

# JAPAN HARVEST

MK TRIBUTE  
MK EDUCATION

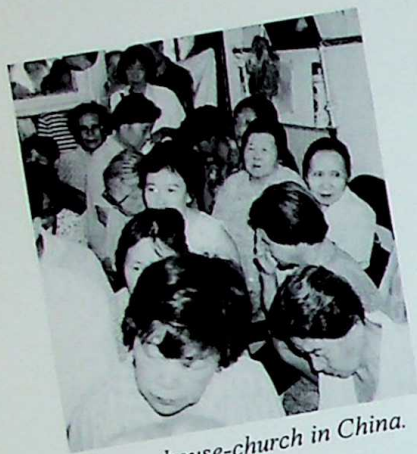
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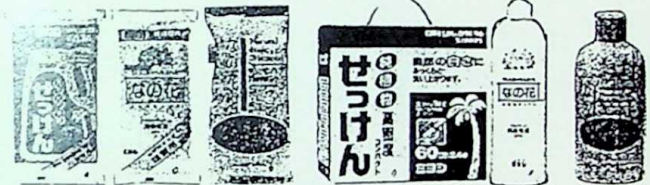


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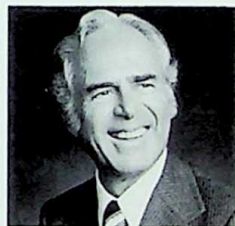


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# JAPAN HARVEST

Volume 49, No. 3/Winter 1998

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*Potpourri and Promises will be back with next issue!*

*Cover Photo Nozomi Lutheran School, with teacher, Diane Roekle courtesy of CAJ/ESS*

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

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***In This Harvest ...***

## ***fuel enough***



Sometimes the "theme" of an issue isn't obvious at first and then the pieces fit together, like ... patchwork. So what do airplanes and families and jars have to do with each other? Or with this issue? "Fuel enough"? I hope you'll enjoy the discovery of the theme the Lord has woven throughout the articles featured this time.

Grace, peace and provision to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

*Katie Sisco, ed.*

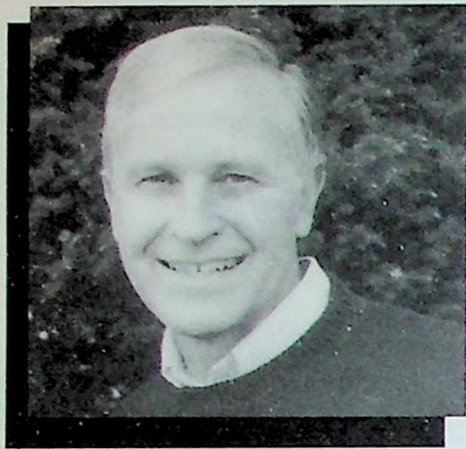


### **A reminder to our subscribers:**

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# Jema Windows

Ron Sisco, JEMA President



**"I see in Asian missions activities kamikaze-type mentality."**—  
*Takahashi Fukuda*

Sitting among the 387 participants and observers at the **Second Asia Missions Congress (AMCII)** in Pattaya, Thailand and hearing statements like this got my mental juices going. What's right with this statement? What's wrong with it?

If we follow Mr. Fukuda's taking exception with a kamikaze-type mentality, we can agree that it is dead wrong to send missionaries out with "only enough fuel to go one way." Mr. Fukuda's point being that we have not done a complete job in missions until we have committed ourselves to maintaining as well as sending.

One of the 10 consultation tracks of AMCII dealt with Missionary Care. Each of the ten tracks were presented simultaneously for the three days and I

could only cover three, Missionary Care, M.K. Education and Signs and Wonders in Missions. Other tracks covered were: Mobilizing the Church for Missions, Programs for Missionary Training, Missionary Strategy and Activities in Restricted Contexts, Equipping and Mobilizing Tentmakers, From Short Term to Career Missionaries, Funding the Missions' Movement in Asia, and Developing Prayer Movements for Missions.

In the afternoon session on Missionary Care several Korean mission leaders expressed grave concern for missionaries that have been sent out (an estimated 8,000 Koreans so far) with very little consideration for their care while on the field and much less for them when they return to the homeland. A couple of Filipino leaders voiced the same concerns for

Filipino missionaries—no consideration for them when they returned home with hurts, disillusionment and even mental problems. As a western missionary listening to my brothers and sisters share so vividly, I could better understand Fukuda's concern, "...only enough fuel to go one way."

On another day, following Dr. Larry Keyes' presentation, *Strategy for Missionary Deployment*, an Asian delegate from Sri Lanka jumped to his feet to ask Dr. Keyes, "Brother, I don't

*(Continued on page 21)*



Dr. Larry Keyes of OC International

## JEMA Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Place
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
May 19th~22nd, 1998	<i>Tokyo Men's Prayer Summit</i>	Okutama SEND Bible Chalet
May 26th~29th, 1998	<i>Kansai Men's Prayer Summit</i>	Hiruzen Bible Camp, Okayama
July 30th~August 2nd, 1998	<i>JEMA Summer Conference</i>	Karuizawa Union Church

# MK EDUCATION IN JAPAN

by Hydi Peterson

Children are a gift from God. With this gift come many decisions, including where and how to educate them. As the debate continues in the U.S. between public, Christian and home school, it is also a concern on the mission field. The question arises, "What are you doing about your kids' education?" The answers vary—Christian Academy in Japan (CAJ), home school, Japanese school—but the concern is the same. Surveys indicate that a leading reason for missionary attrition is the education of their children.

I am a third generation missionary in Japan. My grandparents came from Germany in 1928 and their six children began formal education at the German School in Tokyo. World War II left them struggling for survival in Karui-zawa with other German families where they founded and led a school.

As the war shattered their hopes of returning to Germany, they pursued English education for the children. My father went to St. Joseph's in Yokohama, his younger sister to Sacred Heart and younger brother to CAJ. My father finished his studies in the US and returned to Japan with his wife. My sisters and I went to Japanese kindergarten and then CAJ.

After Christian college in the US and then teaching for three years in the U.S. public school system, I moved back to Japan with my husband. I taught at Sacred Heart Int'l School in Tokyo, while he pursued his M.Div. at a Japanese seminary.

Missionary Kid (MK) education is a topic I have researched for five years. Through personal experience I have seen a method of schooling satisfy one family and leave another family frustrated. As my peers have grown, I have seen the long term benefits as well as the drawbacks of the various options.

According to the 1997 JEMA Directory there are 2,425 Protestant mis-

sionaries in Japan. About 1000 MKs are in-country. Thirty years ago, a majority of the missionaries expected to place their children in the CAJ dormitory. At that time the school and its dorms were full. Enrollment was 450 with 90% MKs.

Since then, MK education has changed greatly. CAJ dorms closed as enrollment decreased to less than 300 in the early 80's. It rose again in the 90's, but the days of large dormitories were over. CAJ now has one dorm for 15 middle and high school students.

Currently, approximately 20% of MKs attend CAJ and their families have settled within commuting distance. According to Church Information Service, there are more churches along the Seibu train line (near CAJ) than anywhere else in Japan. Meanwhile Japan

still has 1,750 towns and villages and 8 cities with no Christian churches. Is evangelism of these places limited to missionaries without children? I do not believe so. Living in Tokyo may still provide the most choices, but it is possible to find satisfactory options.

MKs are referred to as a third culture who have a sense of belonging to two cultures while not feeling total ownership of either. As John Wood, Covenant MK from Zaire, said, "I have never felt at home in the States, and I don't really feel at home in Zaire either. Like Abraham I am looking forward to a city...whose builder is God. This longing for another place doesn't come from within me, but is a gift from my parents and my God, because I am an MK."

Larry Sharp, in his article, "Toward a Greater Understanding of the MK," concludes that "MKs...are in many ways advantaged, having been exposed to an extended world perspective, developed cross-cultural skills, acquired other languages and the ability to relate to national peers. We might anticipate a future for MKs as...mediators on the world human relations scene." He adds that MKs are intelligent, normal, well-adjusted...a very important, yet often latent, resource for world understanding and missions.

Edward Danielson in his study of

MKs in the Philippines, Kenya and Ecuador found ten personality traits he claims are evident in most MKs. They are emotionally stable, highly intelligent, reserved, conscientious, controlling, conservative, relaxed, slightly submissive, and slightly group dependent. It should be noted that all those researched attended an MK school.

Parents play a crucial role in their children's development. This may be even more significant for MKs. A positive parental attitude toward expatriate



life and the chosen method of schooling is vital. The children need to see a warm marital relationship and feel loved by both parents. Studies indicate that the missionary father has a key role. He needs to be involved, supportive, warm, and firm. The children need to feel they are a part of the ministry.

Each missionary family faces unique challenges but four issues impact every family: 1) the potential to be bicultural, bilingual, and biliterate, 2) field relocation, 3) home assignments and 4) re-entry into "home" culture.

## BILINGUALISM

Many missionaries assume that as they enthusiastically study kanji and adjust to Japan, their children will become bicultural, bilingual and even biliterate by osmosis. This is usually not the case. It is nearly impossible to be truly bicultural without being bilingual. Being biliterate in English and Japanese is an even greater challenge!

Bilingualism will be greatly impacted by the method of schooling. MKs who attend English speaking schools often return to their home country with little knowledge of the Japanese language. In Margaret Taylor's survey of 26 adult MKs from Japan, over half of them regretted not learning more about their host country.

## RELOCATION ON THE FIELD

Relocation presents a handful of challenges. Although some missionaries remain in one location throughout their



career, most stay for 2 to 6 years and then move. Others relocate even more often. Moving provides the opportunity to meet new people and be stretched by different situations, but missionaries need to think through the challenges to their children in advance as much as possible.

### HOME ASSIGNMENT

Length and frequency of home assignment depends on the mission organization, but whatever the pattern, this can be a distressing time for an MK. In one missionary survey, less than one-third indicated their children enjoyed the process. Unquestionably, most families feel increased stress.

Preparation about money, customs and current events can make the transition easier. Returning to the same place on each home assignment also reduces stress. Take time to visit historical sites, relax together as a family, and spend time with relatives to deepen relationships. These relationships may be the network of support MKs will need later.

Returning to Japan *after* home assignment can also be difficult. If return to Japanese school is the educational choice, it may be worthwhile to locate near a **Japanese Saturday School** while at home.

### REPATRIATION

For most MKs, reentry into the home society on a long term basis coincides with college entrance. This alone is stressful, but coupled with a change of culture, where a young person is expected to “fit in,” can lead to “reentry shock.” Reentry seminars specifically for MKs are now being held in various locations in the US. The first semester of college is a crucial time so it may be wise to plan home assignment to coincide with college entrance.

While reentry *is* important, an article by Randy Borman, Ecuador MK, challenges us to think about another side. He says it is time to “turn the emphasis around and actively work to prepare MKs for potential ministry in their host country....”

