**Voice of Joy**" program and sent an urgent letter, "I am

planning to commit suicide, but after hearing your program I've decided to wait three days...if you can help me...." One of the evangelists rushed to Awaji Island, found this hopeless man and led him to Christ. He had not had a visitor in thirty years.

The "Voice of Joy" went far beyond Radio Osaka. It was also broadcast from Okinawa and Manila by FEBC and used over HCJB in Quito, Ecuador. It was even broadcast for Japanese listeners in the US.

In tune with the times, the next method the Lord led the Verweys into was "Operation Film Evangelism" using Moody Institute of Science films translated into Japanese. A film library in their "Osaka Center" soon had 57 films and 15 projectors available, often many of them in use on the same night.

Challenged by the Lord to produce films that were specifically by Japanese for Japanese, the Verweys began with *Take-Off for Glory*, the testimony of a Japanese Christian. Eventually they expanded into videos, dubbing them into Japanese. They now have a great variety including, for example, Focus on the Family's *McGee and Me*.

This arm of Japan Mission is called **SAVE**, Shinnihon Audio Visual Evangelism. A free catalog is available by contacting them at:

Tel: 06-923-2212, Fax: 06-923-2284

Their newest method of presenting the same wonderful message of salvation through Christ Jesus is "Joy Clubs." Neil and Peggy have always said you start where the interest is—you go for the felt need. **Joy Clubs** use English as the drawing card to get first children and then families into the church.

A well-known Japanese proverb talks about the "threshold that is too high"—"shikii ga takai." This has often been said about the church in Japan. It's a difficult place to enter. Through the years English has proved to be a valid way to draw Japanese people to the Gospel. The statistics are high regarding believers today who were originally attracted to the church through English.

The Verweys have thrown their hearts into this proven method. "We learned early," Neil says, "that you can't just say, 'Please come to church,' you have to play them in gently like a fish...."

The **Joy Club** plan involves short-term workers who commit to at least two years in Japan. They now have eight short termers along with several full-time workers from England and the United States. They hold weekly classes in forty churches which takes a lot of organizing.



Neil and Peggy Verwey

Neil and Peggy smile as he tells you that Peggy doesn't shine in the kitchen, but she's a GREAT organizer.

Along with all their ministry in Japan, the Verweys have also become involved in hospital evangelism in Korea. They support Korean evangelists on a regular basis and their hearts go to other Asian countries as well.

A special joy for them was when their son, David, with his wife, Sue, joined them as full-time workers in 1987. David and Sue are carrying more of the administrative role in the Mission these days. And there are grandchildren growing up in Japan and catching the vision from Neil and Peggy Verwey.

They've been flexible with the methods but straight and true with the Message. That integrity comes from lives lived in humbleness before the Lord. The following story is from their book, **Voice of Joy**, and speaks louder than a sermon.

"One day in 1954 a man Neil had never seen before asked to use his bicycle. "Yes, you may," Neil replied. As a matter of principle Neil had the worst bicycle in the Mission, but he brought it out of the shed and the man wheeled it away—and never returned.

"A few weeks later Neil met him on the street. 'What happened to my bicycle?'"

"Oh, I was rather short of money, and I decided to take it to the pawn shop."

"Neil felt his cheeks flush with anger. He almost exclaimed, 'How on earth can you put my bicycle in a pawn shop?' but instead he whispered inwardly, 'Lord, what would You like to do about this case?'"

"It was as if the Lord said, 'Give him the money you have with you.'"

"What? Give money to the man who had stolen his bicycle? But since he had learned to obey the Lord without question, he gave the fellow all the money he had with him.

"Not until several days later did Neil learn that on *that* day the man had been on his way to commit suicide because he had no money to buy food for his wife and children. Because of Neil's gift, the man's life had been saved.

"Neil lost contact with the man until sometime during 1980, when Doi Sensei, a Japan Mission evangelist, said to him one day, "A TB patient I am visiting says that he stole something from you and wants to make restitution." "No Japanese ever stole anything from me," Neil assured him. But when the patient fell on his face, pleading for his forgiveness, Neil suddenly recalled the bicycle episode. At that time Mr. Mimura, the bicycle thief, and his wife made a profession of faith.

"Neil's next contact with Mr. Mimura was at the beginning of 1996 when he contacted Neil again and told him he was dying of cancer. Neil arranged for him to enter a Christian hospice. "My wife and I have Psalm 23 to carry us through," Mr Mimura declared with the glow of heaven on his face, when Neil visited him.

"How can I weep when my husband is so victorious?" his wife added. On September 22, 1996, Mr. Mimura peacefully slipped into eternity."

Books I recommend from Japan Mission:

**Even Unto Death
On All Bare Heights
On Eagles' Wings
No Greater Love**

Price: ¥500 ed.



A FRIEND TO REMEMBER

by Kenny Joseph

(reprinted with permission from the Japan Times, May 10, 1997)

My tutor, as I traveled aboard the American President's Line ship in April 1951, was Mr. Kiyoshi Togasaki, Christian businessman and publisher of the Nippon Times (Japan Times of today).

The twelve passengers aboard the ship ate their meals in formal fashion with the captain. When the stately Mr. Togasaki learned that my parents were from the city of Nineveh, now Mosul, Iraq, where Jonah went to preach God's judgment upon the Assyrians, (*the king repented and made everyone fast and pray to avert God's impending judgment. It worked. To this day the Assyrians call themselves the "only Christian nation in the world." Four million Assyrians worldwide have no country today*) his amazing response was, "Persians, Assyrians, Nestorians? Your people brought over to us three priceless treasures: the Bible's Gospel, democracy and medicine."

After telling me some of Japan's history that is no longer to be found in books, he said, "Japanese history is fairy tales. You must become a lifelong student of true history and proponent of this magnificent unwritten Christian testimony. Yale University's Kenneth Scott Latourette called Nestorians 'the greatest missionary movement the world has ever seen!'"

In the course of those two weeks across the Pacific, I formed a friendship with this true, upright Japanese gentleman. He told me his own story of how he, as an import-export businessman, lost everything in the tragic San Francisco earthquake of 1928.

Because all records were burned, there was an amnesty on debts. You didn't have to pay for anything for which you could find no bill. But he said, "I'm a Japanese Christian! I got in my horse-drawn buggy and went to every single company or person I owed a dollar to. We wrote from memory all

the bills and I paid every last penny. How could I do anything else before an all-seeing, all-knowing God?"

Then he showed me pictures of himself preaching to thousands of people before and after World War II. He hand printed huge song sheets one by one, and after leading the singing, he preached the Gospel. His favorite message was, "Jesus said, *I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*" Togasaki asked, "How could I preach God's pure Gospel with an impure heart?"



The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin
The Light of the world is Jesus
Like sunshine at noonday His glory shone in,
The Light of the world is Jesus.

Come to the Light, tis shining for Thee.
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me.
Once I was blind, but now I can see.
The Light of the world is Jesus.

To understand the significance of my meeting with Mr. Togasaki you need to know my background. My parents escaped a holocaust in 1917 when more than 180,000 Christians were massacred by Turkish Muslims. They were "boat people" who ended up in Chicago where I was born. I grew up hearing horror stories from cousins and family friends.

When I told my parents that God had called me to Japan, my father fumed. "You're crazy! Those Japanese men walk around with two swords, one big and one small. If they get mad, they'll kill you!"

Therefore, when I met this godly man, I was overwhelmed. For the ship's Sunday services, he led the singing and I preached. He also took the offering and dedicated it to my future work in Japan. That was the first offering I received from a Japanese.

What did I learn from Mr. Togasaki?

- ◆ Punctuality—*jikan genshu*
- ◆ Neatness—*kichin toshite*
- ◆ Frugality—*setsuyaku*
- ◆ Integrity—*shinyo*
- ◆ Knowing and repaying obligations—*giri-ninjo* and *on*
- ◆ Filial piety—*oyakoko*
- ◆ Respect for elders—*sempai sonkei*
- ◆ Tighten your belt and go one more notch—*gambare*
- ◆ Honesty—*shojiki*
- ◆ Reality vs phony spirituality—*honno and tatema*

He didn't have to parade it, it showed in the sparkle in his eyes. A man at peace with himself and God. Those ten lessons, along with many more that I learned from Mr. Togasaki, stood me in good stead with all of the victories and defeats of working, loving, suffering and surviving in Japan since 1951. Why? Because that is what a Japanese Christian can become.

There's a saying that to tell if a stick is crooked, put it alongside a straight one. Togasaki was a "straight stick." Every time I am discouraged or disappointed in a situation or a person, I remember Mr. Togasaki, or how hardy Assyrian-Nestorian missionaries took six months on horseback, sleeping under the stars, eating mutton softened under their saddles during the day for their 'sukiyaki' at night—so they could bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Japan some 1800 years ago.

Kiyoshi Togasaki's favorite song was "*The Light of the World is Jesus.*" The Nestorians preached the *ten shu*, 'luminous religion'—about the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, who is still Japan's only hope.

Kenny Joseph has been in Japan for 45 years. He and his wife, Lila, started REAP (Reinforcing Evangelists and Aiding Pastors) Mission Tokyo.

They Waited God Answered

by Berni Marsh

As parents, pastors or missionaries we all face the challenge of counseling young couples who are preparing for marriage. This is a joy but also a great responsibility.

One question couples have asked me down through the years is a "biggie." "Should we wait for our parents' consent, or not?" My usual response as a missionary pastor has been, "Yes. Since marriage binds not only you two but also your families together, let's pray and believe that if this marriage is God's will, your parents will agree to your plans."

We saw God do this for eighteen lovely couples and then we seemed to hit an impossibility! Naomi's parents wouldn't even discuss the idea with John. Their opposition came not from the fact that John was a foreigner but because he and Naomi would not comply with their wishes for worship at the Buddhist altar. Two years of waiting and praying followed but there appeared to be no change.

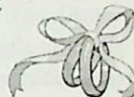
I had a very personal interest in this marriage. I am John's auntie and he had asked me to perform the wedding ceremony. Marriage without Naomi's parents' consent might mean that Naomi would have to break all family ties. Would this strengthen her witness to them of what God meant to her or would it appear only as a selfish desire for her own happiness?

John's whole family struggled with this decision and once again wedding plans were postponed.

Prayer was offered continually but God seemed to be silent.

Then God showed us His great power. Naomi's parents not only gave their consent but insisted on inviting almost 500 guests for the celebration. And to everyone's amazement, during his speech at the end of the reception, Naomi's father apologized to the Bostrom family for all the sorrow he had caused them. Tears flowed freely!

"Should we wait for our parents' consent or not?"



And would you believe it, he and his wife just traveled to America with John and Naomi to meet all their American relatives! How about that for God's loving faithfulness?!



John and Naomi Bostrom

Berni Marsh has been a missionary in Japan since 1955. John Bostrom grew up in Japan. His mother, Lois Bostrom, is Berni Marsh's sister. George and Lois Bostrom served the Lord in Japan from 1954 to 1989, when George went to be with the Lord. Lois has continued to minister in Japan along with some of her children.

