



# JAPAN HARVEST

REACHING UP...



A CALL TO PRAYER



REACHING OUT...





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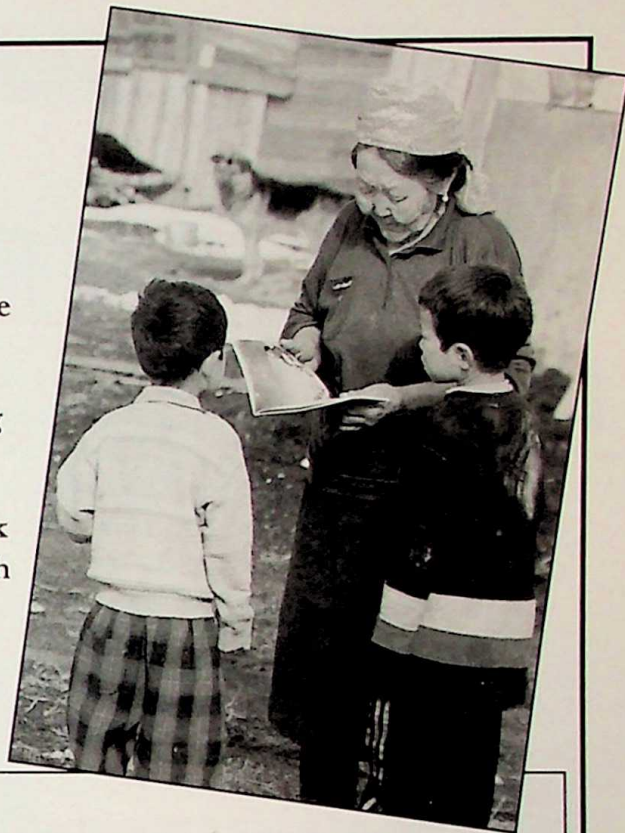
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# JAPAN HARVEST

Volume 50. No. 4 / Spring 1999

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## JEMA

2-1 Kanda Surugadai, Chiyoda Ku, Tokyo 101-0062  
Tel/Fax: 03-3295-1949 E-mail: jema@jemanet.gol.com

## In This Harvest...

There are times when a publication takes on a life of its own. This Spring edition managed to rework itself. As articles, news items and announcements came in a totally new theme made itself evident. The Lord seemed to be saying, "Let's talk about prayer."

And so this Spring issue, which is usually in your hands about the time the cherry blossoms are reaching their peak, is doing well to keep up with the rice planting.

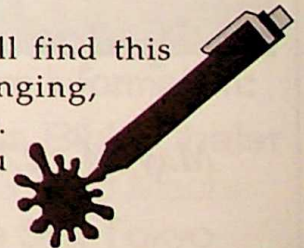
Our last issue talked about planting: church planting, and the church planter. In this edition we get down to the even more basic fundamental of prayer. In order to be reaching out we need to be reaching up. You will find a rather pointed challenge to prayer and fasting, and how some in Japan are already responding to the sense of an desperate need for us to fall on our knees before our God.

Then, we also see some of our fellow missionaries in their outreach. We see how some ministries, other than direct church planters, are reaching out to the nation of Japan. I hope to see that focus continued in the Summer issue, as well.

Our regular departments continue with a more in-depth study of a Japanese article, the dramatic story of a Japanese gangster turned pastor, and a salute to a spiritual mentor.

Again, I hope you will find this Harvest both challenging, uplifting and informative. God bless you as you continue to reach up and reach out.

Gerald  
May,  
Editor







**“Constant, Conscious Communion with Christ.”**

Frederick Franson, the founder of several of our JEMA missions, lived and worked by the motto above. A life of prayer. Whereas most of us take Paul's admonition to pray without ceasing as a call to praying regularly, Mr. Franson took it quite literally. He cultivated a sense of Christ's continued presence with him throughout the day. He conversed with Christ from the moment he awoke to the moment he drifted off to sleep. This did not mean that he walked about in some kind of otherworldly daze. Indeed, not! He was a very forthright and

# JEMA Windows

Gerald May, JEMA President

personable man, who was very keenly aware that his Lord Christ was part of every moment of his life.

He spoke to no one without the sense that Christ was with him. He made no decision, no matter how small without the awareness of his Lord's holy presence. He lived and breathed prayer. And the results speak for themselves! Numerous mission agencies established throughout Europe and North America; hundreds upon hundreds of missionaries challenged and sent out; thousands upon thousands of souls won for Christ. All as the result of God blessing the prayers of a man who truly did seek to pray without ceasing.

