

JAPAN HARVEST



Anne Abernathy,
Virgin Islands
Olympic luge
athlete, came to
Nagano to do more
than compete in the
Games.
God used her to
minister to
Japanese in need.
pg 9

plus:
Japan Music Directory
pg 18

Prayer Summits
pg 16

N.O.W.—No Other Way
pg 24

Olympic Special

Warm heart communication by Aunt Stella



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



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JAPAN HARVEST

Volume 49, No. 4/Spring 1998

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Cover Photo : Anne Abernathy (Virgin Islands Luge athlete) & NOEC volunteer Carla Johns courtesy of Drouillards

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In This Harvest ...

Celebrate Jesus



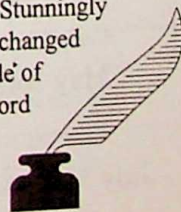
Spread in front of me are thirty-six pages which will become the magazine you hold today. Flat black letters form flat black words telling of people whose lives are vibrant, colorful and full of life! It is these stories that give us reason to *Celebrate Jesus!*

I hope, as you read this issue, that the work God did in Nagano this February will come alive to you. It was so much fun to watch the city prepare—hoisting brightly colored flags, practicing songs, opening their doors and hearts to the peoples of the world. The atmosphere was open and bright; the people accepting, inviting, and warm. There was celebration in the air!

The words penned by life-missionaries and short term volunteers all tell the same story. God was here! He worked in the lives of men and women, boys and girls. It is our job now to pray. There are lots of names, in flat black print, representing living, colorful people who need our prayers! Please use this issue as a prayer guide. Read and then pray for those God touched and saved in Nagano. Pray for those who went back home with His Word in their hands.

We celebrate Jesus as He blends us into families, like letters blend into words. We celebrate as He molds our families into churches, like words mold into sentences. We give Him praise as He forms our churches to be His Body, like sentences form stories. And only He can see the day when we will be made one to become His bride. Stunningly beautiful, full of life and color, we will be changed from flat black letters on a page to the Bride of Christ. Let's celebrate Jesus Christ—the Lord of the harvest—at work in Japan!

Ruth Drouillard (guest ed)



Jema Windows

Introducing the new JEMA President, Gerald May



Gerald May and Ron Sisco, February 3, 1998

At the February 3rd JEMA Plenary Session I handed the JEMA presidency over to TEAM missionary, Gerald May. Gerald has been a member of the JEMA Executive Committee for the past year and I have enjoyed working and praying with him. As he takes over this page for the tenure of his presidency, you will have the opportunity to get to know his heart, too.

Let me tell you a bit about him to lay some groundwork for that.

Gerald hails from Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Coming from the prairies to Japan at the age of 23 was a shock. *How did so many people exist in so small a space?* While teaching English in a little Saitama church, his eyes were opened to the spiritual poverty of

in Japan after 45 years.

Debbie experienced Japan in the Niigata and Tokyo areas before heading for Biola University. After graduation she returned to Japan to work with her parents as a short term. Although she had not really considered a missions career, God gave her a burden for the Japanese as she worked alongside her folks.

It was during that time that a poor, starving Canadian boy appeared at her parents' door seeking fellowship (and food). The fellowship turned out to be particularly special, and Gerald and Debbie decided to team up under TEAM.

Now with two children, Aaron, 12, and Alecia, 10, they have worked in

his students. That, combined with the attractions of a certain TEAM MK with the same burden for Japan cemented his return to Japan in 1986.

The cute MK, Debbie, is the daughter of Taylor and Lorraine Reece, TEAM missionaries still ministering

church planting in Ibaraki since 1988. They recently moved to the Musashisakai area to carry on in church planting as well as take up administrative responsibilities with TEAM. They say they are slowly but surely adjusting to the big city after the open rice fields of Ibaraki, and find Tokyo a stimulating place to live.

In his role as JEMA president, Gerald hopes to encourage an even closer spirit of cooperation between our member missions, as well as between the mission community and our Japanese colleagues.

With the year 2000 just over the horizon, he says he would like to see the whole evangelical community draw together to let the entire nation know why that number is so significant. Coordinating our resources and programs to reach as many people as possible with the Gospel—that's what Gerald wants to help facilitate over the next two years.

I intend to support him in his new JEMA role as much as I can. I encourage you to do that, too!

Ron Sisco

JEMA Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Place
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
October 20th~23rd, 1998	<i>Church Planters' Institute</i>	Megumi Chalet, Karuizawa

THE OPENING CEREMONIES



*“Ten no chichi ga orareru
no ga shiranai no ka. Ai no
Kami ga ten ni sumawareru.”*

“Don’t you know that we have a Father in Heaven? The God of Love lives in Heaven. Loving Father...far above the Heavens and the stars...Creator of all... When will we, the millions of created ones, bow our knee to worship and to recognize that You are our Loving Father—truly You are.”

The words swept the bottom of our television screen in Japanese script as we watched the opening ceremonies of the Nagano Olympics. As satellite broadcasts brought together a choir from six countries, we heard a symphony of instruments and voices join in glorious music. Faces of strangers from China, Germany, South Africa, Japan, America, and Australia appeared on our screen singing words of praise to our Father.

Do these people know You, Father? Do they understand the words they are singing? Do their hearts beat fast as they lift their voices? Do they realize that hundreds of voices are uniting to sing praise to You, the Holy Father, the King of Kings? Silently we prayed and wept as we listened. “Father, turn the hearts of these people to You. Let them understand the words they are singing in one accord. Let them taste and experience the realness of You!”

NAOC’s Media Update states that “the theme of the Nagano Olympic Festival of Culture and Art, **‘One Heart — One World,’** embodies the desire that all nations, regions and peoples come together with the natural environment to create a single, harmonious world, as well as the desire for mankind to share

and friendship. The Opening Ceremony was to be a “bridge linking people in friendship...(to) declare our hopes and dreams for the future.” Only God’s desire, that we have peace with Him, that our hope is put in His un failing love, that the body of Christ is built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, gives true hope for the future.

When we see people of many countries come together, from many languages and cultures, our hearts thrill. We watch their faces with interest. We wonder what they are thinking and if they feel the same emotions we do. Much more, when they come together to do the same thing at the same time, as the satellite choir did, our heads lift as we watch in rapt attention. God made us that way. He put the desire in us for the day when we all will lift our voices in one accord to acknowledge Him and sing the praises due His name. He created a part in us that aches, longs and yearns for that day.

When the Executive Producer for the Nagano Olympic ceremonies, Keita Asari, conceived the idea of the united choir, was he striving to fill that empty place inside himself which longs to see all peoples united with one purpose? His production made me aware again of the desire I have deep inside. It stirred me, moved me and caused me to pray for that Day of all days to Come Soon!

The ceremony over, two families joined in our living room to pray. We cried with repentance to the Lord for the sins of our nations, for turning our backs on God, for mouthing the words but not recognizing Him from our hearts in truth and honesty. We asked God to pour out a renewed sense of who He is, and what He wants and desires of the peoples of

in the spirit of friendship.”

This desire, while noble and good, falls so short of God’s desire for us. The flame, they said, expresses hope for peace

this world. We asked that the next time those people join together to sing it would be in true unity with an understanding of who He is. We asked that God be honored by those who knew the meaning of the words and that His name be exalted in the Heavens. We wondered with our children how the angels felt as they listened and watched the masses lift up words that honored God. We thanked Him that Beethoven’s wonderful song was chosen. We thanked Him for the words they sang.

Next time, Father, let it be when we stand before you. Next time...

by Ruth Drouillard

The Flame

By Ruthie
Benedict
(age 15)



There was a flame,
Held high, it came.
A sea of faces—
From so many places,

The flame burned strong
The world shook in song
A million voices as one
Words of praise on every tongue,

The fire, it flared
One moment of unity we shared
A whirl of flags, a mass of nations
Never before was felt such a sensation.

Did every heart feel it—
Did every heart begin to melt
Did every mind, lurching,
Realize for what they were searching?

Divine Creator, You live today.
It was always meant to be this way.
A world of grasping hands
Though from so many different lands,

The day the flame was lit
Love and peace connected us, bit by bit
As we, as one race,
Sang praise to our Creator’s grace.

Each soul will never be the same;
For on a torch and in our hearts,
Burns your love
an eternal flame.



Team passing out Janet Lynn tracts and "More Than Gold"

Grace Chapel Olympic Coffee House

by Mat Weiss
with Ruth Drouillard

Southwest Bible Church of Portland, Oregon, sent a team to work with Dan Hamilton's Grace Chapel (a Nagano Ken church) during the Olympics. They set up a lovely coffee house two blocks north of Nagano Station. Outside, an electone piano

and a small band attracted passersby. Pastor Dan and team members stood on street corners inviting people in. Inside, bright with sunshine streaming through large windows, small coffee tables, each with two or three chairs, were set up for visitors. Cookies (30,000 donated!!), hot cocoa, coffee and spiced cider were provided, making a warm atmosphere for in-depth conversations.



Clips from the team's journals (Sun. Feb. 8)

We have found the Japanese open to hearing the Gospel message. It is not uncommon for a team member to be sharing with two or three Japanese at a time. While all do not believe, they all hear the Gospel message. Please continue to pray. The pace here is fast and we come home tired each day, physically and emotionally. The coffee house was open from 5:00 to 9:30.

spiritual background, she said that she went to a Catholic junior high school, so she was familiar with the Bible and prayer. She said that she was sure she was going to heaven because she was "mostly good."

She continued to interact with us in a very positive way, rephrasing the concepts we were sharing and asking questions. We had to go over the "sin" part several times, because even after presenting Christ to her as the only way to God, she still thought that God would let her into heaven because, "she did good things for other people." Finally, through various examples and illustrations, she understood that even one sin separated her from God. At that point she was ready to receive Jesus for forgiveness of her sins, and did so right there.

Praise God for preparing her heart, even as far back as junior high. She said she's coming back tomorrow, so pray that we will be able to follow up effectively. She plans to attend Daniel Hamilton's church. She has a driver's license, so she'll be able to get there herself!

Megumi Nakamura was speaking to a young Japanese man when she realized he could not hear. She asked David Reinhardt, who is also deaf, to help. He and his brother Eric, signing in English, followed by Elina Hamilton, signing in Japanese, communicated the Gospel. What a joy it was to see the frown on the young man's face turn to a smile as he began to understand the Gospel!

Dr. Steve Reinhart relates the following (David is his son):

"It was the one of the greatest days I

Two stories
Miho, a young woman, moved to Nagano today. She has been thinking about church for awhile. When she came into our coffee house, she actually approached us for conversation. When asked about her

have ever had. A young deaf man came into the coffee house to enjoy a warm drink. He was interested in conversing with David, who could also sign. He talked for a while with David, Eric and Elina and left with an invitation to return. Last night he brought a friend who was hard of hearing but used signing to communicate. They enjoyed time with David and my wife, Cindy, as well as two young Japanese girls. One of those girls was not a Christian, but through serving as an interpreter, she gained saving knowledge of Christ. After several hours, Cindy left for some well deserved sleep and I took her place. Soon the Japanese girls had to leave.

The group was joined by Haji Hariwara (the son of Togakushi Kogen Kyokai pastor), and Daniel Hamilton. At this point, communication traveled as follows: David Reinhart signing to Steve Reinhart, Steve speaking English to Daniel, Daniel speaking in Japanese to Haji, Haji writing in Japanese to the two hearing impaired young men. They responded to Haji and the whole process went in reverse. David asked them if they knew God. They did not. He asked them who was going to pay for their sin. They responded by saying that they were. What insight!

David then explained how he became a Christian at age eight. They listened intently. They were asked where they would go when they died. Why should God let them into heaven? Did they want Jesus to be the center of their life or self? Several hours later they prayed to receive Christ!

Operating at maximum capacity (Mon. Feb. 9)

No sooner do we finish sharing with one group of two to four, than we turn around and share with the next. Please pray for our strength...particularly for the Japanese Christians who work so hard sharing and translating. We are overwhelmed that Japanese will sit through a survey, listen to a complete Gospel presentation, and be interested in Christ. Some have accepted Christ as Savior. We attribute this work of God to the diligent prayer that preceded us.

Dan Dillard left today, saying, after ten years of overseas mission trips in

ten countries, he's never seen the Holy Spirit move so specifically to bring people to Christ. We should be in holy fear!

Jenny and Mike Alyward both led someone to the Lord today. Jenny also talked with a very confused woman who will return tomorrow. She's familiar with cults and is afraid of getting into the wrong thing.

David Reinhart will visit a school for the deaf on Wednesday. He will share his testimony about Jesus Christ and demonstrate American Sign Language. (Tue. Feb. 10)

God has been blessing us beyond our greatest expectations. Yesterday was our first full day at the coffee house. We had many people stop by and most stayed to talk about the Lord. We also had teams all day long that went out into the city to hand out fliers, take surveys, and give out tracts, etc. So far we have had 12 people accept Christ in the last two days!! Yesterday Shawn was out sharing and was able to talk to a man who had NEVER heard about Jesus, and he accepted Him right there on the street! Tears filled this young Japanese man's eyes as he heard the Gospel for the first time.