Dr. Loreen Itterman, education specialist, agrees. When asked by a mother how to prepare her teenage daughters for reentry into American society, she quickly replied that “fitting in” is not of great importance. Of greater value is to prepare our children to be world Christians.

### CURRENT OPTIONS

#### CAJ

For nearly a century, MKs were generally sent home for schooling. J. Hudson Taylor’s vision helped found the first MK school in Chefoo, China in 1881. Taylor’s idea that MKs could remain on the field was revolutionary. Chefoo School was closed down by Communists in 1949, but by then the concept of MK schools had caught on.



Homeschoolers at a recent CAJ/SSS Day

In 1950, CAJ was formed by six missions to meet the needs of Japan MKs. One advantage of a school like CAJ is the diversity of subjects offered. Extracurricular activities include: drama, school publications, speech, music, art, sports and an ESL program. Peer interaction is another benefit.

MK schools can have a reputation for forming a type of “hot house” which promotes the third culture instead of helping young people enjoy the richness of being bicultural. One study showed that 64% of MKs desire more contact with national peers while no MKs indicated that they wanted less.

I am encouraged to see that CAJ is more fully integrating Japanese language and culture into the curriculum from first grade. Kyoto, Nagasaki and Hiroshima are visited in 8th and 12th grades.

Japanese guests are invited to speak in chapel.

MK boarding has been widely criticized, but while there are MKs who have suffered because of their boarding experience, others have flourished. For some, it may still be the best option. Another option is a “home-stay” with a family in the CAJ area.

### HOME COUNTRY SCHOOLS

Cost can be a factor in sending an MK “home” for schooling. Or the MK may choose to stay home when the family returns to Japan after home assignment. Common among European missionaries is planning from the outset to send the child home for education.

One advantage of the home country is the opportunity to be actively involved in a church and youth group. Among the disadvantages: parents cannot attend school events or meet friends, supervision may not be adequate, and the MK is distanced from the parents’ ministry.

### SMALL CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

There are now a number of small schools for MKs outside the Tokyo area, ranging from over 30 students at Kansai Christian to as few as five at Hokushin Valley Christian.

While educational philosophies and methods vary, MKs can live at home and receive a Bible-based education in English. Fewer students promote a family environment where older students help the younger and teachers can give more personal attention to each student. Tuition rates are also lower. Disadvantages include: limited facilities, students being the only one in their age group, having the same teacher year after year, and parents shouldering a large portion of the responsibility.

### INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Due to the large number of expats living in Japan there are many international schools, but not all are acceptable options for MKs. Catholic schools, such as Sacred Heart, purpose “to...affirm the belief that there is meaning in life and thereby foster within the community a sense of Christian hope; to educate students in decision making in the light of Christian principles....” Others, like the



new Daystar International School in Kumamoto, have an educational philosophy based on...the Bahai faith.

A relatively new concept in Japan is merging of international schools with Japanese schools. In 1988, Sendai American School merged with Nanko Gakuen. Osaka International School was opened with its sister school, Osaka Intercultural Academy, in 1991 to serve children of Japanese expats who have returned to Japan. The curriculums overlap to promote bicultural education.

There are over 100 other international schools offering K-12 programs in Korean, Chinese, German, French, Indonesian, Norwegian and Finnish.

### ENGLISH IMMERSION SCHOOLS

A new option is the English immersion school. These are Japanese schools designed for Japanese, using English instruction. The first in Japan, Kato Gakuen, was founded in 1992 as a private elementary school with 216 students in the Japanese language track and 236 in the immersion program. The National Department of Education (*Mombusho*) has noted the success of Kato Gakuen and is eager to have more immersion programs started.

### HOME SCHOOLING

Home schooling and missions have gone hand in hand for many decades. In the past, the Calvert Correspondence Course was most commonly used for MKs.

In the US, homeschooling has advanced with evangelicals at the forefront. Dr. James Dobson has endorsed educator Raymond Moore's theory that home is the best place to learn. Even famous educational psychologist Dr. Benjamin Bloom now concludes that, "*The home is the best nest and the parents are the best teachers.*"

One missionary mother, who plans to home school through sixth grade said, "Our hope and prayer is that by the time we send them off, they will have internalized our values, have discerning hearts, and be equipped to deal with peer pressures."

A tremendous increase in materials and methods have made things easier. *Calvert* and *A Beka* are the most popular correspondence courses used in

Japan. The **whole curriculum method** provides textbooks, helps, and more guidance to the teacher. **Tailoring your own program** allows parents to enjoy many materials and to build studies around topics which interest the child. Families need to examine their lifestyle and teaching and learning styles before choosing curriculum.

Sally Kaufman, MK home schooling mom, says "getting it right" takes time. Some may find that home schooling is not their best option. Families who love the home schooling idea may find it much more difficult in Japan due to isolation.

**CAJ's School Support Services (SSS)** was founded in 1983 by adult MK, Flossie Epley. It currently helps 130 home-schooled children, and 53 MKs in CAJ-affiliated schools.

Being on the mission field adds extra challenges to the already difficult task of home-schooling. The teaching parent has less time for mission work, homes are too small to devote a room to schooling alone, lack of peer interaction can lead to lack of motivation, weakness in areas of physical education, music and art leaves parents scrambling to fill the gaps, or students may spend most time on preferred subjects, shortchanging others.

Paul Nelson, of Wycliffe's education program, sees the difficulties but believes it can be successful. He advises, "make sure the assignments are age-appropriate, keep expectations realistic, and...have a consulting teacher."

Take advantage of the CAJ/SSS. Enroll in community classes. Help your child learn Japanese. Check your area for an Int'l Children's *Bunko* Ass'n.—for foreign children and Japanese children who have lived overseas to meet and enjoy activities together.

### JAPANESE SCHOOLS

Currently there are 95,851 foreign students enrolled in Japanese schools. Tuition, textbooks and health insurance are free at public primary and middle schools. Even private Japanese schools are reasonable compared with international schools. Many private schools have Christian roots. These may be a good alternative.

Japanese schooling may be chosen for a variety of reasons: cost, proximity, learning Japanese, making friends, and discipline. Many Japanese teachers actively strive to instill these qualities in their students: diligence, endurance, ability to decide to do the hard thing, dedication and cooperativeness.

Eric and Lori Davidson, affiliated with Tentmakers' Network, reported, "Having our children in local schools has been the single most effective means of sharing the Christian faith during our entire stay in Japan." It should be noted that much of the praise for local schools is limited to the kindergarten and elementary level. Merry White, in her book, **The Japanese Educational Challenge**, states that students entering secondary schools "are forced to leave a place of harmony, warmth and

cooperation for six years of serious effort and testing...at best challenging and at worst a devastatingly harsh environment in which one's future becomes mapped." 80% of the *ijime*, or bullying, occurs among junior high students. Some do find junior high workable, though. The Elliot family in Akita and Olson family in Iwate have had children complete junior high before switching to home schooling or a boarding situation.

The philosophical base of Japanese public school poses problems for some. Parents should continually talk with their kids about the differences between what is taught at school and the Christian faith.

Due to the different school year (Japanese system starts in April) and the difficulty keeping up with both languages, an MK may need to be placed

CAJ / ESS Educational Support Services		
SSS Ⓟ	Affiliated SchoolsⓅ	Satellite Ⓟ
Home	CAJ Preschool	Zushi
Schools	Nozomi	
	Chefoo	
	Hokushin	
	Tsukuba	

back a year when switching schools or going on home assignment. Parental attitude is very important here. Every part of living is educational. MKs should not feel ashamed about needing an extra year to adjust.

### BILINGUALISM and MKs

Japan Asso. for Language Teaching (JALT) is responsible for much of the research on English/Japanese bilingualism. Missionaries raising their children bilingually may want to subscribe to "The Bilingual Family Newsletter" and "Bilingual Japan," published by JALT.

English at home and Japanese at school provides an ideal environment for what is called "additive bilingualism." "Additive bilingual children show definite advantages in cognitive flexibility, creativity and divergent thinking." The most important factor in a child's language development is participating in conversations with supportive communication partners. The second factor is reading to the child.

### NEW OPTIONS

As the number of foreign students and returning expats in the public schools increases, more flexibility in Japanese schools is inevitable. New immersion programs will begin. Combining homeschooling with Japanese school will be easier.


The computer will also provide new options for the MK. **The School of Tomorrow**, a computer based curriculum, is being used by one small Christian school in Japan and individual families. **Clonlara Homebased Education**, linked to a high school in Michigan, sends assignments over the internet and keeps students in close contact with teachers by e-mail. **Clonlara** has a Japanese-language home schooling option as well.

Most MKs have traditionally gone home for college. This, too, may change as acceptable options open up in Japan. Kyoto Int'l University is seeking to attract MKs with a 50% discount. Tokyo Christian University welcomes bilingual students, and as their exchange programs with colleges in the States expand, MKs might find TCU an attractive alternative.

### THE LAST WORD

Danielson, in his book, **Missionary Kid-MK**, concludes that, "It depends... on the parents' attitude, availability of schools, finances, abilities and ages of children, mission policy, and what God has in mind—knowledge of which usually comes through prayer and the Word along with counsel from fellow missionaries."

Listen to your child. Remain flexible. Seek information. Ask advice of experienced missionaries. Be open to the Holy Spirit. Let's not judge each other's choices but encourage one another and speak softly in love.

As fellow missionaries there is much we can do to support each other. Help home schooling families. Offer to teach a subject once a week or take younger kids to the park to give parents uninterrupted time with the older kids. Consider planning an event on Saturday afternoons for MKs in your area who attend Japanese schools. Invite a "boarder" home for supper. Get involved in an MK's life. Be a  part of their education, whatever it is! It could change their life, and yours!



*Hydi Peterson and her husband, Jim, are with the Evangelical Covenant Church in Japan since 1993, presently on furlough.*

*Hydi Peterson's full paper, which includes lists of schools, e-mail addresses and much more information is available for ¥500 through Flossie Epley or Rita Schellenberg at ESS (CAJ) Tel. 0424-71-3694 Fax: 0424-76-2200. e-mail: Rita.Schellenberg@jemanet.gol.com*

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## A Tribute to Joe and Margaret Meeko by Andy Meeko

Dad, I have been told that you used to climb the hills above the great Yamagata valley and look down on the cities and towns with a fire in your eye and exclaim, "These are my people, and this is my valley, and there are no churches yet." This spring, Junko and I, with our three kids, moved from Tokyo to "your valley." Fifty years have passed since you first came. The valley is now studied with churches.

Our first Sunday, in a strangely appropriate way, was Easter, the Sunday that the churches visit the mausoleum, where half of your ashes are kept. The other half are with Mom in Oregon now. The mausoleum, high on a forested hill, over-looks "your" valley. Now I stand here with a grateful heart.

Mom, you just came for the 50th anniversary of the Conservative Baptists in Japan—the only missionary from that era able to attend, and that just after cancer surgery. I take this opportunity to say how much you both mean to me, and how your lives have affected mine.