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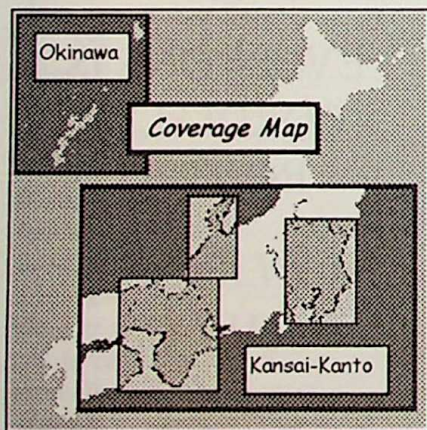
"OPEN YOUR EYES AND

By Kenichi Nakagawa

Dir., Harvest Time Ministries

The words "Harvest Time" were, to me, a clearly prophetic word from the Lord. At the time we began this ministry, I sought God very earnestly for direction and He guided me through His Word in John 4:35: "Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest?' I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (NIV)

The imagery of that verse was vivid to me as I thought of it in relation to Japan and God let me see that our country is surely approaching a time of harvest. The years that have passed since then have only served to strengthen that vision within me. Harvest time is coming and I will tell you why I think so.



I was saved in college and, at graduation, felt a sense of call to the ministry. I wasn't sure about how to proceed, however, so I entered the business world first. In looking back on those next six years, I can see how God very clearly used those experiences to train me in business principles. Without that knowledge and experience it would have been impossi-

ble for me to function successfully in the area of mass media.

I remember, as well, the first time I really saw the tremendous impact television had on people. I had started working at *McDonald's Japan* right after the company began operating here. I was the national purchasing manager and, of course, was responsible for making income projections for the company. *McDonald's* had just started running TV ads and within a month, our sales had doubled. I was literally shocked at the power of TV and realized for the first time what an impact it could have for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Not long afterwards, I resigned from *McDonald's* and my wife and I moved to the United States for theological studies at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. My testimony even made it into the school paper with the headline: "From Hamburgers to Homiletics."

While in the U.S. for those three years, I was introduced to the powerful TV ministries of American evangelical groups. This further encouraged me in the direction of television, so, after completing my studies, we returned to Japan and I began to work with the *PTL Club* (which had just opened an office in Tokyo) while I was pastoring a church.

The six years I spent with *PTL* were a real learning experience. Though everyone was hurt and discouraged by the later scandal in the U.S., I must say without hesitation that Jim Bakker's investment in the Japanese broadcasts bore tremendous fruit in my life and in the future of Christian broadcasting in Japan.

I left *PTL* about two years before the scandal broke. I had had a growing sense that God was calling me to start an indigenous media ministry. I had no funds at the time and the odds against such a vision (as well as the opinions of

many friends) were greatly against us.

However, faith really rose up inside of me. I became absolutely convinced—despite all that I could see—that God would abundantly supply every one of our needs. God gave me a special gift of faith during this period of new beginnings.

"I was literally shocked at the power of TV.."

As we began to produce our first programs, however, I became discouraged again because of the low technical quality of our equipment and began to think that we would never make it after all.

Harvest Time Ministries Data Bank

- Harvest Time seen on 14 regional Japanese stations with saturation in the Kansai, Kanto, and Okinawa areas.
- U.S. broadcasts in Hawaii, LA, San Diego, New York, and Ft. Worth and Plano, Texas.
- Approximately 1 million viewers per week.
- Over 900 cooperating churches and 6,000 individual supporters.
- Japan distributor for "Living Life" devotional guide (Japanese and English editions).
- Monthly video tape service.
- Worship/praise tapes and CDs, books for growing faith, and Christian growth seminars on tape.
- Seminars, publications, and tapes on Jewish evangelism and the Messianic Jewish movement. Yearly tours to Israel.
- Web site address:
<http://www.harvestjapan.org>

LOOK AT THE FIELDS!"



Harvest Time Team

Joining Rev. Nakagawa and guests every week are (left) Ioanna Sillavan and Yuri Mori (far right). Mrs. Sillavan is a former fashion model. She and her husband, Nicholas, live and minister in Kyoto. They have been missionaries in Japan since 1983. Ms. Mori, from Osaka, is a former vocalist featured on NHK programs, now involved in full-time Gospel music recording and ministry.

in my own life and ministry, as I know many of you have. Unfortunately, we are often creatures with short memories and even shorter attention spans. God, however, is the Ancient of Days who does all things in His time and for His own pleasure. He has not forgotten Japan.

I especially want to say that to encourage the many missionaries who have labored here for so long, often with very little visible result. You are precious to God and important to the Japanese people. Be assured that the emphasis in all our broadcasts will

always be the basic message of the Gospel—the Cross of Christ—and its effect on the people that it transforms.

Of all the responses we get from people who have watched our program, the ones that encourage me the most are always the ones who say, "Now, I want to go to church." We are, without a doubt, truly laborers together with God.

May we all drink deeply of His Grace to fully meet the challenge of the coming **Harvest Time**.

Just at that time, however, the Lord used a non-Christian producer at a secular TV station to give me a Word from Him. This man saw how discouraged I was after one day of shooting and commented to me afterward, "Didn't your Christ start out in a manger? Why don't you do the same?"

This fitly-spoken word was truly like "...apples of gold in settings of silver" to me (Prov. 25:11). Although the next two years were quite hard, we finally became convinced that we could continue our ministry with the support of Japanese churches and individuals.

When we started here, I immediately began making a long-term plan for this ministry. I knew that in the near future we would need to prepare for the challenge of cable and satellite television distribution to reach this nation for Christ. We completed our present facility here in Shizuoka in the summer of 1992 and now we have the complete freedom to produce anything we want in our own studio.

Relying on secular facilities was a tremendous limitation on our calling. But now, when the day arrives that the first 24-hour Christian satellite television network in Japan becomes a reality—and we are coming nearer to it each

"We aim to help transform the Japanese culture with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

year—we will be ready to immediately begin production. We will be ready to produce evangelistic and cultural programs with a biblical worldview. We aim to help transform the Japanese culture with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And everything that we've done in the last 12 years has been done to build an infra-structure for that future.

I have a very positive outlook for the coming years. There is certainly a harvest time coming for Japan because our God is the God of the impossible and the incredible. I have seen him do both



Rev. Kenichi Nakagawa was born in 1947 and grew up in Osaka. He graduated from Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo in 1970 and spent six years in business until God called him into full-time ministry. He earned an M.Div. degree in 1977 from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois and returned to Japan in 1979 to pioneer a church in Tokyo. Harvest Time Ministries was begun in 1986 and has grown to become the largest television ministry in Japan. He and his wife, Fumie, have four children. They live and minister in Susono Shi, Shizuoka Ken.

A TIME FOR SOWING

by Clark Offner

"A man scatters seed...Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain..." (Mark 4:26-28)

This is the Bible passage that comes to mind as I think over the past 18 years since I began a telephone service from our church in Takahama, Aichi Ken on January 1, 1979.

Our little church had a telephone, but since there was no resident pastor (we are still continuing our search for one) and I commute from my home in Nagoya, usually no one is at the church on days when there are no meetings. The church officers agreed with my proposal to purchase and utilize an answering machine so that members and others could call at any time and listen to a 2 and 1/2 minute Christian message.

Called *Kyo no Messeji* (Message for Today), the messages are often related to the season or special days in the church or civil calendar. Sometimes I mention Japanese or American proverbs and how English words are (mis)used in Japanese. I record the messages on days I am at church and a member who lives nearby goes daily to change the tape. Nowadays as I have become busier I use tapes from years past.

Many people, related and unrelated to our church, have been encouraged and received blessing from the taped messages. About four years ago, a well-to-do Christian lady from Nagoya wrote to the church officers suggesting that a book of these messages be published to extend their effect. She and another Christian lady provided a major portion of the publishing expense. Our church officers agreed and decided to publish a daily devotional type book. Copies of

about 1300 of my handwritten manuscripts were made and four committees appointed to choose the ones they considered most appropriate for each day in the three months of the year for which they were responsible.

They then made the necessary corrections to my peculiar Japanese and changed the Bible translation from the *kogo-yaku* (colloquial) to the *shin-kyodo-yaku* (New United) translation. This book of daily messages was published by the *Kirisuto Shinbunsha* under the title *Kokoro no Sanpo-michi* in December 1994.

IMPERIAL FOOTNOTE

A month after the book's publication, I quite brazenly sent a copy to their majesties, Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. I included a personal letter, noting that both of them had some Christian influence in their younger days and suggesting that they might be interested in these messages by a long-time resident of Japan, a foreign missionary, who included personal observations regarding Japanese customs, comparisons of Japanese and American proverbs and word usage, etc.

To my surprise, a month later I received a telephone call from the *kunai-cho* (Imperial Household Agency) informing me that the book had been received and passed on to their majesties. The following New Year, I sent one of my regular New Year's cards to them with an English sentence added: "I hope you sometimes peek at the book, *Kokoro no Sanpo-michi*, I sent you last year."

A couple of weeks later another phone call from the *kunai-cho* informed me that the card had been received and passed on to their majesties. So who knows, as the messages continue to be transmitted from our Takahama Church (0566-52-2732), they may also be read by someone in the imperial household.

A NEW CHAPTER

After continuing the telephone service for over a year, I surmised that a similar service in English from my home in Nagoya would meet with a favorable response by students of English who would jump at the chance to hear a na-

tive English speaker give a short, different, informative, and meaningful message that could be heard at their convenience. On September 1, 1980 I began such a service called "Daily Word."

For that purpose I purchased a separate telephone (052-794-6422) and answering machine for my study. Every night I recorded the message for the following day. Messages were not limited to Bible passages or Christian truths, but often Scripture is quoted and Christian truth is presented. The content varies: national holidays in various countries, birthdays of famous people, anniversaries of historical events, meanings of words, current events, moral problems, personal experiences, exposition of Bible passages, etc. Making use of many reference books, I enjoy composing the messages, and an apprecia-



tive audience emerged, especially after the service was reported in various newspapers and on radio and television.

The following year, our first meeting for listeners was held in a downtown church. Subsequently it became our custom to hold meetings on the afternoons of the fifth Sundays (on average four times a year. Our 67th meeting was held in August 1997).

At such meetings, listeners have repeatedly attended from as far away as Fukushima and Okayama prefectures. In response to the listeners' desire, printed copies of the messages are sent out each week to those who send a self-addressed, stamped envelope plus ¥30 in stamps (to cover copying cost) for each week of messages desired.

Two years later, the first issue of "Daily Word Echoes," made up of my corrected versions of essays submitted by listeners on themes I suggested in the messages, was published. At our August 1997 meeting, issue #57 was available.