From Amy Weiss's diary

1. Right now I am sitting in the coffee house. To my left, Jennie Kay is sharing a Bible with a young Japanese man who has been here for at least two hours. She shared the Gospel with him some time ago, and he wanted to think about it. Now she is showing him where he should begin to read in the Bible.

2. To my right, Cindy is sharing with a Japanese woman. They finished going through the Gospel quite some time ago, and now they are just talking, with Daniel Hamilton interpreting. The woman has a lot of questions, and Cindy has been sharing from her life and from Scripture.

3. In front of me, Liz has just sat down with two young Japanese women and is talking with them. Pray for our communication skills as we share with people who don't speak much English.

4. Across the room to my left, Robert

is talking with a young Japanese man. David Hamilton is interpreting.

5. To my right, beyond the group with Cindy, Christie and Jenny are sharing with a young Japanese woman. Elina Hamilton is interpreting. Pray that God will soften hearts.

6. Across the room to my right, Tomio, Eric and Mat are talking with a Japanese family that goes to a local church, but I don't think they are believers.

7. The young man that Jennie Kay was sharing with earlier is on his way out now, but he stopped to talk to David Sanders. Pray that we will leave a positive impression ("the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him") on everyone whether we talk about Christ or not. Oh, now they're going to sit down. This guy is never going to get out of here! Pray that he will respond to God's pursuit.

8. Tyler has just sat down with a Caucasian woman. I can't tell from here where she is from—but whenever Caucasian people come in we consider it a golden opportunity, because we're more



likely to be able to communicate.

9. A new group of people has entered. Liz has wrapped up the previous conversation, and is now talking to a very outgoing Japanese girl named Rie.

Well, that describes a half an hour in the life of the Nagano coffee house! Things are happening as fast as I can type. Multiply this by twenty, to cover the amount of time we are open each day. Multiply that by sixteen to cover the days we are open. Can you see what God is doing here? When someone prays to accept Christ with us, only they know if

they really understand, and if they are praying sincerely. But they are all hearing the Gospel. I have never seen such an ideal environment for evangelism.

Music draws the crowds

(Thu. Feb. 12)

Many people stop on the sidewalk to listen to our music, and we are able to direct them inside where they have coffee and hear the Gospel. It's amazing how it can be so loud in the coffee shop with all the talking and the music outside, but still you see people everywhere engrossed in deep conversations about spiritual things undistracted by the noise and confusion all around.

(Fri. Feb. 13)

It's a beautiful day. The sun is bright and warm. Shortly after the early team arrived at the coffee shop and set up, Robert H. saw an "army" of kindergartners marching to our shop. We were all thrilled at the chance to share the good news with so many little ones. It turns out that they had come to hear the live music! Unfortunately, the music team had not arrived yet. The coffee shop was empty except for one guy Bob Monaco was talking to, so we offered cookies and hot cocoa (food to the rescue!) to all thirty-five of the kids.

They were noisy; talking, chattering, interacting with everyone, and generally enjoying their snacks. At that point, Dan Hamilton said: "Good morning!" They all quieted, their attention fixed on the big man.

Dan introduced Bob Monaco

and Bob shared the WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) bracelet with them. We know the Lord will use the seeds planted in these little ones' hearts to His glory.

Six new Christians returned to the coffee shop, eager to study the Bible and learn more about their new relationship with God. Several returned to talk more about the Gospel. One boy, who became a Christian, brought his mother. She stayed the whole day learning more about Jesus and the Gospel. It is not clear if she's become a Christian, but today her husband is coming to find out

what is impacting his family.

Amy led a young man to Christ and afterwards he spent a long time learning more. It is so encouraging to see that those who pray are returning hungry for God's word.

Follow up

(Sat. Feb. 14)

Here's one story that's been encouraging for all of us. Miho came for the first time about a week ago, thinking she was a Christian but unsure of her security, and unaware of the real basis for salvation. She prayed to receive Christ that night, and has been back several times since. Each time she has enjoyed fellowship with both Japanese and American believers, and has received instruction from the Word. She is very open and excited, and wants to

row. Last night, she spent the night with us at the Togakushi Kogen Church. It has been encouraging to see her plug into the Body so quickly, yet we ask your prayer that she will remain steadfast after all the foreigners go home and the initial excitement wears off. We plan to encourage her to be baptized; please pray that she will see this as a natural step of obedience to Christ.

A young American woman came in last night to interview us for a report she was doing for an Asian Christian journal. She lives in Tokyo, but was in Nagano trying to find all the Christian groups working here during the Olympics, to do a story on the various ministries. She asked us a few questions, and we asked her if she wanted to participate in our survey. She readily agreed.

When we asked whether she expected to go to heaven or not, she seemed very unsure—she thought there is no way to know if you're going to heaven, God just decides and you find out when you get there. We went through the Four Laws tract. When we got to the part about receiving Christ, she wasn't sure if Christ was in her life and didn't know if she had received Him before, but she wanted to. So we led her through the prayer, and then went over scriptures concerning assurance of salvation and the role of fact, faith and feelings.

After this, she wanted to find some more Christian groups to interview, but since it was her first day in town, she didn't know where to go. I offered to show her some of the places they tend to hang around. In front of the Central Square (where the medals are presented each evening), we ran into a group of Christian English teachers who happen to live in Tokyo. They teach for an organization that is not Christian-affiliated, but they get to teach in the public schools and have a large Christian support group.

When I told them that this woman had just received Christ, they were excited. They exchanged addresses with her and encouraged her to get involved with their group and their retreats. It was neat to see how God directed her steps, first to our coffee house to hear the Gospel, then to Central Square to meet folks who live where she does and can follow her up.

(Sun. Feb. 15)

We are now at the halfway point. It is a joy to know that what we've been doing here will have eternal and everlasting results. The athletes who win gold medals this year will be soon forgotten. Eric R. had good insight when he asked, "what do you do with it afterwards, anyway?"

Family united in Christ

Mitsuko has been a Christian for a number of years but her daughter and husband were not. You'll recall a few days ago Mayuko (her daughter) became a Christian while translating for David. Mitsuko has been overjoyed with the salvation of her daughter and has been saying, "Now, only my husband." Today, her husband, Takaaki, became a Christian. It was difficult for him because of his job, but it doesn't compare with the joy of knowing the Savior.

Sabasa came to the coffee shop three days ago and accepted Christ. He's been hanging around the coffee shop ever since, desiring Christian fellowship and more of God's word. Today he brought his little brother to hear the Gospel and he accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. Sabasa's mother also came by to talk with Cindy. Cindy was unavailable and Sabasa's mother had to leave. Please

pray that she'll return.

Eric R. has been wondering how so many grownups can believe in idol worship. It shows how true and wise God's word is when a ten year old boy who knows God's word is wiser than the majority of Japan. Thank you for staying with us. God bless you, and please keep praying!

This was only half the story. We will not know the whole story until Heaven, but this is a little picture of some of God's work during the two weeks of the Olympics in Nagano Ken. (the "Grace" team.)



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THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

by BRENT DROULLARD

Ivan and nearly 2000 other athletes came to Nagano with one goal in mind, to go for the gold. No matter what the odds, aim for the top. After thousands of hours of preparation—and untold investment by family, friends, coaching staff and sponsors—the athletes put it all on the line for a few minutes or seconds of competition. Ivan and his hockey team from a former Eastern Bloc country were among those who lost; who would return to their homes without any medal.

Crushed, Ivan went back to the Athlete's Village. Wandering aimlessly through the commons area, he found himself at the Chaplains' Center where Paul Kobylarz, a former NHL player, was serving as chaplain that evening.

The two men struck up a conversation and Ivan felt the freedom to share his agony over his team's defeat. Ivan was so blessed by Paul's ministry to him that he returned some time later with three teammates.

Stories abound of the Lord's work through the volunteer chaplain's program. Following is an account from Carl Dambman, one of the Olympic Village chaplains.

"Many athletes from the former Soviet Union came in each day to see the video 'JESUS,' for Bible study, discussion and prayer. One evening we had a group of 14 athletes from Russia, Belarus, Kazakstan, and the Ukraine. Two of the Belarus cross-country skiers are strong believers. Katya and Irina haven't won any medals but they are faithful in bringing other Belarus athletes to the Center. They even brought two skiers from China to receive a copy of the 'JESUS' video in Mandarin-Chinese. They shared their testimonies at two churches where I translated from

Russian into English and the pastor translated into Japanese. Katya and Irina want to go into full-time Christian ministry after this season of competition. Didwis is part of the Latvian Bobsled team. Four years ago he competed in his first Olympics, a dream he worked 18 years to realize. After being in the Olympics, he was still empty inside. He trusted Christ and now wants to be a pastor in this Baltic country.

Anne Abernathy, oldest woman athlete to compete in the Olympics, came to the center many times for prayer and encouragement. The former Opera singer also shared special music at one of our Sunday services. Other Christians from the US, Canada, and Australiacame regularly to the chapel. We even had visits

from one of the Jamaican Bobsleders and the Kenyan cross-country skiers."



The Chaplain's Program was developed in response to the "Religious Center," a service to the athletes and staff sanctioned by the Olympic Committee.

In April 1997, two members of **Athletes in Action** came to Japan to prepare for their Olympic outreach. They hoped to be closely involved with the athletes. During their meeting with the Nagano Olympic Evangelism Committee (NOEC), they were surprised to hear that the official Nagano Olympic Committee (NAOC) had asked Pastor Kitamura if NOEC could staff a "Religious Center" in the Olympic Village. The only catch was that NAOC needed a list of chaplains within one week! **Athletes in Action** quickly located eight prospective

chaplains who would be officially approved by NAOC. It was a divinely appointed opportunity.

The Chaplains' Program is designed to function at four levels: for Christian athletes who desire fellowship; as a service to team chaplains, working in cooperation with their programs; at a personal level, serving the needs of individual athletes and staff; and networking with the varied programs offered in the Olympic Village.

Athletes In Action hopes to organize a network of chaplains for on-going contact with athletes through the Student Games, the Goodwill Games, the Olympics and the World Cup circuit.

Throughout the Nagano Olympics, the Chaplains' Center was manned not only by the **Athletes In Action** team, but by various NOEC members and pastors as well. Over 600 athletes came in for fellowship, counseling or prayer. Sunday services were held weekly with an attendance of about 150 athletes.

The Olympic Committee only allows the chaplains to respond to initiatives by the athletes or official personnel. A few

of the Chaplains found that by offering their services to the managers of the hockey teams, they were invited to share with seven of the eight major men's teams and two of four women's teams. Whether on the



team's office, the chaplains were able to share testimonies, give out literature and give a copy of the "Jesus" video to each team member in his or her own language, all at the invitation of the teams. Relationships made during these brief meetings brought a number of athletes to the Chaplains' Center for counseling and other follow-up.

Through opportunities orchestrated by the Lord, athletes like Ivan received the love and care of a Christian minister and heard first-hand the message of God's love. Let's continue to pray for these wonderful initiatives toward athletes and others in sports.

Every Japanese Christian you know (give them the Japanese edition)

Japan Harvest

Clips from Nagano and Karuizawa

As I gave a "More Than Gold" tract to a Finland women's

hockey coach, I thought, "This is one of the neatest experiences of my time at the Olympics." We talked for ten minutes and he was very interested in knowing more about Christianity. He left but came back a few minutes later asking for a copy of the "Jesus" video. Since we didn't have any more Finnish copies and he couldn't speak Swedish, I gave him an English copy. He said he looked forward to watching it back home. I believe God used that contact.

We found many of the Japanese residents of Nagano very open to talking about Christianity when we explained why we were there. The Japanese I talked with seemed more interested during the Olympics to delve into discussions about God and Jesus. I believe the many prayers for the Olympic outreach opened up these unusual and abundant opportunities.

While in Karuizawa, we handed out "More than Gold" booklets along with invitations to the coffee house at the language school. Although, when compared to Nagano, there were few people in the city, we guided at least six Japanese to the coffee house that afternoon and gave them a lot of individual attention. A Japanese lady who had been stopping by the coffee house everyday, prayed to receive Christ with the German team. A student who had often come to the coffee house was very open. Our Cherilyn and some of the younger German group befriended him and are remembering him in prayer.

Andrea and Cherilyn, from our outreach team, talked with two French women biathlon athletes on the train to Karuizawa. Both had been to Catholic church while growing up but were interested in hearing more about Jesus. Andrea gave them the French New Testaments she still had in her backpack and they promised to read them.

We had told Andrea and Cherilyn to walk to the language school from the station but in asking directions they found no one who knew where the lan-

guage school was, including the taxi drivers. After an hour and a lot of new friends they

finally made it to a packed coffee house! Meeting the two French girls on the train, having incredible conversations with many people, and sharing at a "standing room only" coffee house we are certain were God's appointments!