Mom, you always made home inviting. When I'd return from the CAJ dorm, you would have baked your terrific bread and made that great "garbage-soup." I can still smell it as I would come in from the dark cold. You were the one I always wanted when I got sick. You were ready for most any illness with your incredible stash of medicines. You knew just how to soothe poison oak. Even a hurt bird or stray kitten never missed your eye.

Mom, you carry yourself in such an elegant way. People always comment on how graceful you are. You can wear any costume jewelry and everyone is sure they are genuine simply because of you. And your generosity is quite confounding. Yes, you would happily give everything away, if Sonny weren't managing things for you! Your heart is as

big as the Pacific!

Thank you, Mom, for chasing me around the house to hug and kiss me when I was in junior high. I needed that, as much as I resisted it. Thank you for all the times you took me to the zoo when I was little, and bought me souvenirs. I've had my panda bear cup for 25 years. Thanks for watching Sazae san and Kamen Raida with me and explaining all the Japanese I didn't understand.

I especially thank you for trusting me. I will never forget that day as a four year old when I threw my sword into the bushes and unintentionally broke Dad's precious gardenia sapling. When Dad called me to account, I lied in fear. Dad didn't believe me, but you said, "Andy

didn't do it. He would never lie to me." Because of that trust I was overwhelmed with guilt, confessed, and to my knowledge have not lied in over 32 years.

Dad, you loved life more than anyone I

know. You appreciated the wonder of God's creation with such zest. Of course, we almost drove off many a cliff while you admired the scenery! You gave me a fascination for many things ...from the vast heavens to a sun-warmed blackberry picked alongside a dusty country road. And you always knew which little towns had the best berry shakes, no matter how far-flung those shabby little diners were.

Thank you, Dad, for giving me freedom and encouraging my interests, like my fascination with geology, buying me-books and stopping to rockhound on the way to preach at some remote church. You never even grumbled at all the rocks I wanted to take back to Japan. But, especially, thank you for that National Geographic book on planet earth that you pre-ordered. It came for my birthday, ten months after you'd gone. I held it recently and wept. For fifteen years I have missed you.

Thank you, Dad, for showing me

what is important in life. You could have made millions with your charisma and vision, but you humbly followed God, twice selling your home in the US, and spending everything to minister in Japan. You wanted to die owning nothing, and when God took you home, basically your only possession was your pajamas. Yet, in uncanny ways, you have provided amply for all Mom's needs since you've been gone. And most of all, you showed me the importance of charity. You made any "Tom, Dick or Harry" feel like a VIP. You were ready with spare gasoline, or whatever, to help anyone stranded on the freeway. How many nights I remember grumbling from the back seat, "Goodie-Two-Shoes strikes again!" as you pulled over to help yet another. But you made your mark on my young soul.

Thank you, Mom and Dad, for loving each other so much. Your example gives me a high standard for marriage.

Because of you I see the world in very big and different way. Thank you for proving all the experts wrong and never boxing God in. A dozen church in umpteen years in Japan. People gawked at your plans, but you knew... and God did amazing things. I am immensely proud to be known as the son of Joe Meeko.

Now I humbly stand on the hillside above "your valley" grasping the torch you've passed. And because God gave me parents like you, I stand today strong and proud. I can trust God for big things. I love life and know what is important. I cherish all my memories, like priceless treasures. You have given me a rich heritage, and I will have you in my heart for all eternity.





# GOD AT WORK IN FUKUOKA

## Revival Report by Karen Sue Jones

"I've never seen so many shining faces. Even the grandmothers and grandfathers are full of joy," one lady exclaimed as the crowd was pouring out of the Fukuoka Civic Center this past May during the All Kyushu Revival Mission Crusade meetings.

Over 1,000 people from across the island gathered for the four-days of meetings. The front was packed at every service as the invitation was given and people went forward to accept Christ or rededicate their lives to Him. There was such a powerful atmosphere of humility, unity, and the Holy Spirit's presence.

The meetings began with pastors representing various denominations joining hands on the platform and singing, "We are One in Christ Jesus." A "March For Jesus" rally one afternoon saw the young folks marching through the streets praising the Lord, passing out tracts, and inviting the city to the evening meetings, while the older folks remained in the Center, in intercession.

Revival meetings in the morning, prayer and praise in the afternoon, and evangelistic meetings in the evening were all blessed as the Holy Spirit fell and lives were filled afresh. That special touch from heaven which is present when

God's people unitedly lift up the name of Jesus brought new strength and encouragement to many.

Months of prayer and preparation had preceded the meetings. City pastors

put aside denominational differences, looked to the Lord, and joined in prayer for this nation and this island. The monthly prayer meetings brought confession and a spirit of humility and unity.

City-wide prayer meetings were held in Fukuoka and other cities as God began to pour out upon His people a new burden to pray for their cities and their country. The prayer movement grew, bringing a frail and fragmented Church together. By the time of the Crusade, God's people were covering the city in prayer and looking forward to what God was going to do.

The effects of the Revival Mission Crusade continue to be felt here in Fukuoka. Monthly interdenominational prayer and praise meetings are being held in the city. The number of prayer meetings is growing as the Holy Spirit unites the Church in prayer.

A spirit of unity and cooperation among the denominations has brought new life and power to the Church. Along with the increased prayer, there is repentance, confession and a new love and joy among God's people, along with a feeling of expectation.



I believe this is just the beginning of what God is planning to do here and all across Japan. God is calling His people to prayer for a purpose and I believe we are going to see great things in this coun-

try in the days ahead. Where there is prayer, the Holy Spirit is present, and where He is present, there is a unity which transcends all tradition and form.

Nothing is more beautiful or powerful than the body of Christ worshipping and serving the Lord together in the unity of the Spirit. Unity among the believers and a prevailing spirit of prayer will bring revival to the church and salvation to the people. Hallelujah!



**Karen Sue Jones has been in Japan with OMS since 1983.**

A ten day  
Tokyo Revival Mission  
will be held in the  
Tokyo Budoukan  
September 18-27, 1998.  
Over 10,000 Christians  
from across the country  
have registered to pray daily  
for Tokyo, and the city  
is being covered  
in a 24-hour prayer program  
which will run throughout  
the coming year.

*"While regeneration and revival are the sovereign act of God, evangelism is the constant obligation of the church."*



If you're a "Gospel giver," don't leave home without THIS! It can't be ordered from a catalog or purchased at a store.

What is this "missionary equipment," essential for every corner of God's field? "A missionary mindset,"—a joyful willingness to suffer—and it's imperative for ALL who would spread the good news.

Hear it in the Apostle Paul, "I want you to know how glad I am that it's me here in this jail and not you. There's a lot of suffering to be entered into in this world—the kind of suffering that Christ takes on. I welcome the chance to take my share in the church's part of that suffering. When I became a servant in this church, I experienced this suffering as a sheer gift. It's God's way of helping me serve you, laying out the whole truth." (Col. 1:24,25, The Message)

How can we develop this mindset? Donnel and Venda McLean, 41 year veterans with the Assemblies of God in Japan, underlined three ways all of us can grow in this grace.

### A Realistic Readiness

The Apostle Paul entertained no grandiose ideas of the glamor of his call. From the start God showed him "how many things he must suffer for My name's sake." (Acts 9:16)

Dreams of glamor and glory while doing great things for God easily evaporate in the blast of realities—dirt, differences, spiritual oppression. "We must honestly face the cost," says Donnel. "Dig for the truth. Take a veteran to lunch and hear 'the rest of the story.' Ask them to balance the excitement of success with the pain of failure."

Jesus told an enthusiastic would-be-disciple the tough side of following Him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." (Luke 9:57-58) Our Lord did not commute from Heaven to preach the Gospel. He paid the price of missions.

### An Adaptable Attitude

Our culture clings to us subtly, colliding with strange expectations and unusual demands on the field.

## DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT THIS!

by Carol Ahola

"What will make us more flexible and adaptable?" I asked.

"Practice!" Donnel and Venda agreed. "Adopt a positive attitude toward your circumstances right now. Do three things a day that you don't like to do. Embrace the difficult."

When Venda was only six years old, she told her mother she wanted to be a missionary—"where nobody else wants to go!" As early as junior high Venda began to prepare. Although she disliked fish, she determined to enjoy it and she ate it often. When God called her to Japan, her taste buds were ready!

The biggest reason missionaries fail, however, is not inability to adapt to a new language and strange customs. Not adapting with other missionaries ranks as the number one reason for defeat.

"Teammates, like marriage partners, will have idiosyncrasies that can irritate you," Donnell shared. "When I went to Japan as a single, I roomed with another missionary. Whenever I opened the window, he would close it. When I would shut a window, he would open it. After several months, I became irritated. I decided to tell this brother what was bothering me. As it turned out, he had no idea what he was doing. He apologized and we became great friends. Communication and adaptability can't be overrated!"

### A Happy Helpfulness

Ministry means serving. "My father was a doctor who gave up everything to bring medical help to the Indians on the not easily accessible west coast of Vancouver Island," Donnel spoke of his roots. "I took school by correspondence and worked full-time from the age of twelve on our mission's medical boat."

"What kept you from grumbling?"

"My relationship with the Lord," Donnel quickly replied. "I never missed

church or prayer meeting. I prayed and read the Bible every day. I didn't know it, but God was laying a foundation for my ministry to unreached people in Japan. I never thought of any of my boyhood as sacrifice.

"A plaque hung on Dad's medical boat," Donnel continued. "It told his heart: 'Ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.' I learned from him to love washing dishes. He taught me to do the menial well, because it brought glory to God. I developed a personal discipline toward the unpleasant and actually learned to ENJOY whatever I do."

"Tell us, who have grown up in our self-indulgent culture, how to develop this discipline."

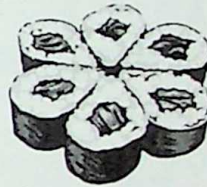
"Look beyond the task to the results," Donnel counseled. "Jesus saw beyond the torture and shame of the cross to the joy set before Him. Put on the garment of praise. Brother Lawrence practiced the presence of God while washing dishes."

"Trust God to arrange your preparation. You won't have to seek suffering," Venda smiled. "But when it comes, don't run from it; march straight into what God has planned."

"'Bread corn is bruised.' (Isaiah 28:28a) We must be broken into a thousand pieces if we are to be bread to feed a thousand hungry people," Donnel opened his Bible to a worn page. A faded poem captures the missionary mindset we must gain:

"When God wants to use a man—  
To fill a man and thrill a man,  
When He yearns with all His heart  
To make so great and bold a man  
That all the world will stand amazed,  
Watch His methods, watch His ways.  
How He hammers him and hurts him,  
And with mighty blows converts him  
Into such a molten mass  
That only God can understand  
When his anguished heart is crying  
And he lifts beseeching hands!  
How He bends but never breaks  
When his good He undertakes—  
GOD KNOWS WHAT HE'S ABOUT!"  
—author unknown

Carol Ahola and her husband, Milt, served in Japan with Assemblies of God from 1974 to 1978.