TELEPHONE COMPANY GETS INVOLVED

In the summer of 1983, I received a visit by a couple of men from the telephone company who informed me that they had received many complaints that the "Daily Word" telephone number

was always busy and requesting an investigation. As a result, they monitored that number and brought me the statistics, showing that more people were getting the busy signal than were getting through. They told me I needed two more lines to handle all the calls. I replied that while I was paying a monthly charge for a telephone I never use, their corporation was making a considerable profit from my service. They recognized my point—but I still ought to have two more telephones! I told them I would consider it.

I opened a postal transfer account in the name of "Daily Word" and informed listeners that if 70 listeners who wanted to avoid busy signals would each deposit ¥1000 in that account, I could buy another line and answering machine. The amount was received and another line hooked up. This system continued for two and a half years when I received a visit from officials of the newly created NTT (Nippon Telegraph and Telephone) Corporation. They informed me that they were willing to repurchase the two telephones and make "Daily Word" an NTT service.

I made clear that my messages often include Bible verses and Christian teaching and that I would not accept their offer if there was any restriction on the message content. They replied that the only restriction was that I could not use the messages to sell anything.

When I asked how they would respond to a request from another religious organization to be given the same treatment, they replied that if the request was for a similar service with a similar record of achievement, they might consider it. So, beginning in February 1986, the "Daily Word" service was transmitted from the local NTT office on regular cassette tapes which they provided, along with an employee who came daily to pick up the tapes from our mailbox.

When we moved, a special telephone line (which required the erection of a tall, metal pole) was installed to permit the service to keep the same number even though we were now out of the area of that exchange number.

They brought equipment on which

I could record the messages and play them from my home. On this equipment one of two identical tapes was always in rotation. When one ended, the other began so that callers would often begin hearing the message in the middle, but they could keep listening until they had heard it all. Now a new system is in operation using a chip in the NTT office so that the message is always heard from the beginning.

Every night I call in the message for the following day, using a coded number on my push-button phone. Under this system, the message can be called in from any push-button phone and I continue to call in the messages even on trips to the States.

On my desk is a tiny monitor I can activate by pushing another coded number. The monitor displays the current number of calls to "Daily Word." Every night before calling in my message, I check on the calls received that day.



ENTER COMPUTER MINISTRY

In January 1988 the Nagoya and Tokyo editions of the *Asahi Shimbun* carried an article about the telephone service and NHK noted it on a television program. I had alerted NTT to the possibility of an increase in calls and a temporary system was introduced to receive 20 calls simultaneously. On January 14th a record number of 5224 calls were received in a 24 hour period.

Subsequently, the messages were introduced into NTT's CAPTAIN system so they can be read on public monitors such as in railway stations, hotels, department stores, etc. throughout the country. NTT has provided me with such a monitor plus a fax machine so that I can inform them of any mistakes I find in the CAPTAIN system version.

In January 1990 they went on the English Forum of the NIFTY-Serve computer network. Since January 1993 they have been put into braille and are available at St. Michael's English Library for the Blind in Kobe, along with cassette tapes of the messages. An earnest (non-Christian) volunteer makes

Japanese translations of the messages and uploads them on NIFTY-Serve for those interested. He also sends me copies of his translations which I include with the English originals (a week later) to those who request them. Since March 1996 the messages have been available on the Internet (<http://www.namos.co.jp/clark/>).

Two textbooks composed of Daily Word messages have been published: "Daily Word" (university level) by Hokuseido in Tokyo and *Ofuna-Hakase no Deiri Wa-do* (high school level) by Biseisha in Kyoto. The books have been and are being used by English teachers at schools and in other classes.

Although now there are more readers than callers, the number of callers has averaged about 130 per day over the past 17 years. From the responses of listeners and readers I know of many who have been blessed, a few who have become Christians, and many others who have been stimulated to seriously consider Biblical teaching and Christian truth as well as to better understand the English language and Western thought.

I continue to be amazed at how these telephone services have developed, and pray that the seeds sown through them will continue to bring forth good fruit in God's good time.



Clark Offner and his wife, Barbara, have been missionaries in Japan since 1951.

The Japanese Church at Work

Koji and "Susie" (Shizuko) Ishikawa have pastored Akabane Bible Church for twenty-two years. The church was begun by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Parker (TEAM) in the heavily *Sokkagakkai* and communistic area. When the Ishikawas arrived there in 1975, they both had to work to support themselves. Now the church has started a daughter church and they are working on a second one.

One of the various ministries the Lord has led them into involves large numbers of Korean young people. The Ishikawas act as the Japanese sponsors for Campus Crusade's Korean summer workers. They have become well acquainted with Korean believers through the years and were invited by President Kim to a recent Prayer Gathering in Seoul. Koji has been to Korea 31 times.

The Ishikawas host a group of Campus Crusade Korean students in their own church each year. This year a team of eight young people distributed thousands of tracts in a full-fledged blitz of the neighborhood. Because tracts can be easily suspect these days, the Ishikawas chose an attractive one put out by Every Home Crusade featuring a painting by Tomohiro Hoshino with his testimony inside. Most Japanese recognize his work and are happy to receive it. The church began receiving response cards quickly.

There is a two-fold purpose for the Ishikawas involvement with Campus Crusade's summer outreach. Of course it provides workers who have time to distribute tracts and spread the word about their church. It also gives the Korean students the opportunity to expand their missionary vision. A young

woman on this year's team wept as she gave her testimony to the church. Her grandfather had been badly mistreated by the Japanese, but by God's grace she has come to love the Japanese.

One young man from last year's Korean team returned to Akabane church



With short-termers and church workers

with his wife. They are now studying Japanese and looking forward to being able to minister alongside the Ishikawas.

The Ishikawas experienced firsthand the love of others while in a foreign country. They both studied in the U.S. and will never forget the love of God expressed to them through Christians there. They want to pass that on to others in every way they can. Their church is open to the many-foreigners in their area—Chinese, Africans, Iranians, as well as Koreans.

After the Lausanne Prayer Assembly in Korea more than thirteen years ago they began an interdenominational pastors' prayer meeting every other Wednesday night from 10:30-1:30 pm. in their church. Every Friday they have "midnight prayer"—a joint gathering of Japanese and Koreans for praise and prayer, praying for people by name.

They have been influ-

ential in their area-wide annual Christmas Rally (for the past eight years), an Evangelism Forum, (to be held for the fourth time this October), as well as regular Concert Evangelism.

Koji was led to Christ by TEAM missionary, Ralph Cox, in his early days in Tokyo. Susie was led to the Lord by a friend she made while in Chicago. Koji and Susie met first at Campus Crusade headquarters in the US, later in Manila and finally in Tokyo. They were married and worked as Campus Crusade staff for a number of years before settling at the Akabane church. There are 65 in their congregation now and they have three Sunday services.

The Ishikawas have missionary hearts and consistently encourage missionary vision in Japan. Koji, who has served on JEA's Board as well as the Asean Lausanne Committee, mentioned that 3000 Koreans support one missionary, while in Japan 320 believers

support one missionary. Japan now has sent out about 400 missionaries. I asked him if he felt that Japan still needed foreign missionaries. His response was a firm "yes, and they will help produce other missionaries (Japanese)."

from an interview by the editor



checking response cards



The Ishikawa Family

"Tachikairi"

by Ken Joseph, Jr.

The year was 1637—360 years ago this October 15—when the word *tachikairi*, (to come back) the Japanese word for revival, burned deeply in the heart of Japan.

In 1614, Hideyoshi, dictator of Japan, officially prohibited Christianity. The people of Amakusa and Shimabara who were said to be 95% Kirishitan quietly continued on in their faith, initially under the Daimyo Arima who was himself a Christian.

Their cherished leaders they kept under the floors of their homes and only at night did they leave to go from house to house to minister.

In 1633 things became unbearable. Arima was overthrown and they were now under the mercy of a terrible lord who sold their women throughout Asia, taxed them so there was nothing left and finally began killing their wives when they were no longer able to pay the tax.

In absolute terror and with nowhere to turn they collectively renounced their faith. Seeing no other way to survive and feeling that to all die for their faith would not be useful they collectively stepped on the *fumie*, or picture of Jesus, hoping to escape the terrible persecution which was to go down as the longest and most horrible in history—known as The Japanese Holocaust.

Just as they renounced their faith, though, a series of events began. First there was a new and more horrible ruler, then the taxes became even more severe, then a famine struck with horrible repercussions and then the weather began to go from typhoon to earthquake and it seemed their world was completely out of control.

In the middle of the nightmare a voice arose with the call for '*tachikairi*.' "The reason for the trouble, the reason for the increase in persecution, the rea-

son for the famine is because we betrayed our Lord," was the cry of 15 year old Amakusa Shiro.

Amazingly, when the last of the official ministers had been forced to leave for Macao he had left a prophecy that in 1637 a prophet would arise from among the people and lead them back to God.

As Amakusa Shiro's leadership began to rally the people, they recalled the prophecy. In the middle of the persecution his mother had sent him at age nine to seminary in Nagasaki and he had come back full of power and the anointing of God.

"Our misery is because we betrayed Jesus! We must '*tachikairi*' and return to Jesus! Regardless of what happens we cannot betray the One who gave His life for us," was the cry of Amakusa Shiro. What historians have for so long characterized as a peasant uprising was in fact a return of the people of God.

They built a church in the center of the Amakusa area and once again began to worship the Jesus they so loved. Kirishitan, hiding in fear for years, began to gather in repentance for their sin.

Waves of revival flowed throughout the whole Higo Empire as Kirishitan by the tens of thousands rallied around the call for "*tachikairi*."

But the forces of darkness were not silent. Desperately fearful of the Revival spreading to the Kirishitan who were in hiding from Okinawa to Hokkaido, the Tokugawa government began the Shimabara Massacre—a slaughter of the defenseless farmers of Amakusa and Shimabara, who finally gathered inside the Hara Castle in Shimabara.

37,000 men, women and children, the only ones left from the slaughter that had been waged in the face of a burning revival, stood their ground in Hara Castle in defiance of the forces that had wrought all manner of evil upon them.

And yet in the middle of it all they had come back to God! Better to give their lives in death than betray their Lord in life.

On October 15, 1637 the final forces of evil fell on the precious band

of believers. Overwhelmed by a force of 70,000 crack Tokugawa soldiers and barraged with cannon from a Dutch ship lying off shore in the employ of the Tokugawa, the walls of Hara Castle were finally breached.

On that day of infamy born out of the "*tachikairi*" movement, only one survived the massacre under a pile of bodies to tell the story of the horror and the wickedness of a government gone mad in the face of Revival. For 215 years the Kirishitan went underground. But God did not allow the land of Japan to stay closed forever.

As we celebrate the 360 year anniversary of the *Tachikairi* Revival of 1637 let us rededicate ourselves to the cause of The Lord Jesus Christ and his Gospel and "*tachikairi*" from the things of this world!

As Amakusa Shiro and his band of Kirishitan renounced their sin and betrayal may "*tachikairi*" be our cry as we return in repentance to God. This is the Revival that is coming. Hallelujah!