What a joy it was to give a Czech "Jesus" film to the Czech bobsled team and relish their delight. We talked to an American hockey sports announcer who now lives in London and travels all over Europe. After receiving "More than Gold," he said he was not 'religious' but that he was very open and promised to read it. The countless number of Japanese people we talked to were very gracious. Perhaps we being their 'guests,' and the Olympic experience in general contributed to their openness. With the power that is in God's Word and the prayer behind this outreach, I know many will respond. To God be the glory!

by Dan and Jan Hinson
(Southern Baptist—Kobe)

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Celebrate God's Plans!

Anne Abernathy
with Ruth Drouillard

"The most important thing I've learned about God this year? Easy....," exclaimed Olympic luge athlete, Anne Abernathy. "The Lord's plans are not always what ours are. We can pray for something and the Lord may answer in a completely different way. I asked for 'success' at the Games this winter.

"God said, 'No victory,' but He allowed me to be the oldest woman to successfully complete the Winter Games. He gave me a platform from which I can talk to kids about Jesus and about doing their best.

"I may not always be able to talk about God in an interview or in a public school, but I can show kids that I love Him and be an example."

Forty-four year old Anne came to Christ as a freshman in college when a kind stranger with a cross on his T-shirt helped her get away from a young man who was bothering her at a dance. He talked to her about Jesus most of the night and bet that she would become a Christian by the next morning. Although he lost the bet, she accepted Jesus by midnight of that day!

For the past fourteen years luge has been her main focus. She has competed in four winter Olympic Games, was the third highest ranked woman from the Americas in the 1997 overall World Cup, and is currently 23rd in the world. Nicknamed "Grandma Luge," she competes with women half her age.

Having the Lord to turn to is the most important value and comfort to Anne for her uncertain future. "It is always difficult for athletes after years of training and focusing on an upcoming event. The letdown after the Games is very difficult for all of us. The suicide rate among athletes after the events is very high. That's the time we need the most prayer and encouragement."

Anne's hope is to use her high profile as an Olympic athlete to minister to kids. She finds great joy in taking her sled to schools and talking to the students. If she had sponsorship, she'd like to do one more Olympic Game. Being from a small country, she has been responsible for all of her own financial support. A friend told her that she is

rather like a missionary in raising her own support and going to various countries to luge, make friends, and talk to people about Jesus. One of her favorite times with kids in Japan was spent at a special education school. The children sat still for one hour while Anne spoke softly to them of the loves of her life and sang songs she had written.

With her beautiful voice and a small travel guitar, Anne also touched the hearts of the patients at *Shinsei Byoin's* hospice. Each patient has terminal cancer. Knowing the shortness of their lives, they listened carefully to the words of her song translated by a precious Christian nurse. Anne wrote this song during her own battle with Hodgkin's disease.

All things happen for the good—Doesn't mean
they happen as you think they should.
Using black among the many shades of gold
The master weaver lets life's story unfold.

Don't think all troubles result from some sin
Whether illness, heartbreak or the death of a friend.
Sometimes it's so God's glory might be shown
Guiding and turning us towards Him.

All things happen for the good—Doesn't mean
they happen as you think they should.
Even though the weaver uses some black strands
To highlight the wonders of His master plan.

Though we have honors and title galore
When we are standing at Heaven's door
We will be judged by the scars we have endured
And how we've learned to turn towards Him.

All things happen for the good—Doesn't mean
they happen as you think they should.
Using black among the many shades of gold
The master weaver lets His story unfold
Even the weaver uses some black strands
To highlight the wonders of His master plan.
—Anne Abernathy

When she finished, some of the elderly ladies grasped the hands of the missionaries and short-term team members. Several of the team prayed with the hospice patients. An 85-year-

old joyfully stood and sang an *enka* for an overwhelmed Anne.

Later, visiting people in the internal medicine ward, Anne listened with tears as a missionary translated a nurse's tender words to a patient paralyzed from the neck down. "Anne was sick—so sick that she almost died. God encouraged her and she found her strength in Him. She's come today to bring the Lord's encouragement to you. Won't you keep persevering? You be strong in Him, too. Can you do that, *Sanno san*?"

Unable to wipe the tears from her eyes, *Sanno san* wept freely, saying, "I've been so discouraged. I feel Jesus in you. I feel His encouragement in your story and in your words...thank you." Anne left a Virgin Islands' luge pin by *Sanno san's* bed to remind her "I will be praying for you. I know how it feels to almost give up—but don't!"

Anne was especially touched by the story of Trevor, son of Southern Baptist missionaries, Tony and Marsha Woods. "He bridged two countries when he was dying, by loving Japan so much. He wanted to come back to encourage and love his Japanese friends. I want to love and encourage these people, too. It seems when I reach out to encourage them, they encourage me even more—like the paralyzed woman this afternoon. I guess the story of Trevor taught me how much our lives and deaths touch each other, and that God's plans are not always what ours are."

We celebrate that His plan in Anne's life was to have her share His love with sick and dying people in Japan during the Winter Olympic Games.

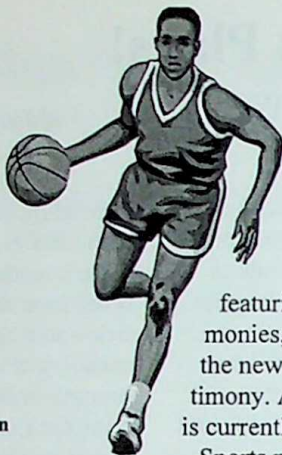


Anne on luge

Sports, A Gospel Bridge

by **Tim Cole**

Team missionary in Nagano Ken



"My dream was to play on the NBA, but when I was 16 a lump developed on my neck which proved to be cancer. The same year I had to have back surgery. My dream was shattered. If it hadn't been for my faith in God, who created me, I would not have had the will to go on living...."

The speaker was 7 foot 1 Andy Fuchs from Arlington, Texas, addressing almost 100 junior boys, girls, coaches, and parents at a gym in Suzaka, Nagano Ken. After sharing his testimony, Andy demonstrated three different slam dunks, and the kids were ecstatic. At the end of the three hour basketball clinic, each participant clutched a signed copy of the evangelistic Olympic booklet, "More Than Gold." Many asked, "When can you come back?"

Action Ministries and Athletes in Action held ten sports clinics, demonstrating what a powerful tool sports is to gain a hearing for the Gospel, especially among boys and men.

Three factors were critical to the success of the clinics. First, a **competent team of instructors** who were not only skillful players, but could also teach and organize large groups of participants so that no one had time to get bored.

Second, **effective advertising**. In Nakano, we took the clinic staff, all in matching sports jackets, to all the local high schools and junior high schools, as well as requesting coverage on local cable TV. The response was wonderful.

Third, **learning to relate the message** to the audience. Andy started his first testimony with "I accepted Jesus Christ when I was eight years old..." but of course his listeners had no idea what he was talking about. By the third clinic, the Gospel presentation had been changed to begin with explaining the

Creator God and how He demonstrates His love for us. The response to the message improved dramatically.

During the Olympics the "More Than Gold" booklet, featuring many winter athletes' testimonies, was effectively used, as was the new booklet with Janet Lynn's testimony. A booklet with a soccer theme is currently being prepared.

Sports provide a non-threatening contact point with many otherwise unreachable people. But as with any evangelistic approach, honesty and integrity are vital. The participants can feel tricked if we are not honest about the message which will be delivered. The timing—such as during the Olympics or World Cup events—also makes a difference on the reception to the program. For those interested in this approach, **Athletes In Action** and other sports ministries would be happy to share their experience.

BEING ON THE TEAM WAS GREAT!!

by **Nathan Woods**

(age 16)



I was privileged to help a team of volunteers from America pass out tracts, find their way around, buy food for them, and even go to the hospital to help my Mom and several

others who were in a traffic accident. I discovered that there were some pretty amazing changes in the people of Nagano.

It felt like their shells were broken open; they weren't the shy people that I normally know. Instead, their eyes and ears were open and they were willing to listen to the Gospel. They were reaching out to take and hear the things we had to give and say to them.

During the Olympics, pin trading is a very important thing. People use it as a

tool to start conversations. Everyone tries to get a pin from each country and each sport. Nagano Olympic Evangelism Committee made up 14,000 pins in the shape of a cross with the plan of salvation attached to a card, printed in 4 languages. I noticed that people were really glad to receive these pins.

I saw the pins later on jackets and hats. One young guy with bleached hair had only our pin, right in the middle of his stocking cap! I'm not sure about the mass hysteria over the pins, but I did think, "If God can use them to get someone's attention, then it's good."

During our orientation, a speaker told us that one of our jobs is to raise people's "God Consciousness Level." He said that if someone received a cross pin from one volunteer who told him the story of Jesus; had another volunteer comment on the pin and retell the story of Jesus; and had yet another team member talk to him again about his cross pin, the level of how much he thought about God would increase. I wanted to see that happen in many people's lives during the Olympics.

It was great to see so many, many people wearing cross pins and it was fun to keep commenting on them. With more than 300 team members here, I think a lot of people heard a lot about the crosses they were wearing!

We (from all the short-term teams) were able to pass out 200,000 tracts and portions of Scripture, and were pleased that people really seemed to accept them gratefully. Tracts didn't get thrown on the ground and people even asked for them. That was really neat.

I was also impressed that there are so many athletes who don't get a medal. In fact, most of them don't. There are a lot of disappointed fans, family, relatives and athletes who have to go back to their own country with only their experiences to show for their efforts.

I thought to myself, "These people have put everything they have into getting a round piece of metal, I wonder if they can live with the defeat?" Two women athletes from Belarus said, "We only want Jesus to get the glory." I think they're getting their "Gold

continued on page 15

Short-Term Outreach Long-Term Results

by Jon Benedict

with YWAM in Nagano Ken

Can short-term outreach be successful? Does it really have lasting fruit? Sincere questions like these are asked by pastors and church planters. Some have hosted short-term teams and wonder whether it was worth it. There are both success stories and "bad experience" stories. Perhaps the real question should be—how can we major on the good points and avoid the pitfalls of short-term outreach projects? Here are some hints that may help.

Focus on the benefits that short-termers bring. One obvious benefit is the great encouragement in numbers. Along with more hands to give tracts and fliers, the influx of believers multiplies Christian fellowship and builds up the Body. Spiritual bonding happens when hearts are knit together in Christ.

Visitors increase the consciousness of the world-wide church and impart vision for missions via living testimonies. We learn to appreciate different styles of ministry, accept people of other church groups and rid our minds of denominational stereotypes. All this contributes to promoting unity in the Body of Christ at a deeper level.

Short-termers have a mindset and an availability to intensively engage in the work they've come for and to do it full time. They are not tied down by routines and responsibilities, but are there only to share Christ with anyone, anywhere, at anytime. Their "ignorance" of local culture

*Can
short-term
outreach be
successful?*



*Does it
really have
lasting
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*Short termers
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come for and
to do it full
time.*

can, in a positive sense, help by giving them a stage to share openly and boldly without adverse reaction from the listeners. Short-termers can bring new people into the church and encourage long-time seekers to take that step of faith to accept Christ, make a public confession, or be baptized.

One church's experience:

Shinmachi Kyokai is a small church tucked in the mountains of Nagano a few miles from the Hakuba Slopes where the 1998 Olympic downhill and ski jump events took place. Wanting to have an effective impact on people's lives with the Gospel, the church planned a one week outreach into the local community during the Games and asked for a group of seven to ten volunteers to come. Objectives were: 1) To provide the believers with exposure to other Christians and to worship together, 2) to work together with foreigners in sharing the Gospel, 3) to use the Olympics as a unique opportunity to reach local townspeople.

Each day was planned.

◇ Monday: Arrival, welcome lunch and orientation. Literature evangelism in Shinmachi 2:00 to 4:00. Evening meal prepared by the church.

◇ Tuesday: Breakfast: self-prepared. Literature evangelism in Ogawa village 10:00 to 12:00. Lunch: stew. More literature evangelism in Shinmachi 2:00 - 4:00. Dinner, self-prepared.

◇ Wednesday: street evangelism in Hakuba to Olympic visitors.

◇ Thursday: Children's meeting and pizza party.

And so it went, put on a chart for all to see. The details, including printing fliers and contacting the group ahead of time to request songs and testimonies, were well thought out.

On February 9, the Shin-

machi Church welcomed eight Christian volunteers from the US. Pastor Sonoko Maruyama said, "It was a very successful outreach. We were encouraged by the boost in number of workers and were able to do things we couldn't have done by ourselves, as well as unique ministries like hosting a local basketball clinic." Maruyama says they will allow more space next time for the volunteers to use their unique talents and gifts. They learned also that the church should not take a back seat, letting the volunteers do all the work. "It's better not to invite a team if you're not prepared to go out with them and put in many hours of work," says Maruyama.

Logistics. All too often, we get over-worked and it's discouraging to even think about sponsoring a team. But ample planning and good delegating can relieve the stress. People rise to a challenge if given the opportunity. Most people in the church CAN'T volunteer a whole week but CAN give a day here or an afternoon there. Volunteers do best when there is not an undue amount of pressure. Frustration and stress result when two people are expected to do a ten man job. Delegate, and everyone will smile more, offer more help, and be more kind and considerate, resulting in blessing to all.