# Patchwork Evangelism

by Sandra Shigeno

A few years ago, after our small church of 40 members here in Shizuoka ken had a deluge of several hundred people for our annual bazaar, a group of us were sitting amid the cleanup mess, drinking tea and musing aloud. "What would it take to get even half that many to a regular church service?" "How can we tie the interests of the community to the church?"

One woman sighed, "My mother-in-law is not interested in even seeing what the church offers. If only I could get her to step inside the door..."

Then she said something that was to add a new approach to women's ministry. "Obaachan does like patchwork; what if you started a patchwork class in the church?" Why not?

Soon after that question, an article in a national newspaper related that patchwork was now more popular than English study among Japanese women. The missionary who worked in our church, Kerstin Dellming, and I began to wonder if we were getting a providential message. The "traditional" ways of attracting non-Christians to church or Bible study had not worked in our small rice-growing community. And so patchwork evangelism was born.

Handcrafts—embroidery, tapestries, banners, paintings—have been used throughout church history to

glorify God and focus thoughts and meditations on spiritual truths through visual representations. God Himself blessed and valued the skill of needlework when He gave Moses specific directions for the making of the Tabernacle tapestries.

It has been found that *hearing* a message may make an initial impact, but *seeing* it may fix it in the memory forever. If *doing* something results in even greater learning, then combining Bible truths with a visual art which one is learning to make pulls the *hearing, seeing* and *doing* together, and the effect should be a permanent impression.



Sandra using the Bible Sampler Quilt with an English Bible Study Group.

With the knowledge of patchwork's popularity in Japan and realizing that many patchwork patterns, originating with pioneer women in America, are based on the Bible, Kerstin and I put together a course which covers Genesis to the Revelation in a systematic order.

We felt that this method of ministry would reach women whom we might never have had a chance to meet, and who would not otherwise hear any of the Bible's messages. We were surprised when over twenty women showed up for the first class, most of whom had never been in a church before. By the end of the year-long course, some of the women were coming to special meetings, concerts, the Christmas program, and the English Bible class.

After they "graduated" from our

class, several went on to become teachers themselves, beginning their classes by teaching the same patterns and Bible stories they had been taught—spreading the Good News further, though inadvertently, to others whom no pastor or missionary has ever met.

I really believe that this type of ministry works, not only in presenting the Bible to non-Christians, but in meeting women *where they are*. Debbie Moore, a missionary who combines patchwork with Bible study in Hiroshima, states, "I think it's a good way to comfortably present the Gospel."

Debbie has what she calls a "witness quilt" on the wall of her home, and it has led to many opportunities to tell Japanese about God's love and leading in her life.

I feel that this method of evangelism works because relationships, so important in Japan, are formed from the beginning and sustained

throughout and beyond the course. Our class represented a wide spectrum of society—from a millionaire's daughter, whose chauffeur brought her, to a hard-working truck driver's wife. But during the hours of sewing around the table, our common human concerns and problems gradually were shared—and cared about. I believe Christ's love is "caught" and sustained in these caring relationships in a more personal way than in many of the usual evangelistic methods.

After sharing the results of that initial Bible patchwork class the next year at Amagi Sanso at a Women's Conference workshop, I was asked for patterns and lesson plans. Several missionaries began using them in their churches and ministries. This type of course can be



used as easily with Christian groups as with non-Christian. Joyce Magee in Hokkaido started a class for ladies in her church, and they made a quilt wall hanging to use in the sanctuary, illustrating Sunday school lessons for children's classes.

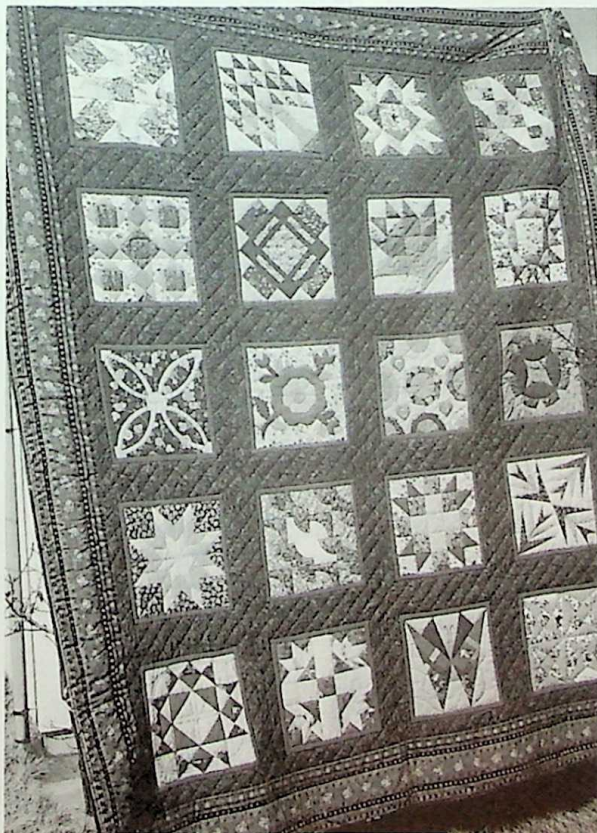
Kathy Imai is combining English Bible classes at Tokyo's Ochanomizu Christian Center with teaching Bible-theme-patchwork-patterns. Partly in answer to a query from Kathy as to a guidebook for teachers, **Through the Bible with Patchwork**, (available from CLC in Tokyo) now makes it easier for teachers to present these lessons utilizing their own "style," experience and time frame.

The book also contains a bibliography for reference, since the use of patchwork and banners in churches, worship ser-

vices and Bible studies is becoming popular worldwide. At least one site on the Internet, "Partners in Patchwork," sponsored by a Baptist church in Canada, now presents lessons on combining patchwork with Bible study. (<http://www.mountain-inter.net/~graham>)



**Kathy Imai with English Bible Quilt Class**



There is the story of an old mountain woman from the hills of Kentucky who had a lot of wisdom in relating to others. "Aunt Jane" told their struggling seminary-trained pastor that although she had never been to college, if she could just get into the pulpit with one of her quilts, she could make the sermons a lot plainer! A patchwork ministry could possibly make the Gospel "plainer" to the ones *we* want to reach!

☞ The Bible Sampler Quilt has twenty frames: Garden of Eden, Tree of Life, Dove in the Window, Jacob's Ladder, Joseph's Coat, Children of Israel, Grape Basket, King David's Crown, Job's Tears, Rose of Sharon, Bride's Prize, Caesar's Crown, Star of Bethlehem, The Dove, Star and Cross, Hosanna, Crown of Thorns, Cross and Crown, Butterfly (Resurrection) World Without End.

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# JEMA CHURCH PLANTERS' INSTITUTE, 1997

report by Steve Childers

*John Mehn, JEMA CPI's Director, received the following report from Steve Childers and felt it expressed the heart of the 1997 Conference. He adds comments from attendees.*

**E**ighty-nine missionaries and pastors from 10 nations, 20 mission agencies and 19 prefectures gathered October 21—24 for JEMA's Church Planters' Institute. This was my fifth church planting conference in Japan and my fourth annual conference for JEMA.

This year, SEND International's Okutama Bible Chalet was filled to overflow capacity. Registration had to be closed. Some missionaries even slept on the chapel floor. The theme was "Sharing the Vision," based on CPI's vision statement, which reads, *"Advancing God's kingdom through mentoring leaders (nationals) to be part of a movement that is multiplying churches that are multiplying disciples through the power of the Gospel."*

The focus of the conference was on recovering not only the apostolic

method (church planting) but also the apostolic message (the Gospel) as the power source for the salvation of unbelievers and the transformation of believers. Special emphasis was placed on reaching Japanese men so that the churches would consist primarily of families—the core of the society.

A challenge I gave was to picture the nation as a "conglomeration of human hearts" which can only be transformed one heart at a time through the power of the Gospel, beginning with the heart of the church planter. During a concert of prayer one evening, heartfelt prayer was made for a spreading Gospel flame to engulf the nation for God's glory—one heart at a time.

JEMA President Ron Sisco formally greeted the attendees as "the elite, front-line missionary force in Japan today." Those attending represented Scotland, England, Germany, Finland, Norway, USA, Canada, Australia, Korea, and Japan. Japanese church planters with KDK (*Kaitaku Dendo Kai*)—a major force in supporting Japanese nationals in church planting—attended along with the chairman of their board.



Steve Childers and John Mehn

Missions and denominations included Southern Baptists (25% of the SB missionary force in Japan was in attendance), OMF, TEAM, Baptist General Conf., Pres. Church in USA's Mission to the World, Mennonite Brethren, Evangelical Lutherans, German Lutherans, Norwegian Lutherans, LIFE, SEND, CRM, OC Int., Star of Hope, and Sunrise Int. Conference director John Mehn said, "People came from Hokkaido, Okinawa and many places in between."

"One of the most exciting things God is doing now is raising up 'peer mentoring groups,'" missionary Tom Patton reported, "where missionaries

and nationals from different missions are committed to meet regularly for prayer, encouragement and application of the concepts learned at the conferences. Nine regional groups are now being formed."

JTM missionary Bruce Young said, "This could not come at a more critical time in Japanese history when the country is being thrust into the forefront as leader of the Far East."



1997 JEMA Church Planters' Institute, SEND Bible Chalet, Okutama



## Attendees Speak Up

"I'm glad I came. Childers really spoke to me. One of the finest church planters' conferences I've attended in my 30 years in Japan." *George Watanabe*, SB, JBM, Chubu

"There is a lot here that I would like to see being more widely used as basic training materials in my own mission, translated into Korean and Japanese, too!!" *John S. Taylor*, OMF Int., Tokyo

"Helped me to focus on the thing I need most as I begin to church plant—Christ and Him crucified." *Gary Fujino*, SB, Tokyo

"Thanks so very much for a wonderful, stimulating, God-honoring conference...God is gracious indeed to bless us so much in this way." *David Bindewald*, JPM/MTW, Tokyo

"Sometimes these kinds of conferences can make me aware of all that I'm doing wrong, magnify my shortcomings, etc., but this conference reminded me that in the 'process' God is my hope and strength to tackle all the challenges. The group sessions were good in sharing concrete examples and situations as well giving opportunities for prayer and encouragement." *Mark Hoshizaki*, JBM

"I came in 1995 and learned the method and meaning of a movement. Now I have been taught the 'heart' of the movement. AMEN!" *Tim Vail*, LIFE, Northern Honshu

"I was grounded in the foundational elements of church planting through the transforming power of the Gospel. In the face of the challenges and barriers that we deal with here, this conference has given me encouragement and hope to press on with faith in Christ and the transforming power of the Gospel." *Peter Bakelaar*, JPM/MTW, Nagoya

"The positive benefits gained are

too numerous to fully identify. I wrote two pages of specific areas where I heard God speaking to me in a personal, practical way...I really enjoyed Childers' seminars! Bring him back again. I liked the small group times, too. I would encourage you to find a way to get more nationals here. Very, very helpful and encouraging." *Victor L. Morrison*, SB, Okinawa