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God Is At Work At Okinawa Christian School International

by Sarah Reasoner Zosel

It seems to me that Okinawa Christian School International is a pretty well-kept secret. I grew up in Japan and attended Christian Academy (CAJ) all the way through 12th grade. I never, ever heard about OCSI.

That is extra surprising considering that my father, Rollin Reasoner, preached in Okinawa several times a year and we visited the Roy Oshiro family there who were members of our mission and I never even thought about where their three daughters attended school.

During my senior year at Bethel College, my father visited Okinawa again and mentioned to the principal that his daughter and her fiancée were teachers. We were excited to receive a letter from OCSI asking us to apply. After we filled out the forms I started asking around—“What is OCSI? Who are the students?” A fellow Bethel student whose father had been a missionary with FEBC had actually attended OCSI. He told me, “You can see the ocean from every window in the school.” That decided it for me!

Mark and I were married in June 1972 and arrived on Okinawa that July. OCSI was located high on Hacksaw Ridge, a fiercely-defended hill during the Battle of Okinawa, from which you could certainly see the ocean. Except for three furlough years, we have taught at Okinawa Christian School ever since. We went with one-year contracts, but God used the students to call us to make this our lifetime place of service.

Who are our STUDENTS?

Jamie Holland is an Amer-Asian, who represents the major group of our students (60-70%). Jamie, a starter on our basketball team, coached by Chad Wright, has an Okinawan mother and U.S. military father. Jamie’s parents divorced when he was in elementary school. He has a military ID card and



1996-97 OCSI Faculty

dual citizenship, but sees his father only once a year. Jamie speaks Japanese fluently, loves to listen to both Japanese and American music, follows the NBA and Japanese baseball, but also follows Jesus Christ. Jamie charms friends and teachers alike and plans to attend the University of Arizona next year.

Then there are Hoora and Prem Pirdnani who hold Indian passports but were born in Okinawa and have always attended English language schools. They represent our Sindi students who make up under 10% of our student body but, with their talkativeness and strong group loyalty, make their presence known.

During the India-Pakistan conflict, Sind was turned over to the Muslims causing the Hindu Sindis to leave their homeland. Like the Jews they have been wandering ever since. They are one of the “unreached people groups” but a number of the children who attend OCSI have made commitments to follow Christ. Even one of our teachers is a Sindi.

In addition to Amer-Asians and Indians, OCSI has students from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, the Philippines, and even Bangladesh. And in every class there are one or two missionary kids or military dependents.

OCSI had 400 students in grades K-12 during the 96-97 school year. About 80% come from non-Christian homes. In daily Bible classes, weekly

chapels, and through conversations with Christian teachers and fellow students, kids are introduced to Jesus and to the Christian world view. Once Mark was questioning an alumnus about her walk with the Lord, and she said, “Don’t worry Mr. Zosel. I couldn’t forget what you’ve taught me even if I wanted to.”

HISTORY

OCSI was begun in 1957 by missionaries for their

own children. However, they realized that many international people in Okinawa would like to send their children to an English-language school and so, from the beginning, OCSI opened its doors to virtually any child. It didn’t matter if the child spoke English or came from a Christian home; as long as the parents agreed to allow their child to be introduced to the Christian faith.

Begun in a rented quonset hut with 13 students and one teacher, by 1972 the school had grown to 600+ students on the Urasoe campus. English-as-a-Second-Language classes were filled with students from Taiwan, the Philippines, and Okinawa. Then Okinawa was given back to Japan, and enrollment dipped as Japanese citizens were required to go to Japanese-language schools and many Filipinos moved on to Guam to apply for U.S. citizenship.

Through the 70’s and 80’s school enrollment stabilized around 300 and in 1982 OCSI was accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

and also by the Association of Christian Schools International.

The MOVE

About ten years ago, the OCSI Board saw that the facility on Hacksaw Ridge in Urasoe was crowded and deteriorating. The gym, a 20 year old pre-fab structure, had leaks in spite of multiple patches. The Board decided to investigate relocation—a long and obstacle-studded process. Land speculators tried to cheat the school and it was difficult to find a large enough piece of land within commuting distance of the majority of the students. Finally, 9,000 tsubo of land was located on the Yomitan peninsula at a price we could afford.

The land was part of an old quarry which had been filled with clean fill (construction materials). By selling one-third of the Urasoe campus, we were able to buy and begin building. The '95-96 school year was the "year of the big squeeze" as we fit ourselves and 50 new students into two-thirds of an already crowded campus.

At the end of that school year, we had a great moving day when over 100 Marines helped move textbooks, desks, blackboards, file cabinets and all the items that make a school. September 1996 saw us in our new building affec-

tionately known as "Noah's Ark." The architect had a ship model in his mind, we think! The gym was not completed until December.

On January 12, 1997 nearly 300 gathered in the new gym to thank God and rejoice. Representatives of the construction company, architectural firm, and local government joined alumni, teachers, pastors, and students to cele-

brate. The gym has a wood floor, full-sized basketball court with spectators' stands, and weight room on the second floor. But the best thing according to Coach Chad Wright is that he doesn't have to worry about calling off a BB game due to rain. This roof doesn't leak!



OCSI Board member Jonathan Reasoner (SEND) and Rev. M. Kina, dedication, Jan. '97

Enter the STEAM issue. In March, Japanese national television aired a documentary on landfills in Japan and the government's lack of monitoring. Several parents became concerned because the new campus is built on construction materials' landfill. Some spots on campus look like Yellowstone Park with steam escaping from the

and had built a senior citizens' home and a school for the handicapped on similar property right below us. But the concerned parents were not convinced and went to the media. One day we were in the headlines—

DANGER at Okinawa Christian School International.

Health officials, policemen, and the media descended in droves. OCSI was very unfairly represented in the newspapers. The prefecture finally released results of a second round of tests which declare the steam to be completely non-toxic. It appears to be caused by decomposing wood. What a year we've had!

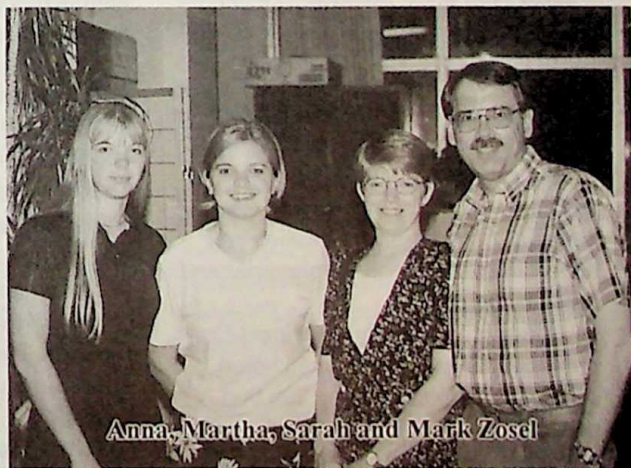
VISION

Over the forty years of its existence many young people at OCSI have come to know the Creator God who loves them.

In spite of the attempts of the enemy to disturb our joy, administrators, faculty and staff are working hard for this new school year. As for Mark and me, it is our 25th year but I'm still so excited about the new school year that I have trouble sleeping the night before. We praise God for the many people He has called over the years to do His work and accomplish His will at Okinawa Christian School International.



Main classroom building at night



Anna, Martha, Sarah and Mark Zosel

ground. The government had declared the land safe

Sarah Reasoner Zosel arrived in Japan with her parents Rollin and Esther Reasoner in 1951. She and her husband Mark have served at OCSI under SEND Int. since 1972. Their two daughters graduated from OCSI and are now attending Bethel College in Minnesota, USA.



GCOWE 1997

by Hugh Nelson

This July, 4200 people from 135 countries met in Pretoria, South Africa for the 1997 Global Consultation on World Evangelization (GCOWE '97). 80% of the delegates came from countries formerly thought of as missionary receiving countries, an encouraging sign that missionary leadership and vision is now firmly established in Africa, Asia and Latin America!

Plenary sessions were held Monday and Friday, and separate consultations on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I attended the Missions Executives' consultation, to understand more of what God is doing in mission worldwide, as well as finding ways to facilitate missionaries going from Japan.

More finance/missionaries

If we are to see the world evangelized there must be more finance available and more missionaries sent. Local churches need vision for mission and opportunity to support missionaries and mission projects.

George Verwer, International Coordinator of Operation Mobilization, shared his vision of raising 200,000 new missionaries. Inspired by the example of the Antioch church (Acts 13:2) who "Set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work to which (God) called them," Verwer believes the key is the local church. No church is too small, too large, too rich or too poor to be involved. Compared with much of the world Japan is rich and we need to see more of that money used for mission.

More of the same not enough

While the message of the Gospel cannot be changed, we need greater diversity in what we think a missionary is and does. The presence of the Business Executives at GCOWE and the growth of "tentmaking" is testimony to this.

Dr. Ralph Winter, founder of U.S. Center for World Mission, challenged, "The World Christian Movement has largely stalled in relation to the Hindu, Muslim and Buddhist blocks. We cannot reasonably expect to achieve the goals of the marvelous AD2000 movement without a significant change in strategy. *More of the same is not enough.*" He argued for a de-Western-ized, contextualized Gospel to penetrate and spread throughout these peoples. We need to be true to the foundations of faith in Christ, yet flexible about the outward appearance of the church.

Unreached peoples

Traditionally the focus of a local church's commitment to mission was the missionary sent by them or their denominational board. There was little, if any, responsibility for the people the missionary was working among. But in a growing number of churches there is a new emphasis on "adopting" a people, committing to a people group until a church is established among them.

The **Joshua Project 2000** is the research of over 800 groups measuring how far we have to go to reach the world's unreached peoples by 2000AD. These peoples include the Japanese, and are defined as having a population greater than 10,000 who are less than 5% Christian, and less than 2% evangelical.

The **Joshua Project 2000 Global Guide to Unreached Peoples** lists the 1,739 **Joshua Project 2000** peoples showing the current status of mission activity among them. As a result of GCOWE '97, 90% of the 1,739 Joshua Project unreached peoples now have either a church planting movement among them or a commitment to mobilize a team of church planters to go to them.

Partnership and networking

"... in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to

GCOWE '97 goal:

"A church for every people and the gospel for every person by the year 2000."

all the others." Romans 12:5

For me the most significant part of the Consultation was the emphasis on partnership and networking. Mission agencies and churches are forming partnerships. Christian broadcasters are working together to cover the world, rather than competing for the same areas. Mongolia is an example of partnership, where unity among the missionaries has resulted in similar unity among the churches. Whatever we do, we need to do it together.

Panya Baba, from the Evangelical Church of West Africa, speaking from John 17 said, "Jesus prays for unity among the believers. It's through our unity that we reveal the Father. But unity does not mean uniformity! We need love for one another that will overcome division, yet free us to use our diversified talents and ministries. There is only one Body; one Church... If the world is to be reached for Christ we need to work together." This is true for Japan, too.