Make use of public transportation whenever possible. Sometimes we have to pay a little more to save on mental and physical wear and tear. A church need not cook all the meals. Communicate beforehand that the team will be expected to prepare their breakfast and certain other meals.

People are different, and on a team they will not all be fiery street evangelists. In early communication with the team, have them list the types of work they do well. A variety of ministries will allow the workers to wholeheartedly participate in their specialties and will reach a wider group of people.

Long-term church planting and short-term outreach projects go hand in hand. Much like farming, more hands are needed at certain times such as planting and harvesting. Jesus said, "Pray to the Lord of the harvest that He may send forth more laborers."

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In any resort environment—whether Aspen ski areas, Maui vacation spots, or Nagano Olympic venues—there are three groups of people who need to be ministered to and shown the love of Jesus. It is important to understand how to touch each group with the truth of the Gospel.

The local people will still be there after the short term people have gone home. After the vacationers leave and the volunteers are finished, the

locals will remain. In order to leave the best impression of Christ and His people, it is crucial that we are “way nice.”

We want the local people to have a good feeling about Christians, but often as short-term outreach groups, we want “everything for nothing” and we forget to be especially kind. Improper attitudes can leave the locals wishing that church groups had not come. In my years of

working in resort areas, I am always blessed by church groups and outreach teams that leave an area having “won” the hearts of the locals by their generosity, love and kindness. Our attitude and lifestyle needs to communicate, “I’m here to help people enjoy life.”

Tourists are another group in a resort setting. When talking with them or about them, however, the words “guest” or “visitor” have a much warmer feeling. These are the people who can afford to be in the resort area or have been brought there to play, to get away from the routine. For them we need to ask questions like, “What do you do for play?” “What events have you seen?” or “What places have you visited?” These people want to talk about the fun things that they are doing

on this trip, not about the office back home. Tell them through your conversation that it is our destiny to bring JOY to the lives of people! From that base, the guest or visitor will be ready to talk on a deeper level and we can share with them the love and JOY of knowing Jesus.

Service people, the third category, often serve and give and are treated as nobodies. They are rarely noticed and are taken for granted. They clean our rooms, bus our tables, sweep the bathroom floors and

drive our buses. They need to be treated as special because they are to Jesus. Speak to service people often. Genuinely thank them. Ask them about their day or comment on their work. Love them with the love of Jesus.

The main thing we want to do is create an ever-growing God-consciousness in people we encounter. We cannot do this alone. It takes all of us talking to

Evangelism In A Resort Environment

by Steve Hoekstra

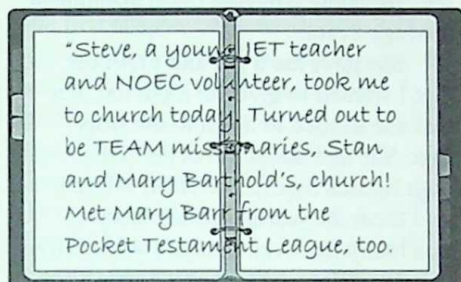


3 NOEC volunteers from Canada, England and US at the Luge Track with 3 Japanese friends they shared with.

everyone we meet about Jesus who loves us and God who created us. God can always be given glory for anything! The beauty of nature in resort areas leads to natural conversations about its Creator! God will work through the simple acts of His children—praising God and speaking openly of His Son, Jesus—to touch lives time and time again, to raise their God-consciousness and prepare their hearts to receive His Son.

Nagano Diary

JEMA office manager, Mizuko Matsushita, worked in the office of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) during the Olympics in Nagano. She shares some excerpts from her diary.



"Though I am busy in the IOC office, to day I was free to distribute Gospels of John with the PTL volunteers on a busy Gondo street. The volunteers could not speak Japanese, but tried to say, "Doozo, anata no pure-sento." Many accepted the Gospels presented in this friendly way.

"Met Christian student, Mihaela, from Romania, and introduced her to an IOC volunteer whose mother is Romanian. Together with the Gospels of John and tracts I gave to some of the IOC volunteers, I hope that Mihaela's testimony will bring fruit some day.

"Five years ago, the story of the time I spent at the Geneva Bible School appeared in the **Christian Shinbun** and I received several phone calls. One of them was from a young Christian woman on her way to Switzerland. Today I found out her name from the Lausanne IOC Office staff. She has married a Swiss but her heart is still in Japan and she has a burden for her home church in Shimane. Even though I never met her, God has put her on my heart for prayer.

"Second week here—I move to the Barthold's. As I grew up in a non-Christian family, I am thankful to the Lord for this wonderful time with them. Had an opportunity to go the Christian hospice with Anne Abernathy, luge athlete from the Virgin Islands, and NOEC volunteers. There "by chance" I met a Japanese Christian friend who is now chief of nurses in the hospital and needs support in prayer.

"Before going to Nagano, all I knew was that I'd work for the IOC office, but the Lord prepared the way ahead of me. I am amazed at His "weavings," as He has led me to old friends and allowed me to share their needs in prayer."

Mihaela Diaconescu

Let me tell you how happy I am that about three years ago I believed in Jesus Christ as my Savior. It doesn't seem very long ago that I thought "being born again" was just a figure of speech. How wonderful to experience spiritual birth and come "home," surrendering all personal territory to God. I now understand that our life itineraries and the people we meet are not 'coincidences.' They are part of God's perfect plan.

As a Romanian studying in Japan I offered to translate during the Olympics. One of my hopes was to share with my own people. For certain reasons I was not able to reach the Romanian team. Instead, beyond my imagination, God placed in my way a "half-Romanian" (with a Romanian mother and a Japanese father), an American who has worked in Romania, and a Swiss who does missionary work in and for Romania.

I have no doubt these encounters were all arranged by the Lord's almighty hand. I thank Him, too, for the special blessing of my homestay with the Ikeda family. Without their precious help these encounters wouldn't have become reality.

Mary Barthold

Loud and beautiful, 5,000 fireworks in eight minutes announced the closing of the Nagano Olympics to the 50,000 attendees. Then on Monday morning a quiet phone call came from Levi Cole in Nakano. "A woman who became a Christian during the Olympics is looking for a church in Nagano."

A few minutes later a beautiful call came from the woman herself, "I work in Gondo and during the Olympics several foreigners greeted me there. 'Judy' (Action Ministries) prayed with me, and since then I have felt a calmness and I pray about everything. I am diabetic and have always blamed my parents for my sickness. But now I have peace and when I take my insulin injection, I think of how painful the cross was for Jesus, remembering it was my sin that hurt Him."

We pray that through her testimony and the Nagano Megumi Church her husband will be saved, too.

The US Pocket Testament League team stayed in Megumi Church and were responsible for the distribution of 45,000 bilingual Gospels of John. Im-

mediate results are not yet seen, but God's promise is sure: "My Word that goes out from My mouth will not return to Me empty, but will...achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

God had planned that the PTL team stay at Megumi Church, which is near Zenkoji Temple, Central Square and Nagano train station where the CROWDS were to receive the Gospels.

Also, the church is near the media housing complex and the CBS headquarters. On February 8th CBS asked to film our service. Because of the emphasis on Zenkoji Temple, they wanted to show a Christian worship service as well. Before the service they interviewed Mary Barr of PTL and us.

This was broadcast in Philadelphia area that night. One special lady who saw the program had wanted so much to come with the PTL team, but could not because of her health. Fifteen minutes after she saw the program and her friend, Mary Barr, the Lord took her Home! Again we saw the Sovereign Lord controlling the details of this Olympic outreach. It was exciting to be part of it!

The Zenkoji Temple is believed to have been founded in the 7th century. Millions of pilgrims visit this temple each year, believing that one pilgrimage in a lifetime will ensure their salvation. Their main object is to grope their way through a passage below the main hall, seeking to touch 'the key of paradise.'



The mood, with hundreds of mostly aged, reverent pilgrims descending into the pitch-black tunnel is a little awesome. Zenkoji is dedicated to a statue which, according to temple tradition, was the first Buddhist image to arrive in Japan (552 AD), the gift of a Korean king. At the back of the main hall visitors descend into the darkness—the absence of light is intentional and mandatory. Pilgrims (and tourists) grope their way until they feel something heavy, moveable and metallic—'the key of paradise.'

Today, that 'key' statue is never shown—it is believed that those who see it will go blind—but every seven years an exact copy is revealed in a grand ceremony, which draws immense crowds. The experience is quite eerie. **There is a strong feeling of religious power in the temple.**

thanks to Rob and Jean Gill for the above

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

by Carrie Drouillard
age 13



I went to the orientation meeting for the NOEC volunteers with my brothers and

sister. Roger from **Action Ministries** asked us if we would like a pin. At the Olympics, pins are a pretty big deal. He showed us a pin and told us the wordless book story—using the colors black, red, white, green and yellow from his pin to tell about salvation.

At first, I thought I'd leave and let the little kids listen because it was the same "old" story I've heard so many times. But I really wanted the pin (embarrassed smile). Roger said that people could only receive one of his pins if they *listened* to the whole story, and could only give one if they *told* the story. I knew it would be rude to walk away in the middle of his talk so I stayed. After I repeated the story to him and he gave me the pin along with an extra one for a friend, I walked away thinking about the story he had told.

Suddenly God gave me an idea. "Since I only have two pins, I can write a tract using these pins to give to other people, so even without a pin, they can understand the wordless story." It was

then I realized that the Olympic ring colors are the same as the ones in the wordless book. "Wow, how amazing that they are the same colors!" I thought.

That evening when I crawled in bed I started writing the tract. I knew that I needed scriptures so I began to scan my Bible. I reached Romans, then stopped to read a verse that caught my eye. I read on, and then scanned back. There were almost three chapters of perfect verses!!

On the first tract I wrote, I didn't include many verses. The next morning, I felt I should make the tract bigger and with more verses. After I added the colors, I laminated the tract by putting clear packing tape on either side. The next day, I made another tract just like the first one, to give to someone when I was in Nagano City.

Mom took my friend and me shopping the very next day. On the way, I prayed that God would show me one person to give my tract to. That afternoon, in the post office, I saw a very lonely looking lady. I felt like God wanted me to give the tract to her, so I ran to ask Mom if she thought I should. "Yes, I think so too." I was a little nervous as I walked up to the lady. I told her I had made these for the Olympics and that it would be great if she could read it. She said that she would, and I smiled at her and left. I was glad that God had chosen her for my tract.

I wrote the same tract in Japanese the next day and gave it to a man that I thought God

pointed out to me. Once again I made a tract and when we sat next to 9 Germans on the shuttle bus to the luge event, I had the chance to give my tract and tell them the story. Finally, I found a girl to give the second pin to. She was my age and we started talking next to the "purikura" (picture club) machine at the luge event.

She gave me a pin and I told her that I wanted to give her a pin too, but that she needed to listen to the story first. She and about ten of her junior high friends listened carefully while I told them the wordless book story. It was really fun even though I was pretty nervous. When I finished, she put her head close to my face and smiled really big. "*Ii mono to hanashi moratta, ki ga suru!!*" ("Wow, I feel like I've just received a really special story and pin!"). It's fun to tell people about Jesus!

The Ripples of God's Word

by Jerry Haas

The NOEC volunteers visited many small churches in the Nagano area encouraging the believers and helping in

whatever way they were able. **Action Ministries'** team members visited Suzaka Bible Church, where they met Shigeoko Aoke. This is their account of her precious testimony.

Like sitting down with a great grandmother or great aunt you have never met and hearing her life story from her heart, this was the blessing that came from a 79 year old woman born and reared in Japan.

It's great to hear anyone's testimony, but especially the pilgrimage of a second generation Japanese Christian. There are not

WELCOME TO NAGANO!!

These might look a little like the normal Olympic rings...



... but "No!!" they are not! These are Jesus Christ's rings for us. Black, red, white, green, and yellow all stand for a certain thing. Flip this card over to find out!

GOD BLESS YOU! HAVE A NICE DAY ☺

- **Black = SIN**
"No one is good without God. Every person in the world has sinned." Romans 3:10
"Sin makes us die..." Romans 6:23
"All of us humans were born with a natural inclination to sin. This sin will lead to a death penalty."
- **Red = JESUS' BLOOD**
"God sent Jesus Christ to take the punishment for our sins. He ended all God's anger against us. Christ's blood and our faith saves us from God's anger..." Romans 3:25
"Jesus Christ died on the cross for all of our sins. His blood washes our sins away."
- **White = PURITY**
"Through Jesus' blood, we become clean, and pure. If we trust in Jesus, then God will wash our sins away, and forgive us for all our sin."
- **Green = GROWING**
"Now you can really serve God. Not in the old way by obeying a set of rules, but in the new way, with all your hearts and mind." Romans 7:6
"To have a better relationship with Jesus Christ, we need to learn all about him, and become a growing Christian."
- **Yellow = ETERNITY**
"Our suffering now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later." Romans 8:18
"Through believing in Jesus Christ, we can live with him forever in heaven!!"

many of them. Petite Shigeko Aoke shared how God had changed her life.