"It is unusual to come away from a conference as full and as satisfied as I

would highly recommend this conference for church planters and church planting teams." *Ron Miyake*, ABFMS, Yokohama

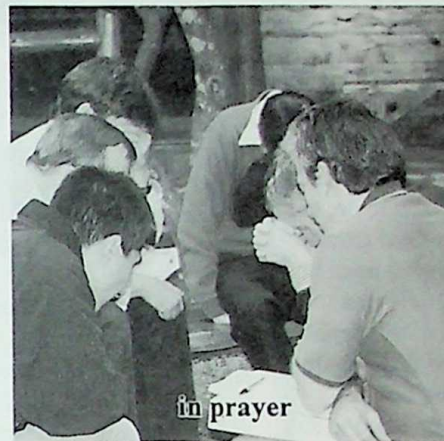
"I've learned that reaching the family is the key to influence this culture in the long term." *Shinichi Hirohashi*, JPM

"Thank you very much! I got a lot not only for my ministry but also personally in my relationship with the Lord. Praise God for the transforming power of the Gospel! I

would highly recommend this conference for church planters and church planting teams." *Ron Miyake*, ABFMS, Yokohama

"I came with a different agenda but then got connected to God's agenda." *Ronald Stoller*, Nagoya, NAB

"The seminar provides good resources, and I believe is a must for every church planter in Japan." *Warren Janzen*, SEND Int., Yokohama



in prayer



in process

did from yours. I will have much to chew on back here at home as well. I plan to return next year, hopefully with a Japanese co-worker." *Ron Galpin*, CBM, Aizu

"Encouraging and helpful as we begin a new plant in putting these principles into practice from the beginning. Gives an ex-



in practical application



# 45 Years in Japan

by Ralph Cox



## THE WORK

The December issue of the *Hyakuman-nin no Fukuin* magazine carried a brief article about our 45 years in Japan, the work that God has called us to do, and the gracious deliverance God granted me when close to death after open heart surgery last year. The article was brought to the attention of the *Japan Harvest* staff, who asked that I share this testimony in English.

Nine years ago I was asked to submit an article telling of the remarkable growth of our work since 1968, the year that we started using short-term missionaries (summer as well as one and two year short-termers). At the beginning of 1968 we had seven small churches, the result of TEAM missionaries and Japanese pastors working together since 1955 when our first church was started in Shikoku. God led us to step out and trust Him to triple our work in ten years. Short term workers helped greatly in accomplishing that goal.

Again in 1983 a plan to produce 100 new churches throughout West Japan in 15 years was launched. The plan was simple. We would again use short-term missionaries in front-line evangelism and church planting with back up churches assisting to produce many new daughter churches.

1997 marks the end of that 15 year plan. One hundred new churches have not been produced, but we believe that one reason God restored my health is so we can continue working toward that goal. The accompanying chart shows what God has done thus far.

Average attendance per church is 18. Only Jr. high and above are counted as attendants. Home meetings are never counted as churches. Some pastors pastor two churches.

In evaluating these statistics it is important to realize that this is not just the work of Ralph and Stella Cox. We have been key players but the total growth of the work since 1968 is the result of Japanese pastors, believers,

short-termers and STM who returned as career missionaries. The work has expanded from one prefecture to nine, so mobility was also a growth key. Seventy-five churches have been started in cities, towns and country villages, but all did not succeed, so some were absorbed into nearby sister churches. Fifty-two churches remain and all but six of these are in Japanese hands.

From this work over 60 Japanese have gone into full time service—five as foreign missionaries. Forty-five former STM who worked with us have returned to Japan as career missionaries (includes spouses) and all but one are in pioneer church planting. We give all the glory to God.

## HIS DELIVERANCE

For 25 years I have been bothered by an irregular heart beat and have been on medication. Five times I have had to have my heart shocked (cardio-version) back to normal and have been in hospital for various heart conditions. Through the years the condition worsened until the summer of 1996 I was hardly able to function. Tests had shown that the blockage was not severe, so the cause of fillibration was unknown.

We were scheduled to be in the US in August 1996, so I made an appointment with rhythm specialists in Duke University Hospital in Durham, NC to see if new medications might help. During the examination they discovered that

my heart blockage had ballooned to 95%. They said, "You could have a massive heart attack at any moment and it would probably be fatal." By-pass surgery was scheduled for the very next morning. Only God had preserved me.

I went through the triple by-pass surgery with flying colors and was released in five days. It was during recuperation that conditions suddenly deteriorated. Breathing became difficult and I could hardly walk, eat or talk. A trip to the emergency room of a nearby hospital revealed that water was accumulating around my lungs. It was at this point that God intervened. In Stella's words:

"It was a sunny day and I went outside to pray. Walking up and down the parking lot and all around the hospital, I cried out to God, as David did, with my whole heart. Tears were running down my face as I reminded Him of His promise in Jeremiah 33:3, 'Call unto Me and I will answer...' 'Please touch Ralph. Please revive him. Show forth Your glory.'"

"After some time I walked back into a little chapel in the hospital and sat down to pray. In front of me was a stained glass window of Christ praying in the garden. I confessed to the Lord, 'Lord, Ralph belongs to You, and Your will be done for him.' Immediately peace flooded my heart!

"When I returned to Ralph's room, the first thing he said was, 'I have had a touch from God—a spiritual uplift—and I know everything is going to be all right.' The water was still there, but he could eat and talk. A two hour ambulance trip, during which Ralph slept all the time, brought us back to the emer-

	1955	1968	1983	1997	% Growth since 1968
Attendants	0	104	357	913	886%
Churches	0	7	24	52	740%
Churches owning land and buildings	0	3	13	31	1033%
Churches with pastors	0	4	14	34	850%
Lay pastors	0	0	0	8	

gency room at Duke. The doctor there extracted three liters of liquid, a record for that doctor. Ralph could at last function again."

I was still not out of the woods, however, because the water kept accumulating and the doctors weren't able to stop it. As happens in about one case in 500 my body was rejecting the vein transplanted from my leg. They had to give me medication to shut down my body's immune system, thus making me vulnerable to disease. Usually one dose is sufficient but in my case it took two large doses and even then there was only a gradual reduction of fluid. Three times they extracted large quantities of liquid and finally had to insert a tube in my side for eight days of continuous extraction.

Over a six month period I was in and out of hospital numerous times. Amazingly, however, after that divine touch, I had little pain and really didn't feel sick. So God gave instructions through Isaiah 30:8 as to how we should use this time. "...write it before them in a table, and note it in a book that it may be for the time to come forever."



In an amazing way God was giving me time to put in print some of the things He has taught me during these 45 years. My laptop computer became my constant companion in and out of the hospital. God also provided a car and a quiet place to stay near the hospital free of charge. Stella also started writing an English edition of the Japanese version of our life story (*Dogwood no Saku Tani Kara*) published by Word of Life Press, and Milton Publishers has agreed to publish it.

During this "on the shelf" time I was able to put in print the core of my teaching that has brought many Japanese to Christ and produced stable converts now scattered all over Japan. **God Is, God Spoke, God Came** was published by Milton Publishers in July 1997 and is now available in Japan (¥1500) directly from me or from CLC. It is an apologetic approach to atheists, and adherents of other religions, that answers questions all Japanese have in their hearts.

I plan to publish this book in Japanese as soon as possible and also a book of the church planting methodology that God has taught us. Please pray with us that God will actually produce 100 new churches in West Japan before we lay our armor down.



*Ralph and Stella Cox are TEAM missionaries. Stella came to Japan in 1952 and Ralph in 1953. They were married in Karuizawa in Sept. 1953 and have three children. Their daughter, Sheri, serves with them in Shikoku.*

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## Olympic Challenge

They say that just before the starting bell, the heartbeat of a downhill racer actually slows, as every ounce of energy is focused on the course ahead. The bindings, which hold the boots to the alloy skis, are adjusted to withstand a force five times the

skier's body weight before separating boot from ski—more than twice the force of a normal binding adjustment. A normal skier's most intense wipeout creates only a fraction of the force the downhill racer experiences from the top of the course to the finish line.

The kevlar helmet, which could stop a bullet, is designed more for aerodynamics than for protection, though the racer himself becomes the bullet in his shot down the hill.

"Terminal velocity," sky divers call it, is the fastest possible speed a falling object can travel. That is the speed the racer hopes to achieve.



Most of us prefer the thrill of watching downhill racing to experiencing it. But to the racer, the challenge brings the thrill, and with the three essentials to the sport: proper equipment, proper training, and correct alignment with reference to the slope, the race is no more of a risk than a drive to the supermarket.

As the 18th Winter Olympic Games approach, athletes and others are focusing their energies in preparation. Around the world, organizational preparations of monumental proportions are underway. Christians from more than 60 countries are gearing up to bring the Good News of Jesus to Nagano. The message will be delivered to local residents, visitors, Olympic support personnel and athletes through Bibles (printed for the Games), a specially designed Olympic pin, and the showing of the Jesus film. As well, the messengers will offer information and services, hot coffee and garbage clean-up.

Will people want to hear the Gospel at the Games? The challenge of

presenting the Gospel at the Olympics may seem like that of a skier at the top of the downhill race course. But, as a racer is prepared for the race, the messenger of the Gospel can be prepared for the opportunities in Nagano. The racer's three essentials can be applied to those who hope to be effective servants of our Lord.

### Proper Equipment

For the street evangelist, a tract or an Olympic pin is a tool to catch someone's attention. For others a coffee pot, a video, or a garbage bag may be the tool. But these things are merely aids to the essential equipment: "the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the Gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit." Do we know how to handle each piece effectively?

During the Games, Nagano will host more people than ever in her long history. Infrastructures will be stretched to the limit, organizers will be tense, participants and spectators will be "high." But such difficulties are secondary to the real battle. Just as the forces of God's Kingdom are poised to enter strongholds unchallenged for centuries, the forces of Satan are preparing to defend the gates. In every way imaginable, the enemy will attempt to preserve his pretense of authority. But God will have His way in Nagano, and His prepared people will be a part of it.

### Proper Training

A skier of average ability would have difficulty negotiating even a bunny slope with a downhill racer's equipment. Each piece is designed for a specific purpose or individual. Without proper training, the genius that went into the manufacturing of Olympic equipment would be wasted.

Orientation, practice, study and mentoring give a winning edge to any Christian ministry, but it all must be under the headship of the "equipment's manufacturer." Jesus told His disciples "...do not worry ahead of time what you are going to say, say whatever is then given to you. For the words you speak will not be yours; they will come from the Holy Spirit." (Mark 13:11) It is essential that our ministry be Spirit-led.

### Correct Alignment

Often the most fruitful witnessing times come in spite of our best laid plans. While the plans for bringing the Good News are ready to be carried out, the hundreds of volunteers may find that these plans are only a framework. God may choose to use the framework or He may choose to color outside the lines. We need to discern His mind.