Significantly, the co-chairmen of the Missions Executives' consultation were Avery Willis, Senior V P for Overseas Operations of the Southern Baptist Int. Mission Board, and George Verwer, founder and Int. Coordinator of Operation Mobilization. Representing a denominational and a para-church mission agency, they sounded a clear call for the Church to work together.

The goal of world evangelization has always been attainable, but we haven't always been totally committed to it. We have allowed it to be seen as a job for specialists rather than the task of the whole church.

"Lord, what part have my church and I to play in seeing a church for every people and the gospel for every person by the year 2000?"

*For more information please contact
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The Nelsons have been in Japan
with ECC since 1994.*

ECHOES FROM JEMA SUMMER CONFERENCE

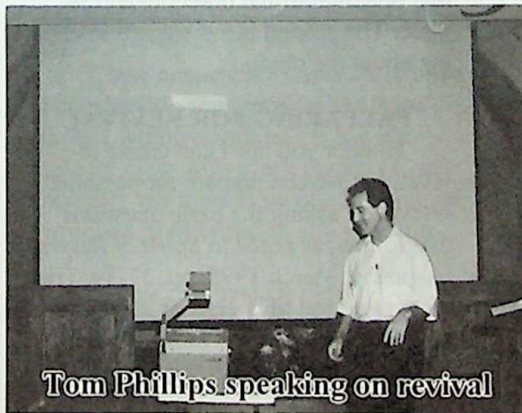
COMPILED BY BRENT DROULLARD

After four refreshing days of fellowship, prayer, worship and timely messages, the 150+ attendees of JEMA Karuizawa Summer Conference 1997 left with a new vision of God's Spirit at work in the world today.

Dr. Tom Phillips, President of International Students, Inc. was the keynote speaker with workshops led by Tony Woods (*Nagano Olympic Outreach*), Dr. Kochlovius (*Making a Good Marriage Better*), and Dan Brannen (*Japanese returnee ministry*).

Don and Martha Regier led the worship times, with special music by the German choir, blind singer Tsutomu Aragaki and others. Carol Miyake was guest speaker for the Ladies' Tea. Programs were provided for elementary school children by Steve and Kathi Weemes and for middle school youth by Brent and Ruth Drouillard.

According to Dr. Phillips, there are recognizable signs of a coming revival around the world today. Following are excerpts from two articles by Dr. Phillips which contain material he presented at the JEMA Conference.



Though the examples are from America, the principles apply to any nation and to the Body of Christ world-wide.

REVIVAL SIGNS

Something is happening in our nation when a coach named Bill McCartney gathers 72 men in 1990 to seek

God and when, in six short years, that group mushrooms into stadium-sized gatherings across America with an attendance nearing a million. The men come together to ask, "What does it mean to honor Jesus Christ, to become a man of integrity, to become a promise keeper?"

Something is happening when the nation is mesmerized by evil and sin.

Something is happening when political parties line up to talk about traditional values.

Something is happening when *Promise Keepers* can gather 40,000 clergy in Atlanta for a time of prayer and reconciliation between racially diverse groups.

Something is happening to our nation when Henry Blackaby's book, **Experiencing God**, sells thousands of copies because it speaks about a quality and depth of relationship with the Lord for which we long.

Something is happening when International Renewal Ministries (*Prayer Summits*) receives dozens of requests from pastors and church leaders around the world who want to experience the reconciliation, community, and unity of the

Spirit that comes only through humble confession, deep-felt conviction and repentance.

Something is happening to our nation when more than a quarter of a million teenagers turn their backs on the temptation to become sexually active and instead pledge to their family, friends, and most of all to God, that they will preserve that most intimate human relationship for their wedding night.

Something is happening in our nation when Bill Bright, who as founder and president of Campus Crusade for Christ International has experienced many personally significant spiritual milestones, conducts a forty-day fast that he describes as "the greatest spiritual experience of my life." When he tells

seven hundred Christian leaders gathered in Orlando, Florida, "We need revival to come," then asks them to pray for two million Americans to fast forty days, I know this is not merely Bill Bright's dream—it is the work of God.

These are the kinds of things that tell me something deeply profound, deeply spiritual is taking place across our country. Something that is bringing new life to a Church that has shown signs of withering. Something that is as inevitable as rain and as necessary as harvest. Something called revival, the revival of Christ's church, which will be followed by many more entering Christ's kingdom.

The book from which these reports are taken, **Revival Signs** (Vision House, 1995), was written so you would be drawn to the Lord, not marvel at a movement. As you step closer to catch a glimpse of this new spiritual awakening, the reality dawns: God is using a relatively small handful of broken, humbled people to draw individuals, communities, and an entire nation to Himself.

God's greatest desire, as the Supreme Evangelist, has always been for individuals to know Him personally.

The pipeline God has chosen to reach the rest of the world, you and me, has been gathering rust, clogged for too many years. We have been content, aware that things are not quite right, yet too lazy to do much about it. If we believed God was serious about wanting to flow through His church, we shouldn't be surprised that He first needed to clear out the rust. "Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work" (2 Timothy 2:21). In other words, purging must occur before the Holy Spirit can flow into our nation, our churches, our lives.

Today, the first bits of rust have begun to break loose and flow from the vessels of our lives. Conviction, confession, and turning to Christ are the initial

True
Love
Waits

work of the Holy Spirit that could carry us toward the first major spiritual awakening in the US in more than 130 years.

In our communities, Christians are demonstrating a new commitment to pray and trust God for what He wants to reveal to them and their churches. In fellowships, confession of personal and corporate sin triggers the expressed desire for God's forgiveness, leading to reconciliation among fellow Christians and a sweet unity in worship.

Whether you believe a major spiritual awakening is imminent or merely a remote possibility, it is hard to deny that God is drawing His people to Himself, and that His people are poised to reach others with Christ. Our country has experienced three Great Awakenings in its history. Each time, what began as humble confession became a movement of national repentance, obedience, and social change.

When a nation's darkness becomes overwhelmingly destructive, only God can supply what people need to be brought back to life. These things include the assurance of being forgiven, accepted and loved; the joy of worshipping God alone; and a return to holy living. When God brings revival to a nation, He blesses His people with a call to return to five specific commitments:

1. **Belief in the authority of the Scriptures.**
2. **Belief in the centrality of the cross.**
3. **Increased devotional life and return to personal holiness.**
4. **Explosive witnessing and discipleship.**
5. **Corporate social change that results from individual, spiritual transformation.**



Does seeing the embryonic development of one or more of these things mean our nation is one step closer to revival? In my view, this is the wrong question. We could be so caught up in wanting to know "When will it happen?" that we lose appreciation for how consistent God's expression of love is in revival. The great thing is to see God's consistent character and blessing at work.

Finney's Seven Indicators of Revival

Charles Finney couldn't know that he was living in the last period of spiritual awakening our country has seen until now. Finney was not interested in forecasting history. However, 130 years after they were written, Finney's indicators may cause us to think again about extraordinary expressions of the Holy Spirit in our nation today. How many Americans today would agree with Finney that:

1. **When the sovereignty of God indicates that revival is near,**
2. **When wickedness grieves and humbles Christians,**
3. **When there is a spirit of prayer for revival,**
4. **When the attention of ministers is directed toward revival and spiritual awakening,**
5. **When Christians confess their sins one to another,**
6. **When Christians make sacrifices to carry out the new movement of God's Spirit,**
7. **When ministers and laity are willing for God to promote spiritual awakening by whatever instrument He pleases...
...then revival comes.**

(Charles G. Finney, *Lectures on Revival of Religion* (New York: Fleming H. Revell, 1988), 22-34)

THREE POTENTIAL OBSTACLES

Although God is sovereign, the emerging spiritual awakening could be stilled prematurely—hindered by men and women who stiffen at any unusual occurrence that doesn't fit their ordinary religious tradition. It could be hindered by believers afraid to learn the truth about their rusted, sinful cores that can be cleaned out only by the most vulnerable act of all: admitting that our corrosion, our sin, is choking off the flow of the Spirit—that it may not be "the other guy" who is hindering revival. You and I—could resist being vulnerable to the point that we could hinder the Holy Spirit and thus hinder revival. The questions we need to be asking are these:

Do I want to be part of an extraordinary movement of the Holy Spirit?

Do I long for God's forgiveness and healing in our world, and movement that can come only from Him?

If your answer to both is yes, if

deeper spiritual life is what you seek, then be ready to experience two distinct and opposing forces. The first is God's infinite desire to bring us to Himself. The second is your own imperfect nature that causes you to look out for self. It is in this flawed, human interior where the three potential obstacles to revival dwell. To know these obstacles we need only look at our own hearts.

The first potential obstacle to personal and national revival is as basic as our desire to know God. It is the need to understand. Simply put, our flawed, rationalistic minds cannot fully comprehend revival. Revival is not a mystery to be "thought through;" it is a movement of the Spirit to be experienced with reverence, checked against the clear guidelines of Scripture, and then given to the God who alone deserves our praise.

The second potential obstacle is the very real fear of being rejected by others. In an age of conformity, the thought of speaking out and standing up for God can be a truly ominous barrier.

The third potential obstacle is apathy. Apathy can take one of two forms: a gradual familiarity with the extraordinary movement of the Holy Spirit; or an overt disinterest in the undeniable and extraordinary works of God. The first kind takes the form of a subtle comfort that breeds spiritual boredom and fatigue. The second is a disregard in caring about the obvious.

PREPARING FOR REVIVAL

Neither you nor I can create revival, but we can prepare for personal revival by asking the basic questions that follow, as noted in *Spirit of Revival* magazine, March 1995, pp. 37-39. Treat them as a kind of "personal inventory of the heart." Before you look at these questions, take to heart these simple suggestions:

Pray the prayer of the psalmist: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24).

Then, agree with God about each need He reveals in your life. Confess each sin with the willingness to make it right and forsake it. Praise God for His

cleansing and forgiveness. Renew your mind and rebuild your life through meditation and practical application of the Word of God. Review the following questions periodically to remain sensitive to your need for ongoing revival.

Genuine salvation (2 Cor. 5:17). Was there ever a time in my life that I genuinely repented of my sin and placed my trust in Jesus Christ alone to save me? Was there ever a time in my life that I completely surrendered to Jesus Christ as Master and Lord?

God's Word (Psa. 119:97,140). Do I love to read and meditate on the Word of God? Are my personal devotions consistent and meaningful? Do I apply God's Word to my everyday life?

Humility (Isa. 57:15). Am I quick to admit to others when I am wrong? Do I rejoice when others are praised and recognized and my accomplishments go unnoticed? Do I esteem all others better than myself?

Obedience (Heb. 13:11). Do I consistently obey what I know God wants me to do? Do I consistently obey the human authorities God has placed over me (those who do not contradict God's moral law)?

Pure heart (1 John 1:9). Do I confess my sins specifically? Do I keep "short sin accounts" with God (confess and forsake as He convicts)? Am I willing to give up all sin for God?