From a long line of Buddhists, Shigeko's father was changed when a Christian soldier gave him a Bible during the Russian-Sino War. He had always felt that Buddhism was not the whole story and realized it as he read the first chapter of Genesis, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." He read the Bible from beginning to end and recognized he needed Jesus in his heart. This changed his family's history forever. He now had a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

The War ended, and Shigeko's father had to return the book that had changed his life. He knew he must continue reading these precious words from God, but could not find a Bible anywhere in his area. He had heard of some Christians in Yokohama a number of miles away. Not knowing how to get in touch with them, he mailed a postcard with money attached, addressing it "To the Christians in Yokohama. Please send me a Bible." The post office managed to get this special request to a local church in Yokohama. They gladly mailed the Bible to him.

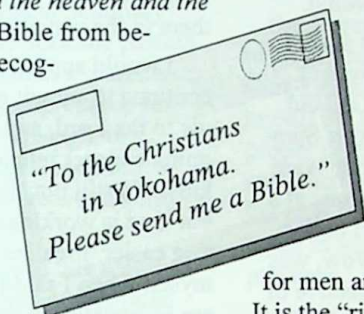
A life time of reading God's Word filled his heart and his family's life. When Shigeko's mother was dying, her father ran to the nearest town for the pastor. Returning to the mother's bed side on foot, the pastor led her to Christ and baptized her before she died. The family was separated following Shigeko's mother's death, living with various relatives because of lack of work. While the task of silk weaving was considered to be women's work, her father humbled himself and did it to bring his family back together.

At the time of Shigeko's father's death, a local department store displayed his ragged Bibles. They had markings for each of the 179 times he had read through the Bible. His life story was on display, sharing what

God's Word had done for him in changing his life direction.

Shigeko's love for God is evident in every aspect of her life. Small in stature, she boldly proclaims Christ to everyone she meets. When the local church she attended drifted from God's Word, she contacted a local missionary, Tim Cole, to ask for help in starting a Bible study in her home. This Bible study led to a solid fellowship known as Suzaka Bible Church. They are a bold group of evangelicals who share Christ in their village.

God's Word changes hearts each and every day, determining life direction for men and women all over the world. It is the "ripple effect." One Bible, one Spirit-inspired man, one open heart, one family, one town—what will happen next is in God's hands. "Any man can count the seeds in an apple, but only God knows the apples in one seed."



continued from page 10 (Nathan Woods)

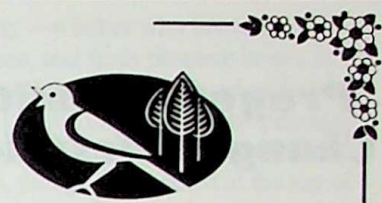
medals from God, even though they finished near last place in the Cross Country event.

One day a volunteer asked a big guy on the street, "What language do you speak?" He didn't speak English, but understood enough to say, "Czech."

She said, "Wait right there, I have a gift for you," and brought him a "Jesus" video in Czech. His eyes filled with tears as he hugged the video saying over and over, "Love Jesus, Love Jesus!" It was neat how God arranged that to work out.

These are my observations of the Nagano '98 Olympics. In some ways, it was better than I expected. Traffic was not so bad, and I actually got to see some events. Surprising was the change that came over the Japanese, who were aggressive about wanting to hear about Christianity. It was fun to work with the volunteers and see people's happiness when they were given a tract.

It was fun to see the volunteers all working together and experiencing my country for the first time. Would I do it again? Sure.



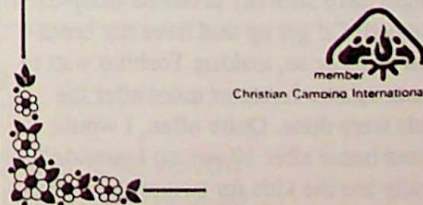
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The Prayer Summit Experience

Prayer Summits Change Lifestyles

by Ken Reddington

Who would have thought that a person could experience such a change in lifestyle in so short a time! The Lord really did an incredible work in my life at the Men's Prayer Summit in May 1997. I went there with the realization that something had to change. I also had a basic idea of what it was. But I was in a rut...too satisfied with the status quo. In fact, for about two years, I was in kind of a spiritual slump, feeling God to be far away, not 'in the camp' with me, so to speak.

Around the first day of the Summit, we were asked to think about relationships and pray about what God was telling us to do about them. In years past, I've often prayed about various things, but this year God wanted to talk to me about three specific relationships: with Him, with my wife, and with my kids.

As I said before, I was feeling far from God, but I was also feeling like I was not being the husband I should be to Toshiko. With the kids, I was basically 'non-existent.' It all kept coming back to just a few basic things, all dealing with my lifestyle and how I lived each day.

You see, I had a very comfortable lifestyle...for me. I went to bed at about 1 or 2 am and woke up around 9 am (I always prided myself at getting my engines going around 10 pm. I often quoted the passage where Jesus stayed up all night in prayer!). Of course, the kids had already left for school before 8, so I didn't see them, though they might have seen my prostrate body on the bed! I'd get up and have my breakfast at 10 or so, making Toshiko wait to clean up two hours or more after the kids were done. Quite often, I would come home after 10 pm, so I wouldn't really see the kids for two or three days

straight at times. I would see their sleeping faces only.

I would read the Bible in bed and even pray in bed. In fact, as I felt God further and further away, my prayers were mainly well-used 'rote' words with not much meaning. I really hadn't heard Him answer for so long, that I was beginning to wonder if He ever would.

It was a crazy situation, but since I had the best end of the deal, I wasn't really ready to change... until God did some speaking to me at the Prayer Summit. Since the others in my family were doing things that needed to be done at a certain time, the solution would be for ME to change MY schedule. Wow, was that a shock! I had been so protective of MY time and lifestyle. It was hard to let that go. But, if there was to be any change, it had to start with me.

As the Summit went on, I kept getting this CRAZY idea that God wanted me to get up at six a.m.! It made perfect sense. If I got up at six, I could spend an hour with God, then cook the kids' breakfast, see them off before eight, take Kristine to kindergarten and be back in time to spend time in prayer with Toshiko before I started working at 9 am. What a great idea (not mine, but God's!) But all I could say was, "God, if You're in this, You have to give me the strength to do it."

Well, He has! Almost every day for the past half a year, I have been able to get up at six a.m. and do what I know I should. It's a miracle! But God is in that business! As a result, my time with God seems real to me. He really showed me that He WAS 'in the camp' with me at the Summit, and that has continued.

Toshiko has been less tired, so we spend more time together, although she has not totally aligned her schedule with mine. Even if we spend the evening talking until 3 am or so, I can still get up at 6; it's amazing!

As for the kids, their reaction was swift in coming and a little painful, too. Karen mentioned to Toshiko the second day, "What's happened to Daddy? It'd be nice to have a daddy like this all the time." Kristine told her, "You mean

Daddy can take me to kindergarten every day? How lucky!" Toshiko also said, "It seems like there's a father in this family now." That hurt, but it was true. I had not been there. Of course, now it is getting to be routine to the kids; but I pray that just my being there, making breakfast, leading them in a song and Bible verse, will influence them in the way they should go.

I would appreciate your prayers as I continue to submit my time and schedule to the Lord, and work toward developing a closer relationship with our kids. It's still not 'fun' to get up early, but God is working in my life. It's getting easier. I realize that I was fooling myself when I said I could not get up. I am so grateful for my "encounter with the Lord" at the Prayer Summit.

(Ken and his family live in Kochi Ken and have served as independent missionaries since 1978.)

more

Summit Sharings

I lost a few things during the four days. Some preconceived ideas about other ministries, a fear of associating with men from other expressions, a hesitancy to discuss our common beliefs, etc.... We have embarked on an exploratory trip back to wholeness.

a Church of Christ pastor

God has granted me the privilege of experiencing brokenness before Him. I never knew how precious that could be. I am learning the freedom that comes from brokenness. I cried through a two-hour communion service and God granted me deliverance. It is really precious.

a Baptist pastor

Intimacy with the Almighty

Pursuing the Altar of God

by Dr. Jack Dennison

In March, 1992, I attended my first Pastors' Prayer Summit. Five members of the Multnomah Biblical Seminary faculty joined with the Spokane pastors to experience this spiritual phenomenon together. I was totally unprepared for what would become the single most powerful and meaningful encounter with God since my conversion twenty years earlier.

As we got underway in this seamless worship experience that incorporated prayer, Bible reading and singing, God began to peel away the layers of crust that surrounded my heart. More and more deeply He penetrated my heart until He entered the deepest cavities of my spiritual being. I recall the reading of familiar passages of Scripture that were so filled with beauty and awe, it

was as if I was hearing them for the first time. I sang hymns and choruses that I didn't even know I knew. We prayed, and prayed, and prayed, as we poured out our hearts to God who was more experientially present than I ever remember Him being before. And my only response was tears that flowed and would not stop.

On several occasions we were released to go off on our own to do business with God. During those times I would dust myself off and put my demeanor back in proper order. But upon entering the room and returning to my seat awaiting the next meeting, I would begin to weep again in wonderful anticipation of God's presence.

I wept not because of sin, though God dealt with me regarding those persistent habits and attitudes; no, the tears came because of the wonderful intimacy I was experiencing with God. My natural father has always been a stranger to me, but during this Prayer Summit, I experienced for the first time—in an experien-

tial way—a father who loves me, accepts me, and finds pleasure in me. I was absolutely overwhelmed and undone. I spoke little, I read few passages or prayed aloud. My tears kept me from words, though I trumpeted at the top of my lungs the choruses that gave words to the deep cry of my heart. The emotion of that moment returns to me as I write these words nearly five years later.

This encounter with God changed my life. Once experiencing something so divine, so wonderful, so tender, you can never be the same. And clearly, you would never want to be. God began to show me how, over the years, I had traded building altars to God for worshipping at the altar of God. It is the latter that is still my greatest pursuit to this day.

(Dr. Dennison is part of the Multnomah Biblical Seminary faculty. This testimony is taken from the IRM Newline, August, 1996.)

Men... You are invited to participate in a Men's Prayer Summit. Don't miss the opportunity! Call the JEMA office today to register.

Eastern Japan

Tues, May 19 (11 a.m.) - Fri, May 22 (1 p.m.)
Okutama Bible Camp

Western Japan

Tues, May 26 (11 a.m.) - Fri, May 29 (1 p.m.)
Hiruzen Bible Camp

Schedule:

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast	-	o	o	o
Morning	Arrive	Session 3	Session 6	Session 9
Lunch	o	o	o	o
Afternoon	Session 1	Session 4	Session 7	Depart
Dinner	o	o	o	-
Evening	Session 2	Session 5	Session 8	

Cost:

¥27,000 (all inclusive) · (¥3,000 discount for those registering before April 17)

To register, contact:

The JEMA Office · Tel/Fax: 03-3295-1949

Questions? Contact:

Brent Drouillard · Tel/Fax: 026-255-6140 · email: ruthann@compuserve.com
Bill Paris (Eastern Japan) · Tel: 0429-58-1349 · email: b-paris@interlink.or.jp
Ken Reddington (Western Japan) · Tel/Fax: 0888-91-5717 · email: VEN06217@niftyserve.or.jp

Have you wanted someone to come and do music ministry for your church but did not know who to call? We are putting together an **English Directory of Japanese Musicians**. The following is not a complete listing, we hope other music groups will contact us so that we can include their information and build a good resource for the missionary community.

The Christian music scene in Japan is changing. Over the past ten years there has been a great increase in the number of groups, quality, and variety of styles. We hope this directory will enhance effective outreach by connecting you with available musicians, and that it will provide more opportunities for, and be an encouragement to, Christian artists in Japan.

Many thanks to Kimiko Wakamatsu (free lance translator from Oita), Tatsumi Chikagami (staff of TJC) who did a fine job of translating, and most of all to my capable editor, my wife Nancy.



If you have questions or would like help deciding which group would be appropriate for you, or if you know a musician or music group who should be listed in the English Directory of Japanese Musicians, feel free to call me at 0468-66-7939 or e-mail to: CottsCom@aol.com

Paul Nethercott (TEAM)



Blest Beat
Since 1989, **Blest Beat** has been performing original gospel music for Christian TV/ radio, schools, churches, Christian organizations and live houses. They have

released two CDs. **Kiyoshi Tokunaga** graduated from the conservatory of contemporary music, has composed for Nintendo, and done background music (BGM) for various programs. His wife, **Sanae**, has had over 10 years of vocal training. They are members of a Mennonite Brethren church.

Style: Contemporary (Jazz, Soul, etc)

Instrument: Synthesizer, etc.

Target Audience: 16 to 40 years of age

Options: music + testimony

Financial need: Transportation costs plus offering

*Contact person: Kiyoshi Tokunaga, Sojiji 1-17-17, Ibaraki, Osaka
Tel/Fax: 0726-23-7619*



Chu Kosaka

Chu debuted professionally in 1966 as one of the pioneers of Japanese rock. Before becoming a Christian in 1975, he performed in many venues and had a national tour with the group **Tin Pan Alley**. As a Christian musician, he made a major contribution in Japan by introducing contemporary Christian music. Songwriter and producer, he established the first gospel music record company in Japan (**Michtam Records**). Since 1991 Chu

has served as the pastor of a Foursquare Church.