Discernment is like correct alignment. Just as the downhill racer must monitor balance and motion in relation to the slope, so we need to be constantly sensitive to our position in relation to the Master. Too often, in our zeal to serve, we forget Whom we serve, and what the Great Commission demands.

Among the thousands in Nagano will be many who are lonely, disillusioned and dependent upon everything except the One worthy of dependence. As we compassionately reach out to help let us remember that our primary calling is not to the ills of our society. God called us to *preach the Good News* to bring hope and healing to the nations.

Jesus spent time meeting the needs of the hungry and hurting, but He didn't lose His alignment. He spoke of His motivations in John 5:19, "I do only what I see the Father doing. What the Father does, the Son also does." Pray that this year in Nagano each volunteer will remember why he helps: not that a person be made more comfortable, but that a soul come into the Kingdom of God. This is the Christian's alignment.

*Let us remember  
that our primary  
calling is...to preach  
the Good News...*

Proper equipment, proper training, correct alignment: these are the essentials

for the downhill racer and the servant of God. As the 18th Winter Olympic Games approach, may we fervently pray that this may be the year Nagano will remember as the "year of our salvation." It can happen!

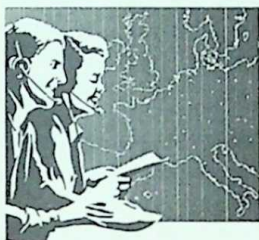
by **Tony Woods**

*1998 Nagano Olympics  
Evangelistic Committee rep.*

# "Spotlight on Media Ministry"

by Mark Ramquist

Wouldn't the Apostle Paul have loved to live in the 1990's? Imagine his thrill encouraging Timothy via E-mail (he'd probably refer to it as Epistle-mail), and his excitement to teach fledgling churches, or help raise financial support for struggling or starving believers with televised messages via satellite. What a breadth of ministry he could develop



with a series of videos! Effective use of modern media tools is one of the most influential means to "tell a message" that the world has ever known. Research figures show that television reaches a larger simultaneous audience than any other form of media—the number of TV sets in Japan and in America is equivalent to the population. Other countries are rapidly catching up.

Radio, newspapers, books, and magazines reach huge audiences as well. But in case you think I'm recommending a jump from church planting into TV broadcasting, let's establish a basic understanding of the term "media" as "a means whereby a message is transmitted to a large audience." Now, in addition to the mass media mentioned above, we can include videos, CDs & cassettes, billboards, posters, flyers, tracts, telephone campaigns, E-mail, Internet web pages, we could even include concerts and drama presentations. (Here's a thought provoker: have you ever considered your church bulletin as a form of media?)

Given the fuller list, it's easy to see that most of us use media in our missionary work in more ways than one. So how can we maximize its use?

In coming issues this column will provide ideas, information, and updates on more effective use of media. We'll share media resources, provide aware-

ness of the various "official" media ministries in Japan, and discuss other related topics. If you have questions or comments, please contact me on E-mail ([75253.31@compuserve.com](mailto:75253.31@compuserve.com)).

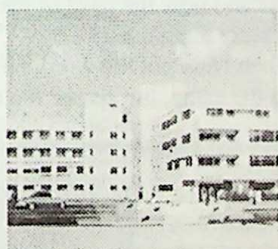
I think the Apostle Paul would love to be here today. But he would also remind us: media may help communicate the Gospel more effectively, but our faith is not in the technology, but in a loving God. Jesus communicated in a way we could understand (John 1:14), and He is the source and power of our message. Let's be effective communicators, praying, and trusting the Lord to use our efforts for fruitfulness in His Harvest.

**Next issue: the most successful film in the world.**



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## TO CONCERNED CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND STUDENTS

"Come to Japan and help us!"

Japan is increasingly difficult for God's messengers due to high costs. That is why the JET Program opportunities are so exciting. JET is not a Christian organization, these are regular jobs in local schools under the guidance of the Japanese government, but working as a JET teacher could be your first step towards ministry in Asia.

By working in Japan you can:

- 1) experience the language and culture,
- 2) consider the needs, and your future;
- 3) contribute to reaching Japan's youth in a nation still almost 99% non-Christian;
- 4) earn a good salary while learning basic cross-cultural teaching and ministry skills. (The program pays over \$30,000 a year, often helps with housing, and is tax-free both here and in the US so you could work for 1-3 years [the maximum] and pour the money into whatever ministry God leads you.)
- 5) explore opportunities for ministry in other parts of Asia. Participants in the JET Program regularly use their holidays to travel around Asia.
- 6) be part of a Christian Support Group offering retreats, newsletters, and a fellowship network.
- 7) through English begin telling the Japanese about Jesus.

God has clearly opened this door of opportunity. Only a BA or BS is required. Age limit is 35. Couples without children may apply. For more information and an application contact any Japanese Consulate directly. Do not make a particular point of being a Christian. Just answer application questions honestly.

For any questions or help from the Christian Support Group for JET teachers, contact Ken Ikeda at:  
e-mail: [keike@ge.nagano-nct.ac.jp](mailto:keike@ge.nagano-nct.ac.jp)  
or his school fax: 81-26-295-4950.

For free tracts in Japanese, homestay or mission questions contact:  
Dr. J P Loucky fax: 81-93-583-5748  
e-mail: [jloucky@interlink.or.jp](mailto:jloucky@interlink.or.jp)



# LIVING WATER AND

by David Humble

Harvest Time Ministries Staff

When Pastor Nam takes a drink these days, the word “miracle” is one of the first words that comes to mind. That great miracle of Grace he experienced over a dozen years ago was an unforgettable one that took his addiction to alcohol away, healed his terminal liver condition, and brought him to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

That was certainly a great experience, but it’s not the one he’s thinking of these days. If you ask him about it, he’ll sum it up in a word: “Water!”

Korea-born Peter Sung W. Nam has been pastor of the All-Nations Mission Church and Prayer Mountain in San Bernardino, California since the late 1980s. As a recent guest on two **Harvest Time** television broadcasts, Pastor Nam shared with viewers some of the details of the surprising spiritual journey that has brought him to his present ministry.

“When I was young, I observed the things that money could buy and determined to be a success in life,” he said. “I did become ‘successful,’” he added, “but it almost killed me.”

“I’ve since learned that the only real success in life comes from the decision to unconditionally follow Jesus Christ.”

It was in obedience to the Lord’s instructions that Peter Nam proceeded with empty pockets to acquire 130 acres in the hills near San Bernardino—land valued at \$950,000—and transform it into a Prayer Mountain retreat and worship center.

“Korean people in this country really need a place to come and pray,” he said. “The traditional method of borrowing or renting an American church building is sometimes difficult. I felt strongly that they needed a separate location—a Prayer Mountain.”

By 1990, Nam said, the Lord had

provided so completely for the Prayer Mountain center that it was humming with activity. The regular summer now included numerous church prayer retreats. But that year, the worst thing that could possibly happen to a desert retreat area happened at Prayer Mountain—the water ran out.

*“...the only real success in life comes from the decision to unconditionally follow Jesus Christ.”*

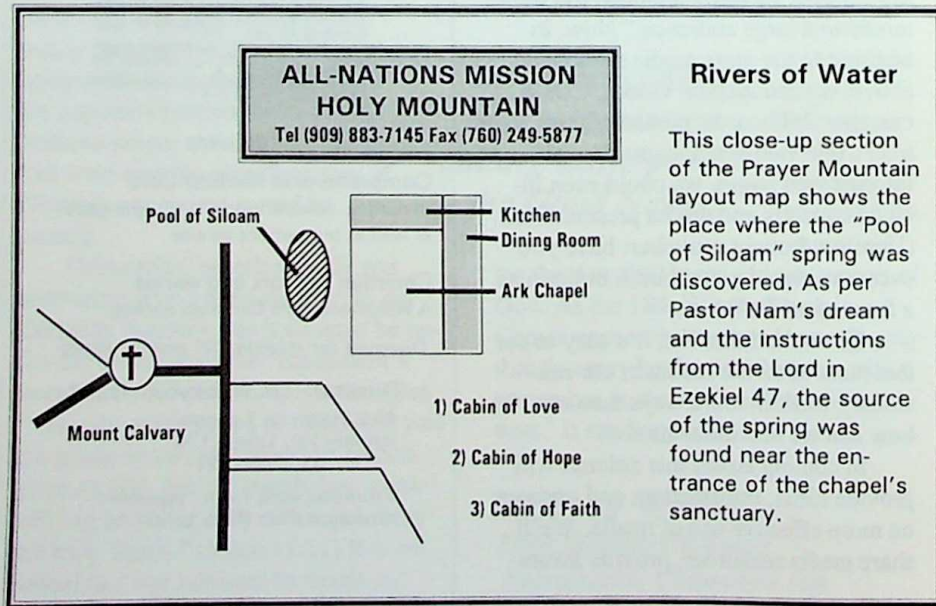
A serious drought had affected a large area of California and by July the spring at the Prayer Mountain had completely dried up. What was worse, while Nam was away, a wildfire had suddenly broken out and was heading for the Prayer Mountain. A youth retreat was in progress and now the lives of the young people were threatened.

When Nam got the word, he hurried back to the camp, but feared the worst.

Everywhere he looked he saw only burned landscape. However, when he came to the entrance to the property, nothing was burned at all. The young people excitedly told him that as they were trying to get out, the fire suddenly swept toward the chapel. At the last moment, however, a strong wind came in the opposite direction and backed the flames up like a wall to the sky. Everyone there declared to the pastor that they had seen the miracle with their own eyes. Shortly thereafter, fire fighters arrived and got the fire completely under control.

While Nam walked around the property to check for damage, he noticed water flowing on the ground where heavy brush had been before it was burned away. At first he thought it was from the fire-fighting equipment but then noticed that it was coming out all over the mountain. Excitedly, he began to dig. However, after quite a bit of effort, he was unable to find the source of the stream.

“One week later,” he said, “The Lord woke me up at 3:00 in the morning with a strong urge to look at the verses beginning with Ezekiel 47:1.” Verse 1 caught his eye: “**The man**



# A LIVING FAITH



## Prayer For All Nations

Pastor Nam and *Harvest Time's* Kenichi Nakagawa stand near the altar in the Rock Cave Chapel. This prayer chapel was carved from solid rock by Pastor Nam himself and seats about 40 people.

brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple..." (NIV)

He sensed that this passage had meaning, but he was unable to understand what it was. So, he continued digging in the places where water was coming out of the mountain, and the Lord continued to wake him at 3:00 each morning.

*...a strong wind came in the opposite direction and backed the flames up like a wall to the sky.*

After three days of this, Nam decided to begin digging in front of the chapel sanctuary. He rented an excavation machine that could dig down 25 feet or more and dug for three days without finding anything. "I was getting pretty discouraged," he recalled. "The

machine was costing me \$600 a day, so I had pretty much decided to take it back the next day."