Clear conscience (Acts 24:16). Do I consistently seek forgiveness from those I wrong or offend? Is my conscience clear with every person? Can I honestly say there is no one I have ever wronged or offended in any way and not gone back to them and sought their forgiveness and made it right?

Priorities (Matt. 6:33). Does my schedule reveal that God is first in my life? Does my checkbook reveal that God is first in my life? Next to God, is my relationship with my family my highest priority?



Values (Col. 3:12). Do I love what God loves and hate what God hates? Do I value highly the things that please God (e.g., giving, witnessing to those with-

out Christ, studying His Word, prayer, helping and serving others)? Are my affections and goals fixed on others and eternal values?

Sacrifice (Phil. 3:7). Am I willing to sacrifice whatever is necessary to see God move in my life and church (time, convenience, comfort, reputation, pleasure, etc.)? Is my life characterized by genuine sacrifice for the cause of Christ for righteousness and justice?

Spirit control (Gal. 5:22-26). Am I allowing Jesus to be Lord of every area of my life? Allowing the Holy Spirit to fill my life each day? Is there consistent evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in my life?

First love (Phil. 1:21,23). Am I as much in love with Jesus as I have ever been? Am I thrilled with Jesus, filled with His joy and peace, and making Him the continual object of my love?

Motives (Acts 5:29). Am I more concerned about what God thinks about my life than about what others think? Would I pray, read my Bible, give and serve as much if nobody but God ever noticed? Am I more concerned about pleasing God than I am about being appreciated by others?

Moral purity (Eph. 5:3-4). Do I keep my mind free from books, magazines, or entertainment that stimulate ungodly fantasizing or impure thoughts? Are my walk and talk pure?

Forgiveness (Col. 3:12-13). Do I seek to resolve conflicts in relationships as soon as possible? Am I quick to forgive those who wrong or hurt me?

Sensitivity (Matt. 5:23-24). Am I quick to respond in humility and obedience to the conviction and promptings of God's Spirit?

Evangelism (Luke 24:46-48). Do I have a burden for those who don't know Christ? Do I witness?

Prayer (1 Tim. 2:1). Am I faithful in praying for the needs of others? Do I pray specifically, fervently, and faithfully for revival in my life, my church and our nation?

This article is made up of excerpts from: **Revival Signs: Join the New Spiritual Awakening**, Vision House, Gresham, Oregon, 1995 *Revival Signs, National & International Religion Report*, Vol. 10, No. 1, Dec. 25, 1995

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Still Trusting

by
Chika Honda July 1997

I thank the Lord for guiding me towards receiving baptism, which is the greatest joy of my five year imprisonment. It is now four years since I first trusted in the Lord—years filled with sadnesses and joys. Participating in worship and being baptized outside prison boundaries is now prohibited under prison regulations. Unaware of this new regulation, my unit manager and the Programs Manager gave me leave of absence for a July 27th baptism. However, eleven days ago, this permission was withdrawn.

The news was devastating. When I thought of Pastor Stephen Young of the Japanese Church of Melbourne, the congregation there, and all the people who have been praying for me, I could not help but cry and question why the Lord stopped me from going to church.

Was it because my faith is still weak? Was it the hand of the devil? But now I realize that it is the Lord's will.

Last November brought the retrial of Yoshio Katsuno, one of the four friends with whom I was traveling to Australia. We had really placed our hopes in Yoshio's retrial to reveal his innocence and therefore ours. The guilty verdict was a great shock for all of us.

It was then I determined to be baptized. I was so overwhelmed with joy that I could have skipped around. It was my hope that through being baptized I should be changed and become closer to the Lord and love Him even more.

I have often wavered between hope and despair but never once have I lost my faith or felt resentful towards the Lord. He has given me a deep joy through the many prayers offered for me, and the letters and visits with which I have been blessed. I am filled with peace.

"The Lord is good, a refuge in the times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him." Nahum 1:7

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Save Our Souls)



Just tear a big margin around the stamps, put them in an envelope and send them to REAP Mission, 7-39-6, Higashi Oizumi, Nerima ku, Tokyo, 178. We'll acknowledge receipt with a thank you card and a new address label for your next shipment.

Now for something new. Whenever you pass a green telephone that uses telephone cards, check for discarded cards. If you find any, please send them along with your stamps, as they are also valuable.

At JR railway stations the orange-colored vending machines dispense the so-called "orange cards" and any of those discarded are also valuable.

The Japanese have a proverb "Chiri mo tsumoreba, yama to naru." (Even dust gathered up will become a mountain.) We have used the income derived from postage stamps and the like to print Christian literature in five languages. So send your used stamps and cards now!

Dear friends of Chika Honda,

July 28, 1997

Another setback has taken place for Miss Chika Honda. But we know that everything works together for good to those who belong to Jesus Christ.

The Program Manager has been very aware of Chika's exceptional behavior while in prison. Like many of the staff, she was very willing to help Chika. Various meetings were held so that permission was granted for Chika's first day-leave permit. At the time of these negotiations, the General Manager quit and a new manager was to take over. Meanwhile the Program Manager was in charge and was not aware of recent changes in regulations concerning day leaves. On his second day, the new General Manager heard about Chika's day leave. He immediately stopped it as it was based upon religious reasons. In 1986 a new rule had removed the religious category for a leave permit. In 1996 another rule did away with the clause which allowed a prisoner whose religious needs are not met in prison to be allowed out on a leave.

The Program Manager thought Chika had an exceptional reason, being a foreign prisoner who could not speak English. But she did not realize she was looking at the old laws.

The July 27th service took place without Chika, but she was in our prayers and thoughts. The Spirit of the Lord was greatly present as I preached the sermon I had prepared for her baptism, from Romans 8. We read Chika's testimony which she had written for that day.

Mr Yoshio Katsuno has been granted Legal Aid funds for his appeal hearing against his retrial, and the lawyers state they have a strong case to win. No date has been set yet. I have written a letter to the Commissioner of Prisons to inform him of Chika's permit denial. I am waiting for his reply to see if there is any way she can visit the church. It will take special permission or will need to be under the category of community service. Praise God Chika is really being a light for God's glory.

The men are in a new prison with 596 others. I see them only once a month, but their English is getting better, so please pray for their witness in prison and growth in faith.

In Christ's peace,
Stephen Young

Japanese Language Christian Church, Melbourne

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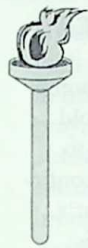
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Olympian Challenge

by Tony Woods

Next February, 60 countries will send 3000 of their finest athletes and support staff to the city of Nagano to compete for the gold in the 18th Winter Olympic Games. The Paralympic Games will follow with some 1500 athletes and staff from 30 countries.

The Olympic Games, said to date back to 776 BC, to this day present the opportunity for participating countries to lay aside their differences and send their best athletes to "go for the gold." The word "Olympian" has come to mean, "surpassing all others in scope and effect."



But athletes are not the only people giving their all in Nagano. Evangelical Christians from all over the world are combining their resources and making plans to conduct an "Olympian" ministry to the tens of thousands of participants and spectators who will gather here next year.

To help facilitate the effort, the Nagano Olympic Evangelism Committee (NOEC) was formed. This group of evangelical missionaries and pastors is committed to the preparation, support and coordination of the nearly 300 volunteers coming to the Games.

Finding accommodations, developing materials and outreach venues, and introducing groups to one another are a few of the many activities in which NOEC has been engaged this past year.

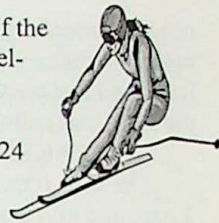
Avenues of service include preparing and providing coffee around the parking lots, acting as guides to the various venues, working in welcome centers, and serving in Christian coffee houses.



Since there will be no public receptacles provided for garbage, one way Christians may be serving will be to gather garbage with a smile!



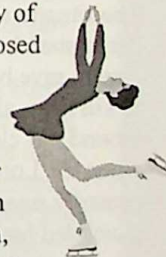
At the forefront of the evangelistic tools developed by NOEC is the beautiful, informative and useful full-color, 24 page booklet, "More than Gold" in



Japanese and English. It has information on the Games, maps, testimonies by Olympic athletes and a brilliant five point gospel message based around a sports theme. In addition to "More than Gold," NOEC will make available a specially designed Olympic lapel pin, in the shape of a cross, which can be attached to a *meishi*-sized card containing a simple Gospel message in one of five languages.

These materials are not only for use at the Olympic games, they are ideal to use in your local outreach efforts as well. With the Olympic spirit growing throughout Japan, there is a natural interest in sports and things associated with the Games...a perfect opportunity to introduce the powerful message of the Gospel.

A complimentary copy of "More Than Gold" is enclosed with this issue of the *Harvest*. To obtain more copies of "More than Gold," the Olympic pin, or a poster featuring Christian skater Janet Lynn Saloman, contact the NOEC headquarters and we will be happy to send them to you. To help with the cost of production and postage, we are asking for a contribution of ¥50 per booklet, ¥20 per pin and ¥500 per poster.



If you are planning to minister at the Games, let the Committee know and we will do all we can to help facilitate your work. Let's pray that the Olympics will be a time of real Olympian effort for the things which truly count!

Nagano Olympic Evangelism Committee,
Inasato 1-24-11, Nagano-shi, 381-22

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BLESSING TO A THOUSAND GENERATIONS

by Ioanna Sillavan

The Lord moved Nicholas and me to an affluent suburban community in Kyoto soon after our house in Kobe was destroyed by the Great Hanshin Earthquake in January '95. That autumn, we began a ladies' Bible study in our home and Eriko Kimura from across the cobbled walkway came.

Humanly speaking, she had everything: a caring husband who owned his own company, two healthy teenagers in private schools, a beautiful house filled with lovely things, two Volvos, designer clothes and jewelry.

Through the Bible study Eriko began to experience the reality of the Lord Jesus Christ but she feared that becoming a Christian would put her at odds with her husband and mother who belonged to a Buddhist cult. Nothing was desperate enough to drive her to the Lord at the cost of family 'harmony.'

Yet Eriko became surprisingly open about praying out loud and asking for prayer. Once while praying for her younger sister who has been suffering from psychological problems for years, I felt the Lord give me a revelation concerning Eriko's name. Her real name means 'a child who knows the truth.' I had a strong sense that this was spiritually significant—"the child who knows the Truth, Jesus Christ." I shared this with the group and then asked her sister's name. It had an unusual meaning: "Beautiful for a thousand generations!" Eriko laughed sadly and said that her sister's life was anything but beautiful. Her illness had caused much pain in the family. But I kept thinking of the Scripture, "...He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commands." (Deut. 7:9) I asked if she knew of any ancestor who was a "Kirishitan" martyr. She didn't.

I do not believe in coercing people into the Kingdom, but after that I could

not help but almost plead with her to make her peace with God. None of us imagined that we were about to see why the Lord was calling her so persistently!