Style: Praise and Worship

Instruments used: Guitar, Drums, Keyboard,

Target Audience: 12 to 60 years of age

Options: music+testimony +message

Financial need: Transportation costs plus offering, or arrangements can be made.

Contact person: Mr. Yasui or Miss Kondo

1 Dia Bldg, 4th F, Kata-machi, Shinjuku-ku

Tel: 03-3358-0891 Fax: 03-3358-5218

e-mail: NBB00427@niftyserve.co.jp

Yuri Mori

Since 1986, **Yuri Mori** has performed in many musicals and appeared in several TV/radio shows as a singer, actress, reporter and emcee. After working for NHK, she started her ministry as a gospel singer in 1992 and since then has released two albums and published a book. Yuri lost her brother in the Kobe earthquake and as a result has been doing many charity concerts. Featured on TV, radio and in newspapers, Yuri is becoming known in other countries as well.

Baptized in a Mennonite Brethren church, Yuri is now a member of a World Evangelical Mission church. (*Sekai Fukuin Dendodan*)

Style: Contemporary Christian and Old Japanese

Instruments: piano, flute, violin accompaniment.

Target Audience: any age

Options: music+testimony +short message

Financial need: Transportation plus arranged fee

Please contact: Kenjiro Oka

40-2 Takeji, Okehazama, Arimatsu cho, Midori ku, Nagoya Shi, 458

Tel/Fax: 052-621-4651 or 03-3720-2013



Kaori Sion

In 1984 **Kaori** graduated from Tokyo University of Art with an MA in music. She also studied in Europe (Moyses' Master Course) and has played the flute for various programs on NHK TV and radio. Kaori has done recitals in many foreign countries, is the concertmaster of a flute ensemble, and has released three albums.

Style: Classic

Instruments: Flute

Target Audience: any age

Options: music+testimony

Financial need:

Transportation plus set fee of ¥50,000 or more.

Contact: Kaori Sion,

1-21-12, Nakahara,

Mitaka Shi, Tokyo 181-0005



Kaori Sion

Fuyuhiko Sasaki

Fuyuhiko graduated from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music in 1990. From 1990 to 1993 he was the director of the Shirane-Tohgenkyo Harp Festival. In 1995 he received the Second

Int. Fukui Harp Music Award. Since 1990 he has appeared in many music festivals and concerts in Japan and abroad. Besides the Western harp, he plays an instrument called the *kugo*, an ancient oriental harp. He has released one album.

Fuyuhiko belongs to the Christian Reformed Church in Matsudo-Koganehara.

Style: Mainly classical instrument: Harp

Target Audience: any age / Options: music+testimony



Fuyuhiko Sasaki

Financial need: Transportation plus offering.

Contact: Fuyuhiko Sasaki, 4-175 Edogawadai-Higashi

Nagareyama Shi, Chiba 270-0111 Tel/Fax: 0471-53-7471

Party (as in a mountain climbing "party")

This group consists of members of the Holiness Gakuin Church in Higashi-Murayama. Started by HS students 15 years ago, **Party** performs original music and has produced a number of recordings.

Style: Pops

Instruments: Guitar, Sax, Keyboard, Drums

Target Audience: youth

Options: music+testimony+message

Financial need: Transportation plus offering.

Contact: Masato Komachi, 2108-3, Yamaguchi,

Tokorozawa Shi, Saitama Ken

Tel/Fax: 0429-22-4392



Nard

Nard, a female duo, has been performing in churches, institutions, and for weddings since 1991.

Masago Maruoka and **Yukari Tokimatsu** also hold children's music clinics and teach voice. In 1996 they released an album produced by Chu Kosaka and Eika Ko.

Style: Gospel, Classical, Popular, Contemporary

Instruments: MiniDisk

Target Audience: any age / Options: music+testimony

Financial need: Transportation costs only

Contact: Mitsuhiro Tokimatsu, 296-13 Minato, Okayama Shi, Okayama 703-8266

Tel: 086-277-4864

e-mail: VYT05102@niftyserve.or.jp



Nard

Join

Since marriage in 1995, **Yu** and **Naoko Ueno** have been involved in church music. In 1997, they officially started "Join," performing in churches and for weddings. Join has released one CD. Yu and Naoko have participated in the Japanese

Continentials, and currently Naoko plays the flute for Yuri Mori. Yu and Naoko belong to a *Domei* (TEAM) church in Kita-Akitsu.

Style: CCM / Instruments: Synthesizer, flute

Target Audience: any age / Options: music+testimony

Financial need: Transportation plus ¥20,000 or as arranged

Contact: Yu Ueno, 1-202, 448-5, Kita-akitsu, Tokorozawa

Saitama 359-0038 Tel/Fax: 0429-96-3564



Join

Yutaka and Ikue Tobe

Yutaka is a graduate of Musashino Academy of Music. In 1970 he received the Filmore East Fellowship. From 1960 to 1978 he held first chair trumpet position with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra. Yutaka, who has performed actively both in Japan and overseas, is

currently assistant professor of music at Musashino Academy of Music. Yutaka's wife, **Ikue**, accompanies him on the piano. They are members of a *Domei* (TEAM) Church in Izumi.

Style: Classical

Instruments: Trumpet, with piano

Target Audience: any age

Options: music+testimony

Financial need: Transportation plus offering

Contact: Ikue Tobe, 4-1-9 Hibarigaoka-kita, Hoya-Shi, Tokyo, 202-0002

Tel: 0424-24-0541 Fax: 0424-24-3643



Yutaka and Ikue Tobe

Yoriko Imamura

Yoriko is a member of the Living Praise Singers featured on all 14 volumes of Word of Life Press's praise and worship series. She also ministers in many churches in Japan and America as a soloist. She is fluent in English, was a kindergarten teacher, and "loves children." Yoriko is a member of a Southern Baptist Church in Mejirogaoka.

Style: Contemporary / Instruments: Karaoke

Target Audience: any age, especially children, Christian

Options: music+testimony

Financial need: Transportation plus offering.

Contact: Yoriko Imamura, 3-31-14-502, Tokumaru, Itabashi, Tokyo 175-0083 Tel/Fax: 03-5920-2004



Yoriko Imamura

J-HEAD (Tom and Hiroko Kanematsu)

Tom graduated from Berkeley College of Music and was a member of well-known gospel group, "The Messengers," with whom he toured internationally. A radio DJ for 5 years, he started his own music company in 1992, and in 1997 released an album. Hiroko graduated from Millar Memorial Bible Institute, has been on staff with LIFE's "Song-Rise," and involved with the Japanese Continentals. Tom and Hiroko perform in churches, colleges, nursing homes, hotels, golf clubs, and companies, and enjoy coffee house and street ministry.

Style: Contemporary / Instruments: Piano, guitar, with band

Target Audience: any age, Christian and non-Christian

Options: music+testimony

Financial need: Transportation plus ¥30,000 for the two of them, ¥50,000 if accompanied by band.

Contact: Tom Kanematsu 379-2 Kuroiwa, Sakahogi-cho, Kamo-gun, Gifu, 505 Tel: 0574-28-4000 / Fax: 0574-28-2280

The Japanese Continentals

The Japanese Continentals (TJC), an official branch of the American Continentals, started as a part of LIFE ministries. TJC are now independently run by Eiji and Shoko Horii and do an annual tour of venues including churches, department stores, parks, hospitals, and schools. Their purpose is three fold: to evangelize, to encourage Christians, and to provide training for young Japanese Christians. Any interested Christian may audition for this group, but must raise their own support. The size of a tour group varies from around 15 to as many as 30. There is a six-member group available for concerts throughout the year. The Japanese Continentals have three albums on sale.

Style: Contemporary Christian in various styles with choreography

Instruments: Group ensemble with karaoke tracks option of piano and/or guitar.

Target Audience: Any age, Christian and Non-Christian

Options: music+testimony +message

Financial need: Cost varies depending on the group and the tour. Please contact the office for details.

Contact person: Eiji or Shoko Horii

6-4-19 Ohto, Yono, Saitama, Japan 338-0012

Phone and Fax: 048-827-0142

E-mail: jcs@marinet.or.jp

Copain (French for "trusted friends")

Copain's three members are Eiji and Shoko Horii and Tatsumi Chikagami. Eiji and Shoko are members of Kamata Zion Christ Church. Tatsumi is a member of Tokyo Horizon Chapel. Copain has been holding concerts for churches, seminars, and weddings since 1996. Eiji is now the director of The Japanese Continentals, and has been a member since 1990. He has experiences as a recording producer and stage director. Shoko has been a member and on staff for the Continentals since 1990. Tatsumi is also a member of the Continentals and currently on staff.

Style: Pop/Folk/Ethno

Instruments: Piano/Keyboard, Harmonica, Guitar, Drums

Target Audience: Any age, Christian or Non-Christian

Options: music+testimony +message

Financial need: Transportation costs plus offering

Contact person: TJC Office

6-4-19 Ohto, Yono, Saitama, 338-0012

Phone and Fax: 048-827-0142

E-mail: jcs@marinet.or.jp



Makoto Iwabuchi

Makoto Iwabuchi

In 1977 Makoto debuted on the Japan Columbia Record label as a secular artist. Baptized in 1980 he has made a significant contribution to quality indigenous Christian music in Japan. Makoto has participated in many recordings and has extensive experience as a duo with Chu Kosaka. An accomplished folk and classical guitarist, he has composed many songs that touch the

heart. Since 1977 he has been featured on over 15 recordings. His vision is to write hundreds of songs and sing them in local churches.

Style: Pop/Folk/Ethno

Instruments: Piano/Keyboard, Harmonica, Guitar, Drums

Target Audience: Any age, Christian or Non-Christian

Options: music+testimony +message

Financial need: Transportation costs plus offering

Contact person: Makoto Iwabuchi, 97-1-103, Shimohirose, Sayama Shi, Saitama. Tel/Fax: 0429-53-4369

e-mail: buchi@olive.plala.or.jp



The Japanese Continentals

Ken and Bola Taylor

Professional entertainers who toured Southeast Asian night clubs and concert stages, **Ken and Bola** were converted in 1984. Ken is a jazz pianist, musical arranger and director. Bola is an accomplished jazz/pop singer. Both born and raised in the Philippines, they migrated to California in 1986. While in the US, they participated in a variety of ministries. They are available for worship and musical events, evangelistic concerts, seminars and workshops. They want to inspire Japanese Christians to compose and perform their own music to reach their own people.

Style: Jazz, Contemporary, Hymns, Black Gospel

Instruments: Keyboard and full MiDi System

Target Audience: any age., Christian and non-Christian

Options: music+testimony+message, multi-media presentation

Financial need: Transportation costs

Contact: Ken Taylor, 2-2-11-106 Kamikyoto, Kiyose Shi, Tokyo 204

Tel/Fax: 0424-93-1064 e-mail: 76564.1521@compuserve.com



The Hosanna Ensemble

This ensemble uses traditional Japanese instruments, the *koto* and the *shyakuhashi* (a flute type instrument) to perform traditional hymns. Since 1984 they have been doing concerts in churches and have produced three recordings. The group includes over ten people but they

are able to perform with as few as one; with the main core composed of four. The members attend a wide variety of evangelical churches in the Kanto area.

Style: Traditional hymns / Instruments: Koto and Shyakuhashi

Target Audience: any age, Christian and non-Christian

Options: music+testimony

Financial need: Transportation costs plus offering

Contact: Noriko Taguchi, 5-14-1 Yokodai, Sagami-hara shi, 229-0026

Tel/Fax: 0427-56-1765



Eiko-go

Eiko-go is the first gospel hard-funk-rock group in Japan. **Toshiro Nakajima** from Shinjuku Shalom Church leads the band that also includes a group of dancers with tambourines. Toshihiro debuted as a secular musician in 1978 and recorded on a

major record company label. His life story is now in comic-style booklet form, on sale at Christian bookstores around Japan. Eiko-go has recorded one album with a second in process. Performing at "live houses" (small coffee house type venues that feature live bands) and at churches, Eiko-go is a unique band that appeals to young people. Find out more about the group by accessing their home page at: <http://home.interlink.or.jp/~eiko-go/>

Hiro and Rie

Hiro and Rie Kagami, husband-wife duo from the Tachikawa Evangelical Free Church, have released one album, "In Your Garden," featuring all original music with styles from mellow to jazz/rock. Rie, who plays the piano and sings, graduated from the well known Kunitachi College of Music. Hiro is an accomplished saxophonist. While especially appealing to young people, Hiro and Rie are versatile musicians. They are also active in the Japan Pro-life movement.

Style: Jazz, Contemporary Christian

Instrument: Piano, Saxophone

Target Audience: Young people

Program options: music + testimony

Financial need: Transportation costs plus arrangement according to situation.