Early on the fourth morning, however, Nam had a dream that a spring burst from where he had been digging and became a river. Thanking God, he began to dig again and hit water within fifteen minutes.

The flowing water was, indeed, quickly becoming a river. Nam borrowed a bulldozer and made a path from the chapel to a cliff about 100 meters away. The water flowed so abundantly it became a waterfall rejuvenating the dry lake bed below. Absolutely amazed, everyone who saw it praised God.

The water was so pure, he said, that the Arrowhead Springs Water Company approached him and offered him a lucrative contract. However, Nam refused.

"Out here, water is life," he said. This water is a gift from God, as is the Prayer Mountain itself."

"And," he added with a broad smile, "it will always be my way of telling people about the 'Living Water' that only Jesus Christ can offer: '...a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life' (John 4:14, NKJV)."



**Peter S.W. Nam** is pastor of the *All Nations Mission Church and Prayer Mountain*, located at 8383 Swarthout Canyon Rd in San Bernardino, California. Pastor Nam's testimony from

September 1997 "Getsureikai" meetings in Tokyo and Osaka is available from *Harvest Time Ministries* on two audiocassette tapes for ¥1,500, plus 270 for shipping and handling. To order, please call (059) 93-8880, or fax your order to (059) 93-8863. (Japanese language tape only).



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Website:

<http://www.harvestjapan.org>



**Following up on the member care track of AMCII, Carole Miyake, (American Baptist), initiated a meeting of fellow missionaries in November to share concerns and resources. Many thanks to Carole for getting the JEMA MemberCare Committee up and running!**

At that meeting Tom Kennedy's expertise as a trained counselor was made available to the missionary community. He is offering to act as instructor for two potential courses in 1998.

Tom is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Ft. Worth TX with an MDiv and an MRE with a specialty in counseling. Member of Japan Baptist Mission for 12 years, he is currently teaching psychology and religion courses at Tokyo Baptist Seminary and Lakeland College. Tom is a Clinical Member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, Licensed Professional Counselor, and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

The courses he is offering are:

1) A basic course in how to begin, continue, and terminate counseling relationships. Works on how to get the client to carry out assignments and communication skills for counselors.

2) A techniques course for premarital and marital counseling. Premarital focus on communication skills and dealing with differences. Marital focus on communication skills, conflict resolution, cutting through repetitive thinking, and building intimacy.

Courses:—two hours twice a week.

¥10,000 for audit

¥20,000 for credit plus one time registration fee of ¥50,000. A minimum of 6-8 students would be necessary.

Time slot: April—June.

Tom can design courses to meet the needs of the missionary community. Taylor/Johnson certification possible.

**Contact person: John Wright**

**TEL: 0426-92-2415**

**Mobile: 030-344-7102**

The following is a slightly abridged paper on team building by Kelly O'Donnell, PsyD., a workshop speaker at AMCII, England-based counselor for missionaries.

## TEAM RESILIENCY

There are three ways to undermine a team—or a family. In a phrase—don't talk, don't feel and don't trust.

What else can undermine a team? Katzenbach and Smith (1993) say: a reluctance to think precisely about what a true team is; an undisciplined approach



to team building; and a lack of complimentary skills, consensus-based goals, mutual accountability, and a "demanding performance challenge."

### Help from the CACTUS

During my youth one of my favorite imaginary games in the hills around our Southern California home was to fight the masses of entrenched cacti. Yet no matter how many jabs, or pieces I cut off, I could not defeat this plant. It was just too well suited for the desert-like environment with its protective waxy coating to keep precious fluids within and its annoying sharp prickles to keep predators without. It was, in fact, very resilient.

Missionary teams often live in a harsh environment, too,—limited supportive resources, spiritual warfare, political instability, poverty. Let's look at seven core characteristics of resilient teams, which I summarize by the acronym, "CACTUSS."

**Commitment**—specific goals and

defined relationships in which to invest—a resolute dedication to each other's well being and to accomplishing the team's purpose.

**Appreciation**—planned and spontaneous times for expressing mutual appreciation. "Small" remembrances: a get-well card, a thank you note, an invitation to a meal. Acknowledging each other's contributions add much to team cohesion.

**Coping Ability**—perseverance and guts—see challenges as opportunities to grow. Believe the best of each other in spite of weaknesses, holding on to examples of God's faithfulness in the past.

Work through communication impasses and try alternative approaches to ministry when necessary. Know how to call upon resources outside the team.

**Time Together**—need for a good amount of quality time, especially during early stages and crisis situations. Intimacy with a few but congeniality with all is a reasonable goal.

**Understanding**—listen and empathize well, share thoughts and feelings in culturally sensitive ways. Keep each other updated about life and work plus periodical team building and "fun" times.

**Structure**—clear roles for leaders and members, well-defined decision-making methods, clear accountability and conflict resolution guidelines, and in many cases a "memo of understanding"—especially important for multinational teams.

**Spiritual wellness**—human doings are not human beings. God calls us for relationship with Himself (I Cor. 1:9) as well as creates us for specific tasks (Eph. 2:10). Spiritual health is the foundation for resiliency and develops during "ups and downs" as members seek God together through "ACTS"—adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication.

Developing resilient teams is much like developing resilient families. It takes lots of wisdom, attention, perseverance, and often "seasons of sacrifice" to make them work (Proverbs 24:3,4).



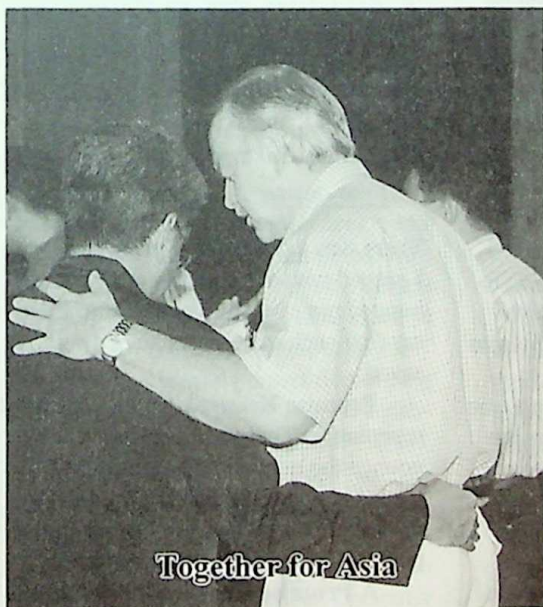


continued from page 2

hear the word 'sacrifice' in your presentation. Where does that come into the strategy for missions?"

With 83% of Asia living in "developing countries" and 9 of the 18 countries of Asia under severe government restriction, this is an appropriate question. The answer cannot cross our Western lips glibly. Even as we sat there, churches in Sri Lanka were being burned and Christians were giving their lives for the Gospel. We acknowledge as Westerners that we have not faced the challenges of our Asian counterparts.

How we applaud our Asian brothers for the willingness to tackle the whole spectrum of missions. With the present trend in missions, by the year 2002, I understand, Asian missionaries will out-number Western missionaries! Modern missions is no longer a Western movement.



As I mingled with the delegates I could literally feel the energy of their dilemma: God's Spirit was agitating them to go and at the same time helping them count the cost. I admire and respect their honesty and their willingness to suffer. I am blessed to be alongside them as they take bigger steps in missions' leadership in Asia.

One afternoon toward the end of the conference an elderly Nepalese

pastor shared his thoughts on God's provision. He was the only delegate from Nepal because of the great expense to travel from Nepal to Thailand—a year's salary for him, I believe!

He spoke of his conviction that he should come to the conference to share the vision of how God will provide for missionaries from Asia. He asked, "When you need money for something, where do you go?" No one answered. He waited and asked again, "Where do you go?" He waited and then asked the same question a third time.

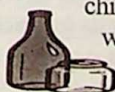
I was tempted to shout out the Sunday School answer, "To Jesus!" I was sure glad I hadn't followed my impulse when he answered, "When you don't have enough money, you go to your wife and ask her how much does she have in the jar in the kitchen, and she gives it to you to go to Thailand!"



He went on to tell us that there wasn't enough money in the jar to go to Thailand but he was sure that God wanted him to go and He would provide. His part was to obey God and go.

Here was a man of simple faith. He had learned the lesson that God is the Provider and that He provides through the people He has put around us. God has often used jars—whether the widow's oil jar or the neighbors' assortment of jars, whether the jar held two pennies or contained the most expensive perfume in the world. The point is that God will use what we have, and He does have a plan for provision.

Member Care, Prayer Movements, Mobilizing the Church, Missionary Training and Strategies and Funding, MK Education...all require our thoughtful attention. God does not send kamikaze pilots to do His work. He calls and sends His own beloved children and He provides family who help Him with the caring necessary to sustain them as laborers in the harvest field.



We each have a part to play.

# JEMA WOMEN'S RETREAT

## *How does God spell 'Success'?*

with Barbara Hughes

Barbara Hughes, with her husband, Kent, has co-authored two books, **Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome**, and **Common Sense Parenting**.

As a pastor's wife, she is well acquainted with the joys, disappointments and challenges in ministry. She will share the lessons that God has taught her through experience. Barbara and Kent have five children, several of whom are missionaries, and nine grandchildren.

dates:

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1998**

place:

**Megumi Chalet  
Karuizawa**

see insert in this issue for  
details and registration

## YMCA International Open-Minded School

by Brian Byrd

From September 1998, the Tokyo YMCA plans to open an international school for grades K-5 in Koto-ku at its Toyocho YMCA Center. The school's name reflects its purpose: in Greek YIOS (ee-os) means "child" or "son" (of God). YIOS seeks to receive children in partnership with parents and with responsibility for helping children realize their fullest potential, in the spirit of Jesus, who said, "Let the children come to Me, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind."

The YWCA, known worldwide as a family-oriented service organization, was founded in London in 1844, and in Tokyo in 1880. YIOS welcomes students from all countries to learn together as neighbors in a miniature global community.

"Open-minded" describes our educational approach: seeking to know the truth free from prejudice. Jesus added to the command in Deut. 6:4, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and strength," the command to love God "with all your mind." (Mark 12:30) The YMCA "Spirit, Mind, Body" triangle informs the school motto, "Preparing young learners in spirit, mind and body for responsible service in the world community."

YIOS will be seeking teachers with a love for children, and the support and ideas of parents and others in the international community. If you are interested in further information please contact Brian Byrd at the Tokyo YMCA, 03-3293-9471 or at home, 03-3852-8394.

## Stand in the Gap

Wash., D.C., USA

*"Oh Lord, help us  
to be better men!"*

by  
Shinichiro "Skip" Matsumoto

"Cathy, I'm sorry...I'm very sorry!" A man near me began to cry out to God. It was October 4, 1997 in Washington, DC, and I was taking part in an historic Christian event. Almost a million men had gathered in DC to repent of their sins before God.

I had just met a man. I did not even know his name, but I did know that God had started something in his life. I could feel the depth of his repentance toward his wife. His brokenness before God touched me deeply. I cried and I felt no shame in doing so.