AWAKENED TO PRAY

On June 10th, the Lord woke me at 3 a.m. and told me to pray. Not knowing what to pray for, I prayed mainly in the Spirit till about 5 o'clock. That morning was Bible study, but it soon became apparent that something terrible had happened to the Kimura family. Getting no information out of the policemen who were at their house, we all began around-the-clock prayer for them.

By evening, we learned that she was in a local emergency hospital. Mayumi Koide (our Christian friend and landlord) and I hurried over and found Eriko in a crowded ward with a blood-soaked patch on her head from a 23-stitch wound! She wept as she told us that seeing us walk in was as though Jesus had come to see her. As we knelt by her, softly praying, Eriko shared her story.

Unknown to her, their company had incurred about a 400 million yen debt! The situation seemed so hopeless that her husband, Hiroshi, decided the only way to save his family from shame was to kill them all and then hang himself. At around 3 o'clock that morning (just when the Lord woke me to pray) he repeatedly smashed Eriko on the head with a wooden hammer, knocking her out. He then went to the 18 year-old son's room, hitting him on the head, too. Kenji, thinking him an intruder, wrestled with him and the noise brought Eriko from unconsciousness. She staggered out to the hall, bringing the fight to a close.

Then Hiroshi went to pieces as Eriko collapsed in a pool of blood. They eventually called an ambulance, and the police also came. Eriko was taken to the hospital, and Hiroshi into custody.

Eriko related that she kept calling on the name of Jesus, and even as she was in the ambulance, she started to feel an inexplicable peace. "I was sure you were praying for me!" she said. Yet she was amazed at the depth of the Lord's love for her family that guided me to pray through the whole ugly incident and then led Christians to intercede for them in the darkest day of their lives.

ENTER COLLIE CHANDLER

The next morning, the Lord brought Collie Chandler into our home. Eight years before, the Lord had told Collie to start praying about a trip to Japan. He had finally been given confirmation that now was the time. That's when he met Brent Drouillard in his home town of Atlanta who put him in touch with our mutual friends, the Gileses, in Tokyo. Terry Giles called us, relating Collie's unusual arrival in Japan and his feeling that he should visit the Kansai area. Terry said that every time the word 'Kansai' was mentioned, our names came to his mind. He could not get us out of his thoughts and finally decided to ask if we would "put Collie up for a day or two." So Collie arrived at our house exactly on God's time schedule.

Collie and I went to visit Eriko that afternoon, and she told us she had asked Jesus to come into her life the night before! We rejoiced with her and prayed for the Holy Spirit's empowerment and for a quick recovery, as well as for her son Kenji's healing. Grateful and astounded by the genuine love and concern from a stranger, Eriko said in very polite Japanese how sorry she was to have taken so much time out of Collie's "busy schedule." Collie took her hands, "I am here to do only what the Lord Jesus shows me to do, so you and your family are my schedule." Collie stayed with us for his remaining two weeks in Japan and powerfully ministered into the Kimura's situation.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

On the third day, Mitsugu Koide, Collie and Nicholas went to the police station to visit Hiroshi, assured him that his family was being taken care of and gave him a Bible. They urged Hiroshi to put his trust in Jesus.

The following days/weeks went by in a time-warp sort of way. Kenji and his sister, Sachi, (13) came to stay with us, later joined by Eriko who was miraculously discharged from the hospital in four days, needing only daily check-ups. The first night Eriko stayed with us, Sachi came bursting into our bedroom to ask for help. We found Eriko shaking with fear and totally par-

alyzed on her left side. She explained with difficulty that there was sharp pain in her heart. We immediately began to pray, and as Nicholas took authority in Jesus' Name, I felt the Lord say that spiritually unclean things had been brought into their room. Nicholas, Sachi and I searched through their belongings as Eriko groaned on her futon.

We did not hunt long. In their bags were a pile of charms, prayer cards and other idolatrous paraphernalia. As we proceeded to the kitchen to burn them all, Sachi expressed her desire to receive Jesus as her personal Savior!

As soon as we reduced the stuff to ashes and prayed, Eriko's symptoms completely disappeared. This experience was repeated at least six times over a four day period, showing the Kimuras beyond a shadow of doubt the danger of practicing idolatry or possessing anything occultic.

Each day we spent much time with Collie in the Word, prayer and ministry to the Kimura family, seeking God's guidance for Eriko in dealing with creditors and reviving their business. We were also in spiritual warfare for Hiroshi who was still in custody, praying for his acquittal and salvation.

SPIRITUAL HOUSE-CLEANING

On the day Eriko was released from hospital, she visited her husband, sharing with him how she had become a Christian and asking if she might be baptized. At the next visit, she asked him if it would be all right to get rid of all the idols in the house. On both occasions, he accepted her requests readily saying how the god he had served so devotedly was nothing but a snare!

Meanwhile, their son Kenji went with us to a "Limit X" (Ugandan Gospel band) Concert one evening and gave his heart to the Lord!

We planned a day for baptisms and spiritual house-cleaning June 20th. I had kept in touch with the YWAM base for prayer cover through this time, and they sent a team who shared in our worship and celebration as we baptized Eriko and both children in our bathtub. Then we all looked through every nook and cranny of their house for anything related to idolatry, fortune-telling or the

occult. We burned it all in an oil-drum—the Lord's provision that Collie and Nicholas had found the night before just lying on the street! At the same time, we went through each room to pray, break the oppression and dedicate the house to the Lord. The difference in the spiritual atmosphere of the house by the time we finished was tremendous! There is such victory in the mighty Name of Jesus!

CHANGED LIVES

On Sunday the 16th, we all went to a church we had been wanting to visit, never imagining how God-ordained that visit to Pastor Kenney's New Life Church was to be!

That afternoon, Eriko's older sister, also in the Buddhist cult, came to see her. Hearing Eriko's testimony and seeing the Lord's love and deliverance, she opened her heart to receive Jesus!

The following day she asked her husband's permission to be baptized! We were all amazed when he, a professing atheist, acquiesced without argument! We gathered again around the waters of baptism (our bath!) for another wonderful service and communion.

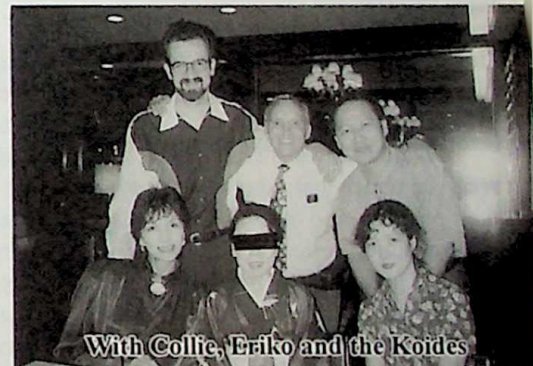
The two sisters visited Hiroshi in custody and shared more about their new faith in Christ. He had been reading the New Testament and other literature and asked them how he should pray. In the tiny joyless pit of a visiting chamber, with a heavy glass window between and the police officer listening to every word, Eriko taught her husband to thank God and to pray in the Name of Jesus.

The opportunities Eriko had even in those early days to share her faith were marvelous. Many friends visited her in our home with trepidation expecting to find her in total distress. Seeing her surrounded by Christian love and prayer and so full of hope was an undeniable witness to the power of the living God. She also visited the ladies in her hospital ward and prayed with several of them.

The Lord taught us so much through Collie about simply obeying the Word of God. This incident stands out. As we asked the Lord how to pray effectively for their company, the Lord impressed on me Ezekiel's valley of dry bones. I

felt we were to prophesy to the company to come to life again. Now, anyone with business sense who met with Eriko told her it was impossible to revive their company. No one wanted to sell to them or buy from them. Creditors were banging at their door. Hiroshi had no desire to go on, and the police officers told us there was hardly any hope that he would be released soon anyway. But the Lord gave all of us confirmation that we were to pray towards this end.

A few days before Collie left, he took Eriko, the Koides, Nicholas and me out for dinner. We 'somehow' ended up at the "Volks" family restaurant across from the Kimura's company. After the pleasant meal, Collie said, "Now is the time to obey God about the word from Ezekiel. Let's prophesy toward the company together!" In the parking lot, facing the busy double-lane traffic, the six of us prayed believing, in



Jesus' name. I know it sounds crazy, but there was a great sense of release afterwards.

It was wonderful to see the Koides (Christians for about twenty years) delighting in the Lord as never before for having acted in childlike faith in His Word. None of us really understood its effect in the spiritual realm. What mattered was that we had obeyed His voice.

Hiroshi was released after 18 days. We welcomed him home with a potluck party, and as he shared about his prison ordeal, he suddenly said he wanted to become a Christian! There wasn't a dry eye in the room as we prayed together, and he accepted forgiveness in Jesus. Then, in his uniquely humorous way, he asked if we had any water left in our bathtub! What rejoic-

ing there was as we baptized our new brother! After a moving time of sharing the bread and wine, all the believers walked to the Kimura family home and prayed around them, pledging our love and support again.

CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES

Over the next two weeks, we prayed with them daily for the still desperate work situation. Their two main suppliers, Sony and Victor, were absolutely unwilling to do business with them. It is no exaggeration that there was no human hope to rebuild their company or pay off their debt.

Eriko, who had seen the Lord open tightly closed doors time after time while Hiroshi was in custody, was able to trust the Lord more as they faced each obstacle. But Hiroshi was in deep need of emotional healing from what he had done, and deliverance from the oppression he had been under, at the same time, carrying the burden of what seemed to him imminent bankruptcy. He did seem genuinely thankful about his salvation, and we all continued to pray and encourage him.

On the following Wednesday, we received notice that Sony had reversed their position, and business could resume again on certain conditions! The Kimuras invited us all over for a celebration and thanksgiving to the Lord. The following day, however, Victor issued a legal writ stating their intentions to repossess their house and freeze all their assets. It was a severe blow and too much for Hiroshi to bear.

On Thursday, Mitsugu and Nicholas spent a few hours with him in prayer. Although he seemed to appreciate their concern and prayers, they could see the situation was heavy on him. Perhaps at that point he had already decided what he was going to do. Early Friday morning, Hiroshi hung himself in his office.

His office manager found him and called us. Nicholas and I raced with Eriko and her son to the hospital where they were still trying to resuscitate him. We were in shock, desperately wishing that it was all a bad dream. There was nothing we could do but PRAY, PRAY, PRAY in the Spirit, trusting God's

promise that the Spirit will pray what is on God's own heart.

It was difficult at that moment to believe anything good could come out of that terrible scenario. Eriko's mother screamed at us that this tragedy happened because we had burned their "sacred" things. The Lord directed us to remain silent. He sent us much needed help through Pastor and Mrs. Kenney, who agreed to conduct the wake with immediate relatives and Christian friends attending.

Needless to say, we all felt devastated about the wrong choice Hiroshi had made. We are disappointed that he will not be part of the blessings the Lord has for his family, business and community. But we also knew that none of us could possibly imagine his mental agony, so we trusted him into the Father's loving care. God alone is the righteous and merciful judge.