Contact: Hiro and Rie Kagami, 1-41-2 Miyasaka, Setagaya-ku Tokyo 156

Tel/Fax: 03-3425-0449

Mana Furuyama

An accomplished organist, **Mana** teaches church music at Japan Christian Junior College as well as private organ lessons. She does evangelistic mini concerts for churches and works as an accompanist for other Christian musicians. Mana is a member of the Tokyo Musashino Evangelical Free Church, where her father was the pastor for many years. A member of the Japan Association of Organists and the Japan Organ Society, Mana graduated from Westminster Choir College with an MD in Church Music and Organ Performance. Her undergraduate work was done at Tokyo Christian University, where she earned a Bachelor of Theology as well as a degree in church music.



Mana Furuyama

Style: Classical

Instrument: Organ (Electronic and Pipe)

Target Audience: Mainly adults

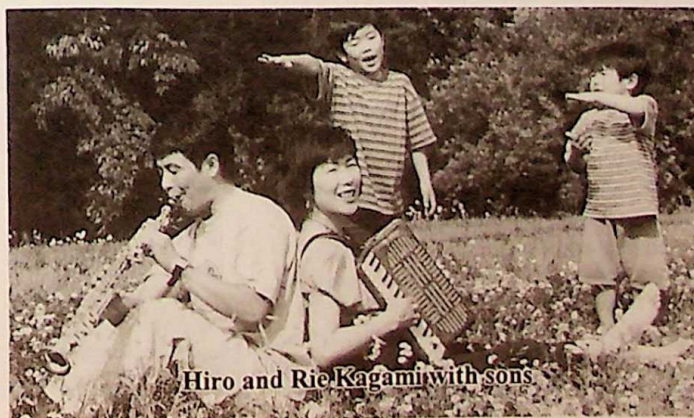
Program options: music + testimony

Financial need: Transportation costs plus offering

Contact: Mana Furuyama

2-11-37 Saiwai-cho, Tachikawa-shi, Tokyo 190-0002

Phone/Fax 042-537-3183 E-mail PX111357@niftyserve.or.jp



Hiro and Rie Kagami with sons



Spotlight on Media Ministry

by Mark Ramquist

◇ seen by more people than "Star Wars" and "E.T." combined

◇ produced in more foreign language versions than "Gone With the Wind"

in 1979, "Jesus" has been seen by more than

1,120,000,000 people (that's no typo) in over 200 countries. Over 420 translations are available through the 8,600 film prints and 2,000,000-plus videos in circulation.

More than 680 mission organizations have joined in efforts to show the "Jesus" film. Ministry veteran Paul Eshelman, chairman of the JESUS Project said, "In all my years of serving the Lord, I have never seen such openness on the part of Christian organizations to cooperate to get the job done without caring who gets the credit."

Through these efforts, and the blessing of God, over 56 million people have registered a decision to follow Christ!

"I think the number one reason is that it is the Bible—the Scriptures—brought to the screen," replied Eshelman, when asked about the film's impact. "The power of the film is not in the cinematography, the presentation, or even in the actors. The power is in the Word of God. The film stays close to the Scripture...and presents Christ in such a powerful way. [Also,] it communicates so well to...people in... their own language. When Jesus speaks, he doesn't have a trace of a foreign accent. We had someone ask one of our directors after a showing, "How long did it take you to teach that white man to speak our language without any accent?"

The "Jesus" film is literally the most successful film in history. Produced by Campus Crusade's JESUS Film Project

◇ on a record-setting pace for video distribution

◇ effect on audiences more powerful than any Hollywood blockbuster

In Japan, the "Jesus" film has been available since 1982, and according to Steve Clark, Japan Campus Crusade administrator, it gives a great "visual image of the Gospel" in Japanese. Like many ministry tools here, the "Jesus" film has had limited success. "It doesn't have the same impact for first-time contact here, because it is seen as 'religious' material," said Clark.

JCC staff are eager to see more fruitful ministry in the near future. A new, digitally-recorded Japanese version was mastered in Tokyo in September '97 using top quality voice actors. The script is in "updated...language, designed to appeal to the non-Christians" of today's generation. Thanks to modern technology, the same Japanese digital recording will be used to produce a special version sub-titled in English, a shorter 77-minute version, and even a "radio-drama" version for broadcast or audio cassettes. All of this should be available in spring of '98.

"How do we best incorporate the 'Jesus' film into ministry in Japan?" Clark recommends the following:

1. **As follow-up.** In Japan, it seems best to allow people an initial exposure to the church, the Gospel, or at least to have a personal acquaintance with a Christian friend, and then present them with the "Jesus" film.

2. **As a discipleship tool.** It is a quick, strong, visual way to present a new believer with many of the basics of Jesus Christ and the New Testament.

3. **In a "Video Loan" strategy.** Offer it to your contacts on a loan-basis, and when you return to collect it, discuss the meaning of the film, the importance of various scenes, and the impact it had on the viewer.

4. **As a tool in English evangelism.** Using both the Japanese and English version, the same scene can be shown for language learning with a Bible basis. The subtitled version will provide another way to teach English.

Steve cautioned against simply walking through a neighborhood or *eki* area and randomly giving the videos as gifts to strangers. Evidently experience shows that a free video evokes too much obligation and the recipients feel uncomfortable.

The Japan Campus Crusade office has 16mm film prints available, and is happy to arrange showings around Japan. Please contact them at 0429-26-0868. Or if you'd like to contact the offices of the JESUS Film Project for details, or know how to pray for the "Jesus" film, you

◇ How do we best incorporate the Jesus film into ministry in Japan?

may E-mail them at: pray4jfp@ccci.org

Please include your name and address with your message. Or you may write to Janet Moen, Prayer Coordinator, The JESUS Film Project, P.O. Box 72007, San Clemente, CA 92674.

If you have used the "Jesus" film in your ministry and have comments or suggestions for its use, please E-mail me at:

75253.31@compuserve.com

Many thanks! mark

Next time: a lively interview with two media missionaries.



TRAVELING?

Don't Forget Your Supply of Operation Japan!

Home assignment up ahead? Be sure to order enough copies of the prayer guide, *Operation Japan*. Many people are burdened to pray for Japan. Many others can be challenged to do so. Through the book we can help people develop a systematic prayer life for Japan. Here are a few ideas.

To Sell or Not to Sell. Most of us do not have money to just give the book away. But don't overlook different funding methods. The Baptist General Conference Japan Mission budgeted to enable each of our Japan missionaries to send 500 copies—for churches and individual supporters.

You could give some and sell some. In an adult SS class, for example, you could give one to the teacher and then leave a sign-up sheet for others who would buy it.

It is also possible to work out a consignment arrangement with JEMA for those of you with big plans.

Remember you can always leave a book for the pastor or staff, your host family, or the missions committee. See the A to Z list for other suggestions in this issue!

Personalize the Book. Sign it and add personal prayer requests. Add notes on the pages that cover your prefecture or ministry.

Watch Out for the Library. A repeated response is often, "Let's put it in the church library." Encourage this but remind them that the book is meant to be a daily prayer guide, not a shelf-dust-attraction.

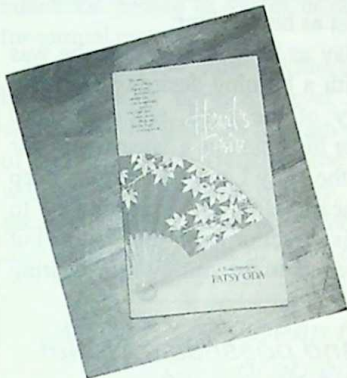
Recruit Distributors. If you have someone with a burden for Japan, ask if he/she would help sell the book to others.

Think Big. Don't run short of *Operation Japan!*

Don Wright

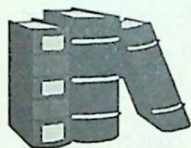
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Books Old and New

AGAPE: BORANTIA-RON

By Rokusuke Ei and Ken Joseph, Jr.

reviewed by missionary pastor,
Akira Mori

Through the years certain topics in Japan have been much discussed. Such as *KOKUSAIKA*—Internationalization. Now, that is no longer talked about so much. Now *BORANTIA*, volunteers (and volunteering), has become quite a topic of conversation. And many seem to think it is something difficult to define and understand. I think they are right. A book recently published has helped me a great deal to understand the complexity of the idea.

The book, *AGAPE: BORANTIA-RON*, is about various kinds of crisis-help service. The authors are Rokusuke Ei and Ken Joseph, Jr. Mr. Ei was born a priest's son in a Buddhist temple. Born in Japan of missionary parents, Ken Joseph loves this country and longs to see Japan turn to Christ.

The book throws light on the so-called "volunteer work" in Japan. There

are many inside-stories from volunteers' points of view. Some of the stories made me furious, while others made me cry. It is richly sprinkled with Christian message and testimony through brother Ken's words. Perhaps sometimes in disguise, yet they are persuasive and speak to one's heart. Mr. Ei, although still a Buddhist by belief, "compliments Christianity" by giving much of the credit within social aid service to the Christians/Church. What he relates in the book also throws light on the idea of practical Buddhism, which was very helpful for me personally.

Agape: Borantia-Ron is recommended to all who are interested in serving people with the love of Christ in this complex society of Japan. Too bad it is only in Japanese. But you can still buy the book(s) and use it/them as gift. And if you happen to not be able to read Japanese, why not get someone who could read it for you or translate—as a volunteer?

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N.O.W. MEANS

By Ioanna Sillavan

Harvest Time Television Co-host

“**W**hat the Bible teaches is always positive! Nothing is impossible with God! Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!” Youichi Morita, president of NOW Service Travel Agency, looked straight into the camera and spoke with much passion.

It is not often that we ask the guests on the show to address our audience directly. However, after Mr. Morita shared his very moving testimony of a life transformed from the despair of bankruptcy, divorce, and near suicide, our host, Rev. Nakagawa, felt that any viewer facing similar situations would be strengthened by his words.

At the end of March 1992, Mr. Morita's life took a hopeless dive when his company went bankrupt. Up until then, he had felt quite invincible as the owner of a successful travel agency. In looking back, he feels it was precisely this arrogant attitude that prompted him to sign the guarantee documents for a friend's loan that became his financial downfall.

The bankruptcy caused everything that he had put his trust in to come tumbling down. Not only did he lose his company and possessions, but his family ended up leaving him as well. Abandoned by family, relatives and those in the Rotary Club and business circles he had considered as friends, his life became an inescapable pit of despair and unbearable loneliness. His depression intensified as time slipped by, causing him to dread the dawn of each new day.

About a year later, while cutting some vegetables to fix a meal, Mr. Morita was overcome by the desire to use the knife in his hand to slit his wrist and escape into eternal sleep. Just then, a huge pot came crashing down from the shelf behind him, causing him to come to his senses. He strongly believes it

was divine intervention. The next thing he remembers is standing in front of nearby Onoue Seiai Church a couple of weeks later, looking up at the cross on the roof. Pastor Tetsuya Yamazaki and his wife welcomed him inside. They talked for awhile and then they shared with him the following Scripture: “The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.” (Ps.

how those words left a lasting impression, and Morita decided to receive Jesus Christ as his Saviour.

One day as he was in prayer, he was filled with a burning desire to work for the glory of the Lord, and a specific vision for his future as a “steersman” for tours to the Holy Land was birthed deep in his heart. He went immediately to share this direction with the pastor, but he happened to be out. While waiting

Not only did he lose his company and possessions, but his family ended up leaving him as well.

19:7) Mr. Morita had absolutely no understanding of what that verse might entail, but the “reviving the soul” part sounded like a very necessary thing. Besides, he had nowhere else to turn for help so he decided to give Christianity a try and attended a prayer meeting. After it was over, an elderly man approached him and asked quite bluntly whether he had come to church because of problems in his life. Mr. Morita felt a bit offended but gave him an affirmative answer. Then the man said, “Even if all the roads surrounding you are blocked, the heavenly one above is always open to you.” Some-

for his return, Mr. Morita picked up a book in the pastor's study. Suddenly the words “...no other way...” stood out from the page he was reading, giving him a strong sense that it was a confirmation from the Lord concerning the future. This incident marked the beginning of the present **NOW Service Travel Agency** — an acronym for those very words: “No Other Way” but Jesus! (John 14:6)

Nevertheless, nothing seemed to come together in a practical fashion during the following weeks. Plus, caring for other people's needs began to start taking up all his time. This was because his pastor kept introducing Mr. Morita to people with various problems, urging him to help them. Trusting it to be the Lord's will, he ran around daily to help them out of their predicaments and was left with no time to start his own business.

One night in prayer, however, he had an amazing revelation. While he had been busy taking care of others, each of his own problems had somehow been solved! He realized that this was what it meant to cast all your cares on the Lord and rely on Him completely. His anxious efforts of the past seemed laughable in comparison to what God



True Volunteer Spirit

After the Hanshin earthquake in 1995, Youichi Morita was encouraged by his pastor to go to Kobe and help. For 14 months he served as coordinator for volunteer teams and oversaw their daily activities. Morita says the Lord truly revived his spirit through the experience.

"NO OTHER WAY"

had done. His wounded heart was also healed as he saw that God had caused numerous people to gather around him for mutual prayer support.