I began to repent of my own sinfulness toward the people in my life. I was good at covering up the real me, fearing that if people knew what I was really like inside, they would hate me. In my pride and possessiveness I made sure that I hurt others before they could hurt me. I shared my struggle with the man next to me. He didn't say much, but he prayed for me from his heart. "Oh, Lord, help us to be better men in Your eyes."

I cried again. Then God spoke to me gently. "I love you just the way you are and you don't have to be hard on yourself anymore. I'll be with you all the time." I will never forget the words He said to me.

I want to encourage my brothers in Christ in Japan to join the **Promise Keepers** or some other men's ministry. Men are busy at their jobs and often have very little time for fellowship and prayer with each other. I know personally the difficulty of the Japanese business world, but Jesus wants to give us more abundant life in Him. He wants to be with us as we gather in His Name. He wants us to reach out and draw other brothers in.

*Two other Japanese men who attended the **STAND IN THE GAP Promise Keepers' Gathering in WA, DC** gave the following testimonies in the *Christian Shimbun*.*

*(translated by Mizuko Matsushita)*

The theme of this meeting was repentance. It is not pleasant to admit my own sin, but I repented spontaneously with joy at the meeting. It was really great. I think that the revival starts from the repentance of each person and the personal experiences of forgiveness. The word, "Wake up and open your eyes!" struck my heart when I saw those who prostrated themselves and sought God in repentance. We are living in the end times. I feel that even if a small number of Christian men in Japan stand up, the family, church and society may be transformed.

*Mr. Keiichi Sakamoto*

There was a time of prayer, in twos, and I prayed with an Argentinian. When he hugged me I was moved to tears. It was my first such experience since I was saved.

**Promise Keepers** is a movement of repentance. The organizer did not announce the number of attendees and names of speakers, because in this movement what the Lord does is important, not who or how many He uses.

A **Promise Keepers'** movement could have a big significance in Japan where it is not easy for men to tell their personal matters freely to others. It is a men's movement, but the prayers and understanding of pastors and women would be indispensable. I hope that we will see this kind of support happen for the sake of men in Japan.



*Mr. Motoki Tago*

# Gleanings From The Christian Shinbun

by Mizuko Matsushita

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS

The 7th ceremony of the *Fukuin Korosho* on Nov. 11 at the Ochanomizu Christian Center saw awards presented to Rev. Hiromichi Okawa, Rev. Toichi Hashimoto, and Mrs. Chiyo Matsumoto.



Rev. Okawa, honorary pastor of the Shizuoka Holiness church, was born in 1909, baptized as a believer at age 16 and dedicated himself to the ministry at age 20 when he entered Tokyo Biblical Institute. He was persecuted by the Japanese government during WWII and later joined the Evangelical Crusade to help reestablish the Japan Holiness Mission (*kyodan*), and build up the church in Shizuoka. "Because of the prayers and support of my brothers in Christ, I am still able to work today," he said.

Rev. Hashimoto, pastor of Tatebayashi Church (*kyodai dan*), was saved in 1932 while hospitalized with TB. "I suffered with TB but was healed by faith in Jesus. I am grateful that the Lord took care of someone like me." He also experienced persecution during the War and afterwards helped establish the *Kirisuto Kyodai Dan*. Hashimoto served the Lord in Utsunomiya and directed the Bible Institute there from 1978-1985.

Mrs. Chiyo Matsumoto, born in 1908, married Japan Pioneer Company founder, Nozomu Matsumoto. After he passed away, she continued to serve on the committee of the Association of Television Evangelism and helped establish an employment office for handicapped in Aomori called *Taiboen*. A memorial chapel to her husband has been built there. "The Lord deeply supported me after my baptism and protected us when my husband's company had difficult times," she testified.

## Returnee Christian Network Japan

Two years ago General Conference Baptist missionary, Don Wright, proposed the idea of a "returnee network" at a JEMA Leadership Consultation. A committee was formed and the momentum was begun. Last year Conservative Baptist missionaries, David and Kathy Kennedy, took on the bulk of the footwork and so far have networked 100 Japanese "returnees" with missionaries and/or churches here in Japan. Most of these are college-age. During the past year, one missionary couple and their church were networked with and followed up on four returnees. One of these has been baptized and two of the others have accepted Christ as Savior. Similar stories could be told.

RCNJ now has a "Home-page." The web site address is: <http://www.asahi-net.or.jp/~uu7d-knnd/RCNJhome.html>



The Kennedys can also be contacted at their e-mail address: [djkkennedy@aol.com](mailto:djkkennedy@aol.com) or by telephone/fax at: 0424-71-0590.

"Network" implies involvement of many. The Returnee Christian Network needs you. Committee members meet regularly and much work has been done, but without the help of the missionary community their efforts are limited. If you want to be an active part of RCNJ, please let the Kennedys know!

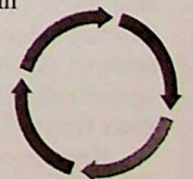
Of course name, address, telephone number and e-mail address (if you have one) are essential, but the Kennedys would also like to know what area or quadrant of your city you live in (north, south, east, west?) and what churches you recommend in your area. This information would not be put into home page files unless permission is given, but it would help the Kennedys and others to more quickly link up returning Japanese with appropriate people and churches.

Another strategy the RCNJ Committee is looking at is "Equipper Conferences"—training opportunities for Japanese pastors and church workers who want to reach out to returnees. If this is an area you or your church are interested in please get in touch with the Kennedys or Ron Sisco. e-mail: [Tokyosisco@aol.com](mailto:Tokyosisco@aol.com) or Tel/Fax 0424-93-9898.



Just before the most recent RCNJ Committee meeting at Ochanomizu Christian Center, two American women arrived at the JEMA office. "Would it be possible to meet JEMA President Ron Sisco? We've heard he's involved with ministry to returnees." Ron invited them to be introduced to the RCNJ committee meeting which "happened" to be that morning! and they could hardly believe God's perfect timing. Their church and homestay ministry in the States is heavily involved with Japanese and they have poured love, time and effort into ministering to Japanese only to have them "fall through the cracks" once they return to Japan. They had come to Japan on a mission of their own and were thrilled to meet missionaries and Japanese who shared their heart burden.

But there was more to the story. As Ron was making introductions around the room, he introduced Wayne Meyer as the Navigator representative to the committee. "Oh," said one of the women, "Please let me tell you about a connection we had with the Navigators." The story was of a young man who had been in their program and had returned to Japan, been introduced to the Navigators and had come to Christ through them. "He is now a wonderful Christian man with a lovely wife and family, living in the States. We are so thrilled with the influence of the Navigators in his life. That was such an answer to our prayers." It turns out that this young man had lived with Wayne and Miyako Meyers for six months in Japan while they disciplined him! Now that is full circle networking!





# Letters to the Editor

To the editor,  
Want to say I appreciate the recent **Harvest**. When I read about the man who made retribution for the bicycle he had stolen, I was immediately convicted about a glass pendant I had stolen from a chandelier in a restaurant where I worked over 20 years ago. I often meant to take care of this, but kept putting it off. So I wrote a brief letter, included the Bible verse about Zaccheus paying back "fourfold," and went to the Post Office, where I got a money order for \$25.00 and mailed it all off.

I also appreciated JEMA President's word on personal obedience.

Thank you again,

*Name withheld*

To you at **Japan Harvest** office,

On April 2, 1996, I retired after 35 years of missionary service in Japan. I've had various avenues for serving the Lord here at home and was on the staff of First Baptist Church, Emery, SD, until March 12, 1997.

On March 15 Floyd Dalzell and I united our lives in the Lord and placed our love and future in His hands.

I am looking forward to receiving the '98 Directory and a year's subscription to the Harvest.

With joyous memories of my years in Japan.

In Christ,

*Lucille Dalzell (the former Lucille Wipf)*



## KANSAI JEMA LADIES RETREAT

### *That I May Know Him*

Nestled in the autumn-enhanced hillside of Hiruzen Kogen in Okayama Ken sits the charming Hiruzen Bible Camp,



where nine precious servants of our Lord Jesus joined Alma Tygert, Beth Kanda and my-

self (Sylvia Ramquist) for the second annual Kansai JEMA Ladies Retreat from Oct 30 to Nov 1, 1997.

Alma Tygert, in four Scripture-saturated sessions based on Phil. 3:10, shared how God's Word has sustained her, especially during the illness and passing of her beloved husband, Steve, in 1995.

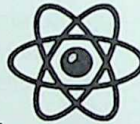
Although there were five nationalities amongst the twelve of us (with Finland having half of the representation), we certainly realized Paul's declaration that we are all one in Christ Jesus. Through the sharing of the Word, specific prayer and worship, and plenty of informal fellowship, our hearts were renewed with the Holy Spirit's encouragement and hope to "know Him and make Him known."

Keep tuned for the next Kansai JEMA Women-in-Ministry event, and don't miss it!

## Dr. Hugh Ross To Promote Japanese Translation Of His Book

### *The Creator and The Cosmos*

With the completion of the Japanese translation of updated best seller **The Creator and The Cosmos**, Dr. Hugh Ross is scheduled to be in Japan from January 17-26, 1998. Dr. Ross is an astronomer who came to Christ through his observations of the universe and a subsequent reading of the Bible that convinced him they both must come from the same Source.

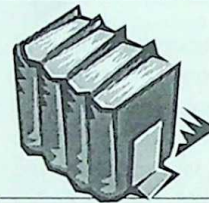


Since 1986, Dr. Ross has been director of **Reasons To Believe**, a non-profit, nondenominational organization, adhering to the doctrinal statements of the National Assoc. of Evangelicals and the Int. Council on Biblical Inerrancy. RTB provides research and teaching on the harmony of God's revelation in the Bible and in nature. (Reasons To Believe, P.O. Box 5978, Pasadena, Ca. 91117, TEL (818) 335-1480.)

In addition to **The Creator and The Cosmos**, Dr. Ross has other books, including **The Fingerprint of God**, **Creation and Time** and **Beyond The Cosmos**, which will be available at each place he speaks.

While Dr. Ross's speaking schedule was not finalized at press time, the first half of his stay will be in the Kanto area, with the latter half being in the Kansai.

*For further information, contact Tim Boyle at 0298-55-1907.*



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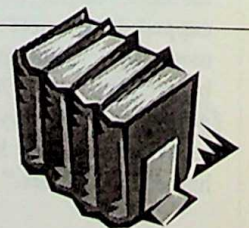
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personality, even amidst pro soccer fame. The author shares this Christian athlete's beliefs, priorities and goals in life. He arrived in Japan in 1995, and was J-League's MVP of 1996. Ideal book for Junior and Senior High youth. 120 pages, B-6 size. 8 color pages.

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An aerial photograph showing a cityscape with numerous buildings and a river, with mountains in the background. The view is taken from the perspective of someone on an airplane, with the wing and part of the fuselage visible in the foreground.

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