GOD'S POWERFUL WORD

On the morning of the funeral I found Eriko in bed weeping. Kenji and Sachi, her sister Kimiko and her two daughters were all trying to console her. I felt the weight of their expectation on me as a "veteran" Christian to "do some special thing" to make Eriko feel better. I wished that Nicholas, gifted to say the right thing at the right time, was there. But one of us had to stay with the children, and as Eriko is a lady, it seemed right for me to come.

When Mitsugu Koide came we took turns praying and reading Scripture, but nothing was getting through. If God was giving me direction, I could not hear Him. Then my eyes fell on a Psalm, and I started to read it out loud. Very different from the comforting passages we had been reading, it had to do with hidden sin, the enemy's taunting, and the need for repentance.

Thinking how irrelevant it was, I was just about to stop reading when Eriko suddenly sat up saying, "I need to repent." She went on to explain that her mother had suggested which relatives she was to invite to the funeral. Before long, it had turned into a slandering session about the relatives her mother did not get along with.

"In the last few weeks," Eriko said,

"I have been taught the importance of extending forgiveness, and praying for blessing even on those who have hurt us, and the danger of holding resentment and unforgiveness. As Ioanna was reading the verses, I suddenly realized what hatred I had allowed in my heart for the people my mother spoke against. Please show me how I must pray to get rid of this bitterness!" I led her in a prayer, she repented, Mitsugu and I rebuked the oppression in Jesus' Name, and we worshipped the Lord. The Lord restored her peace so that she was able to get ready and encourage the others!

About 120 people came to the funeral, where Pastor Kenney gave a clear gospel message full of hope and comfort. Eriko recounted how she and her husband had found new life in Jesus and been baptized. She explained that, for this reason, there was to be no incense burning or praying to the dead. She spoke of her hope of meeting him again in Glory. Knowing the helpless state Eriko had been in only a couple of hours earlier, I marveled at how the Lord was using her to share His love with so many.

MIRACLES OF GRACE

Since then, Eriko has taken over the company. Yes, it is alive again and making some profit. Their house mortgage was paid off by bank insurance. Money from life insurance policies settled many of the debts.

God has helped her in so many amazing ways. I could relate miraculous happenings big and small. It has been a thrilling privilege to be part of such a powerful move of the Lord.

By the way, Eriko's mother told us they really do have a "Kirishitan" ancestor! He was a very famous lord from Kyushu called *Ootomo Soorin* (1530—1587) who dedicated to the Lord his entire household and everything he owned. He had died as a martyr!

Note: Because of the difficult circumstances, pseudonyms have been used. God chose to move in a particular way, and our heart is to give Him all the glory by telling the story as it really happened. If it seems as though we are propagating a certain doctrine or methodology, please know that is not our intention. *Nicholas and Ioanna Sillavan*

Things We Should Know About Returnees

by **Motou Yokoyama**
British Japanese Outreach Mission

RE-ADJUSTING TO JAPAN

Returning as a believer in Jesus to old friendships and family is a big test. It takes a great deal of energy to make new friends, and the support of an older Christian at this time is vital.

Coping with the overall spirit of Japan and feeling its pressures takes a toll. It takes time for the returnee to have a strong settled faith.

In the West most Japanese have much more spare time. Then they return to Japan where they have to *make* spare time. The effort required to develop spiritually calls for great understanding on the part of pastors and counselors.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

What kind of church was it where the returnee made a profession of faith? Was Japanese language used? Was it only in the host language with very little understanding of the Japanese situation? Was it lively, with lots of young people and international students?

Was there a strong emphasis on individual walk with Christ with comparatively little teaching given on working/thinking together (strong elements in a Japanese church)?

Were they helped by Christians emphasizing the love of Christ rather than having a fuller understanding of the general teaching of Christianity?

HOW MUCH IS REALLY UNDERSTOOD?

Many, caught up in the loving fellowship, are baptized with little real understanding. It is possible to have an experience of God which is real but is not a saving experience.

Some attend church for the contact with the host country's culture. They may in fact not be seeking the Lord.

Some act on the basis of "believe and you will be saved," but know almost nothing of the ABC's of faith. Because of language many may not fully understand the meaning of the gospel or the meaning of their commitment to it.

CULTURE SHOCK

Japanese churches are organized in such a way that they do not recognize those who don't fully participate in church life. Many Western churches allow greater freedom in this area and so returnees often feel they are being pressured in the Japanese church.

In the West emphasis is on individual Christian living. Japanese churches emphasize becoming a disciple and taking part in church life.

The Japanese worship service can appear cold and solemn compared with Western churches with a freer approach to worship.

Those who trust the Lord abroad are often not familiar with the polite language used in the Japanese church for prayer, Bible reading, etc. The hymn books may feel old-fashioned also, and these factors may lead to spiritual dryness.

Returnee Christian Network Japan Report

by **Dave Kennedy**

A special meeting with Dr. Tom Phillips, President of International Students, Inc., and Dan Brannen, Global Follow-up Coordinator of ISI was held July 28th at Dave and Kathy Kennedy's home. *Present were representatives from ISI, NAVS; MTW/TGC; Emmanuel Church, Nagoya; CIS, KCC; OC/JEMA; and CBI.*

Pertinent issues discussed included: Why do Christian returnees (or those having had a positive encounter with Christianity abroad) tend to drop out in Japan? Do the "returnee problems" only affect Christians or Japanese returnees in general?

How can we build the bridges for relationships that are so critical in the follow-up of returnees? Can we improve on getting the returnee in contact with someone in Japan *before* their return? How can we help Japanese pas-

tors and churches to be accepting and loving, rather than suspicious of returnees?

How can we help them not only be prepared for re-entry but for relationships in the workplace, with its harsh work ethic and expectations, and in the family, including potential marriage?

Those committed to the returnee ministry need to patiently pray for the returnees. Studies show it takes three to five years for believing returnees to become established, productive and faithful Christians in church life and in society. The Lordship of Christ must be stressed in all follow-up endeavors, which can take 5 to 15 years.

An EQUIPPER CONFERENCE
for Japanese Christians and those ministering to them, co-sponsored by CCC, IVCF, JCFN, ISI and NAVS, is scheduled for 12/26-12/30, 1997 at Camp Berachah, Auburn, WA, USA
Tel. 206-939-0488 or 800-859-CAMP.
or contact Dave Kennedy
DJKKennedy@aol.com

Training conferences are needed to equip Japanese returnees and Japanese pastors, church leaders and lay people.

The Returnee Rally on Saturday, July 26, at the Christian Academy in Japan had in attendance 39 returnees, and 19 who are involved in the returnee network. Dr. Tom Phillips and Dan Brannen spoke, and three Christian returnees gave their testimonies.

Dave and Kathy Kennedy have been with CBI (JCBM) in Japan since 1982.



Letters to the Editor



Dear Brothers and Sisters at JH, JC Cornerstone would like to thank *Japan Harvest* for the article in the summer '97 issue covering Christian bands in Japan, including us. We are quite positive that the article will help us introduce ourselves to the non-Japanese communities in the world. Please send our best regards to Mrs. Terhune for her understanding and support which are quite evident in her writing.

We would like to have a number of copies of the JH for our own use. Please remember us in your prayers so that JC Cornerstone will be used much more often. We are available. Once again, thank you very much for an excellent article.

Love in Christ,
Jun Igarashi, JC Cornerstone
Tokyo

Dear Mrs. Sisco,
Thank you for sending us a copy of *Japan Harvest*. We're very grateful if this testimony can be an encouragement to the fellow workers in Christ who are serving in this country. We'd like to ask you to correct the comment about the church we belong to. We are not Musashino church members. We attend **Tokyo Biblical Church**. Thanks!

Seiji and Kaoru Ishii,
Campus Crusade, Tokyo

Dear Katie and Ron,
I write the mission article for our church's monthly newsletter. For September I based it on the article from *Japan Harvest* on International students. We have many international students at our University here and our people need to see the "mission field" has come to them!

Love,
Dorothy Holmgren,
Bellingham

Ienaga's Crusade for Truth

Food for Thought



Saburo Ienaga, author of more than 40 distinguished historical works, is an eminent Japanese historian whose long career should be crowned with honors. Instead, mention of his name in official circles has, for 32 years, caused embarrassment because of his lonely crusade against the censorship by the Education Ministry of his school textbook accounts of Japan's wartime record.

On August 29th, 1997, this now frail 83-year-old, who has faced ostracism and previous legal defeats, won his final battle. Japan's Supreme Court ruled that the ministry had acted unlawfully in ordering him to delete from a textbook all reference to Unit 731 in China's Harbin Province, where Japanese military doctors performed lethal and cruel bacterial warfare experiments on live prisoners. Despite a wealth of evidence from survivors and guilt-stricken Japanese, the ministry had ruled that there was "no credible academic research" to prove the existence of the camp.

The Supreme Court decision is a personal triumph for Ienaga but only a partial victory as it rejected seven other claims, and, by sitting as a "petty bench" of only 5 of its 15 judges, declared itself unable to rule on his central charge that state censorship of textbooks violates academic freedoms guaranteed under Japan's postwar Constitution.

In a telephone interview with JEMA secretary, Mizuko Matsushita, Mr. Ienaga explained how he has fought for freedom from government control of education. He believes people have a right to know the truth.

Ienaga's campaign started in 1965, when the ministry ordered him to delete or change more than 400 passages in the **New History of Japan** it had commissioned him to write.

Among the offending passages which, 32 years later, the court ruled the examiners to have been justified in censoring were his account of the notorious Nanking atrocities by Japanese forces in 1937 and his use of words such as

"raped" and "violated," to which the ministry objected on the ground that

rape by soldiers was "a common occurrence in wartime."

It is encouraging to note that Ienaga has had more success at the bar of public opinion than in Japan's courts.



A Parable from the Olive Press

by Reuven Doron

The land of Israel is filled with living revelation which is able to enrich and empower the humble and open of heart. Standing before the crude olive press in the biblical gardens of Jerusalem, one cannot escape the message of the golden oil.

Four weights are placed successively upon the stack of olive sacks, bringing increasing pressure. The first weight, which is very light, produces the virgin oil, the first pure harvest which was for holy use in the temple. This oil is for anointing and healing.

The second weight extracts the next harvest under increasing pressure. This one is for cooking.

The third immense stone is laid upon the crushed olives and harvests the oil which will be used for lighting.

And lastly the final drops of precious oil are collected as the fourth harvest. This one is for soap and washing.

Four harvests of oil from the same fruit. First that which is for God, for heavenly use in His temple. This oil needs no pressure to flow. It is worship, the primary and instinctive harvest from the spirit of man standing as a priest before his Maker.

Then follow the successive anointings of service: to feed the sheep, to cast out darkness by shedding light, and to purify the saints. Pastoral work, evangelism, and sanctification all emanate from true worship and ministry to God first. Blessed be His name.



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TV Saitama	Sat 8:30a	L.A., ch. 18	Sun 6a & Wed 4p
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