In July of 1994, nine months after his baptism, NOW Service Travel Agency was finally established through a series of miracles. Experiencing the Lord's wondrous answers to prayers, Morita became convinced that whatever we ask according to the will of the Lord will

His peace and encouragement have always been near. The key verse for him, he says, has been Psalm 37:5. - "Commit your way to the Lord; and He will do this."

People with different problems have continued to seek him out for advice so he still gives much of his time to help them as the Lord directs. As soon as his testimony on "Harvest Time" was aired in October of 1997, fourteen viewers,

While he had been busy taking care of others, each of his own problems had somehow been solved!

surely come to pass.

Business went quite smoothly from the outset with the help of several Christian friends. But the Lord allowed another period of testing in his life through the Great Hanshin Earthquake of January 17, 1995. His pastor once again challenged him to go and help those in need. Mr. Morita terminated all operations of NOW Service and drained its bank account to take to Kobe and join the rescue efforts with his employees. There was no doubt in Mr. Morita's mind that this was the right thing to do. He spent the next year and two months coordinating volunteer teams, as well as overseeing and facilitating their daily activities. Each day he gave all he could to meet any need that he saw, praying at all times for strength and wisdom.

During that very difficult and yet rewarding year, Mr. Morita gained many more trustworthy friends than he had ever lost and was also given the opportunity to learn a multitude of things. As a result, he said, his soul was truly revived by the Lord.

Financially, though, things were not great. By the next March, when he finally resumed the work at NOW Service, Mr. Morita had once again ended up with a substantial amount of debt. In the midst of new challenges and financial struggles, he admits that there were times when he grumbled to the Lord, but

each immersed in desperate financial circumstances, called Mr. Morita to seek his counsel. He has been able to help them in their diverse situations by getting involved as both a business consultant and a prayerful counselor, volunteering his time to share his hope in Christ.

He and his helpers now have a prayer goal to send a thousand Japanese believers to Israel this year. They believe the experience will transform Christian tourists into informed intercessors for the End Times.

Mr. Morita's message is simple, yet powerful: "God loved even a sinner like me and revived my soul so I can confidently testify that there is nothing impossible with God!"



Youichi Morita is president of the NOW Service Travel Agency, located in Hyogo Prefecture. NOW is a full-service travel agency, making arrangements to worldwide destinations.

NOW specializes in travel arrangements to Israel for Japanese tour groups and is the official travel agency for the Harvest Time Holy Land Tour program. The agency office is located at 517-50-202 Nagata, Onoue-cho, Kakogawa-shi, Hyogo-ken 675. Tel. (0794) 20-1655 / Fax (0794) 20-1656. Services provided are Japanese-language only.



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MY INMOST BEING,
PRAISE HIS HOLY
NAME. PRAISE
THE LORD, O MY
· SOUL, AND
FORGET NOT
ALL HIS BENE-
FITS. P.SALM 103:12



Miss Bertha Neufeld, affectionately called the "ditto dean," spent countless hours copying lessons on very primitive machines.

REMEMBERING GOD'S GOODNESS

JAPAN MISSIONARY LANGUAGE
INSTITUTE CELEBRATING
30 YEARS OF MINISTRY

by MERLA GOGEL

This 30th anniversary is a special time to remember people's hard work and diligence and to reflect on God's faithfulness, goodness and guidance.

After World War II, while many missionaries were given the opportunity to study Japanese in schools, some were forced to leave language school after just a few months of study. It was a great challenge to continue their language study at their place of ministry.

In the early 1960's Japan's missionaries recognized the need to become more fluent in Japanese. A study commission formed in May 1965, by the Japan Council of Evangelical Missions, purposed to "investigate the possibility of beginning a Japanese language school tailored to the needs of missionaries, to better equip them for the tasks of evangelism and church planting" (*A Branch Made Strong*, p 137).

With research, discussion and help from Noah Brannen, who was diligently working on a new textbook (*Japanese By The Total Method*), JMLI opened its doors in the fall of 1968. As Dr. Brannen's methods were still in the development phase, the material used in class often had to be prepared the day before. Office workers frantically photocopied lessons late into the night.

Shortly after opening, the Ikebukuro location became cramped, necessitating a move to Ochanomizu. Through July 1988, the school enjoyed good years in that location with the many new missionaries coming to Japan.

However, organizations that brought a large number of missionaries to Japan in the 70's and 80's experienced quite a reduction. JMLI felt the effect of this and worked on methods and classes to increase the student count and revenue.

Recently, the school's future has been under discussion. However, as it continues by faith, God continues to bring students to meet the financial needs. With God directing the school, it continues to serve the missionary community.

The teachers have diligently re-worked the main curriculum and developed the *Church Life Program* with missionaries' assistance. Creative classes were designed and added to help graduates increase in their language ability.

Last year's students, in an effort to ensure the existence and success of JMLI, initiated "Friends of JMLI." They will support the school by keeping the missionary community and alumni informed about JMLI's happenings.

God has continued to bring the right people in season for the work which must be done. We see His hand upon the school and praise Him for His faithfulness and goodness over the past 30 years.

NOTICE

JMLI's 30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION and GRADUATION will be held JULY 10 at 10:00 a.m. All alumni and missionaries are invited to join us to remember God's benefits.

Thinking

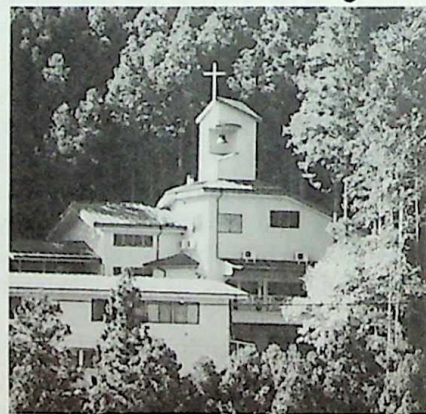
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1998 JEMA Summer Conference

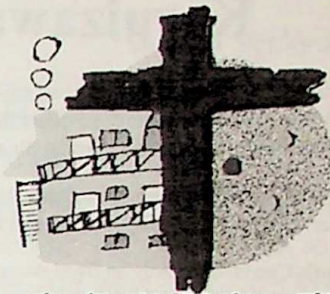
July 30th—August 2nd
Karuizawa Union Church

Speaker: **Reuven Doron**

In 1993 a friend wrote this of Reuven Doron: "Reuven is Christ's man sent from Israel to the church, and when he returns to his native Israel, he will be Christ's man sent from the church to Israel." In 1997 Reuven and his family did return to Israel as Christ's ambassadors, and are living at the entrance to the valley where David slew Goliath.

Reuven sees the great picture of "the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth," that whatever is not "from Him and through Him and to Him" is not real, but merely a fleeting illusion. His heart is for the "one new man" of God's making. We have asked him to share with us this summer because we believe God has given him a message for the church for these last days.

Please set aside these days for Jesus' sake and join us in Karuizawa this summer.



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Mary Barr of the Pocket Testament League wrote the following:

"A window opened for two weeks. You don't want to waste a second. We had much work to do and an awesome responsibility. Many had never heard the name of Jesus, or had no idea who He is.

"We concentrated on three areas in the city. 1. The Gondo—a large shopping mall. 2. The train station—which was full of people at all times. 3. Zenkoji Temple—largest Buddhist temple in Japan. It is impossible to be within the temple grounds and not be overwhelmed by the lost condition of the people counting on idols and ceremony to save them. Out of respect we did not distribute Gospels within the temple grounds, but we had some of our best distribution right outside the gates.

Mr. Takahashi's father had been a priest in Zenkoji Temple and had accepted Christ only a few weeks before he died. Burdened for his people, Mr. Takahashi went to the temple gates to distribute Gospels each day. Tears came at the end of the week as he thought of the thousands who had reached out at the temple gates to receive the Word of Life. There were times when the atmosphere changed palpably and people would stop receiving the Gospels. At those times we had team members stop and pray. Things would go well until they stopped praying and then as soon as they started praying it would go well again.

Each day people from the Megumi Church and others from the missionary community in Nagano and throughout Japan would show up to help us in distributing the Gospels.

Stan Barthold
Jon Benedict
Peter Clift
Jim Cole
Brent Drouillard
Pastor Himei
Pastor Kitamura
Pastor Maejima
Pastor Maruyama
Pastor Shomura
Tony Woods

We can't close this issue without a grateful thank you to those who served on the Nagano Olympic Evangelism Committee. (ks/ed.)

Karuizawa Union Church Summer Program

- For many years missionaries have enjoyed the cooler summer weather at Karuizawa. During this time the Karuizawa Union Church has been supporting missionaries in their quest for spiritual and physical refreshing, by hosting the JEMA and Deeper Life Conferences, alongside its own Summer Program. This year is no exception. Come to Karuizawa and enjoy the atmosphere and fellowship.
- **Union Church Summer Program** starts from July 19th with Sunday School for all ages at 9:30, regular morning services at 10:30, and evening services at 7:00. Wednesday night prayer meetings at 7:00 pm.
- **Youth Conference** will be from August 6th to 8th. It is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship with other young people and enjoy a full program of Bible studies, sports and other activities.
- **JEMA Conference** is July 30th to August 2, with Reuven Doron from Israel. (see ad this issue)
- **Deeper Life Conference** starts on August 6th at 10 am and again at 7:00 pm daily until August 9th. The Sunday morning service on the 9th will be a Communion service and will start at 10:30 am. The speaker this year will be KUC Summer Pastor, Dr. Helmut Egelkraut. We are sure your life will be refreshed and blessed as you attend these conferences at Karuizawa this year.



Dr. Helmut Egelkraut

About our Summer Pastor for 1998

Dr. Helmut Egelkraut grew up on a small farm in Germany. While studying agricultural engineering he found Christ as his Savior through the testimony of a fellow student and felt a call to missionary service. He first trained at the Leibenzell Mission Seminary, where after graduation some of his fellow students went to Japan. He has had a continued association with Japan ever since. Further studies took him to Nyack Missionary College and Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, after which he received his MDiv degree. Dr. Egelkraut's international experience was deepened with work in New Guinea—in a town ministry, a Bible School and a church district. After further studies at Princeton Theological Seminary under Dr. Bruce Metzger and attaining his Ph.D in New Testament studies, he returned to Germany in 1973. Since 1975 he has been involved in equipping missionaries, and since 1990 has headed up the German branch of Columbia International University, making available an MA course in Bible and Missions. A respected teacher, Dr. Egelkraut is also an accomplished pastor, conference speaker and author. At present he is Dean of the Columbia International University and Professor of Bible and Missions there. Dr. Egelkraut and his wife, Dora, have three children, all of whom have completed missionary studies at this time.

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Operation Impact JAPAN Press Release

Azusa Pacific University of Azusa, CA is offering four three-credit courses in social science from June 22—26 at the National Women's Education Center in Saitama and from June 29—July 3 at Kokuritsu Olympic Kinen Seishonen Sogo Senta, Yoyogi (Tokyo).

This year's courses are **Foundations of Personal Leadership Development, The Process of Adult Development, Counseling I: The Helping Relationship, and Current Issues in Leadership**. The courses are part of Azusa's Operation Impact, an MD program with an emphasis on leadership studies.

Courses may be audited (\$85 per credit) or taken for credit (\$345 per course). Contact Dave Thayne:
phone: 03-3299-7175,
fax: 03-3361-0866 / 03-3456-4416,
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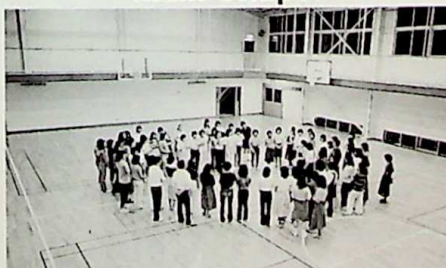
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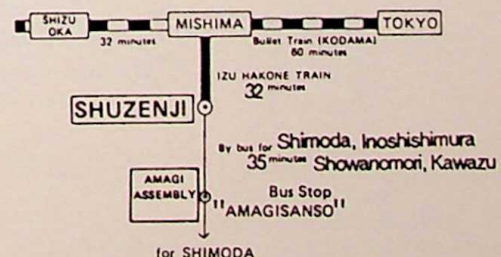
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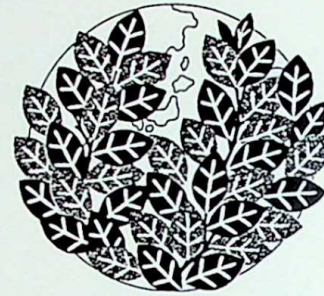
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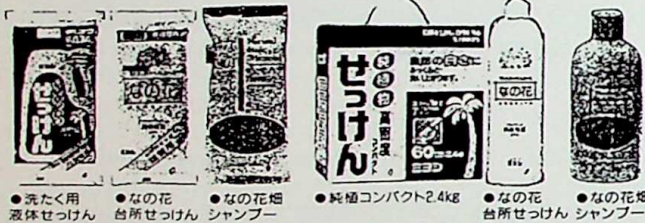
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