In this issue you will find a rather clear message. We need to pray! At the JEMA Plenary session in February the leaders and representatives of our member missions

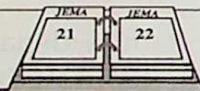
agreed together to establish quarterly days of prayer focused on the desperate need for a spiritual breakthrough in this country. That is an exciting step. (Please see page 7 for more information).

But, a prayer movement is not something established by a Plenary session. It comes from the earnest desire of God's people to see a breakthrough. Humble hearts gathered together in supplication to the Creator God, our Saviour and King. Each of us individually need to covenant before the Lord to pray regularly--dare I suggest unceasingly?--in asking God to pour out His blessings on Japan.

A challenge. A call. An opportunity to meet the new millennium with greater vigour and fruitfulness than has ever been seen in this land before. To the glory of God.



**JEMA**



## Calendar of Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Place</i>
<i>April 20, 1999</i>	<i>Kansai Day of Prayer</i>	<i>Bethel House - Kobe</i>
<i>May 24 - 27, 1999</i>	<i>West Japan Prayer Summit</i>	<i>Hiruzen Bible Camp</i>
<i>July 29 - August 1, 1999</i>	<i>JEMA Summer Conference</i>	<i>Karuizawa Union Church</i>
<i>November 8 - 11, 1999</i>	<i>CPI Conference</i>	<i>Megumi Chalet Karuizawa</i>



# The Japan Church Planting Ladies' Network

- JEMA Church Planting Institute

At the last Church Planting Conference, during a ladies open forum, there were two requests from the women in the group. First, "we want our own email discussion area" and second, "we would like one for missionary children's education." CPI is responding! Those services are now available to missionary women. They are free and we hope many like you will use them.

## The Ladies Discussion List:

This network is just what its name implies; a free network for women involved in church planting and evangelism ministry. This will tie you together with many other women in Japan and those around the world interested in ministry by women. Everyday you can get advice, help with resources, support and information from others like you in front-line ministry. The present CPI-Net already has nearly 140 people regularly involved.

While e-mail is the main mode of communication for the conference, members (as well as nonmembers) can use the World Wide Web to view messages to the group as well. If you are interested in participating in the Japan Church Planting Women E-mail Discussion Conference, you can join the group via e-mail, or via the Web.

## How to subscribe:

To subscribe via the Web, point your browser to

<http://www.missionjapan.com> and follow the link to the Church Planters Ladies Discussion List. Follow the on-line directions to join the group. When you wish to send a message to the group, send your message to [japan-cpinet-ladies@xc.org](mailto:japan-cpinet-ladies@xc.org) and your message will be approved shortly thereafter. To subscribe via e-mail, send a message to: [subscribe-japan-cpinet-ladies@xc.org](mailto:subscribe-japan-cpinet-ladies@xc.org), with the word "Subscription" in the Subject line. You may leave the body of the message blank. When you have been successfully subscribed, you will receive a message explaining your options and settings

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There are several options for the list. You can decide to receive a combined email of all the submissions for that day. You can also request an email of just the subject headings for all those email for that day. These options can be set at the web site address. If you have any questions about this list, please feel free to write to the administrator of the list at

[missionjapan@xc.org](mailto:missionjapan@xc.org) or  
[gletcher@usa.net](mailto:gletcher@usa.net).

We look forward to your participation in this new list!

## Other Net Options:

### MK Education Discussion List

This is for parents and teachers of missionary children. The list is to support parents with children in Christian schools, international schools, Japanese school, home schooling, etc. To sign up use the web address above or send a subscription to [subscribe-japan-homeschool@xc.org](mailto:subscribe-japan-homeschool@xc.org) with the word "Subscription" in the Subject line. You may leave the body of the message blank. When you have been successfully subscribed, you will receive a message explaining your options and settings for the list.

### CPI-Net, Japan Church Planters Discussion List

About 140 active participants. Discussions, book reviews, resources, issues and many other items appear regularly. To sign up use the web address above or send a subscription to [subscribe-japan-churchplanters@xc.org](mailto:subscribe-japan-churchplanters@xc.org) with the word "Subscription" in the Subject line. You may leave the body of the message blank. When you have been successfully subscribed, you will receive a message explaining your options and settings for the list.

*See you on the Net!*

Thinking

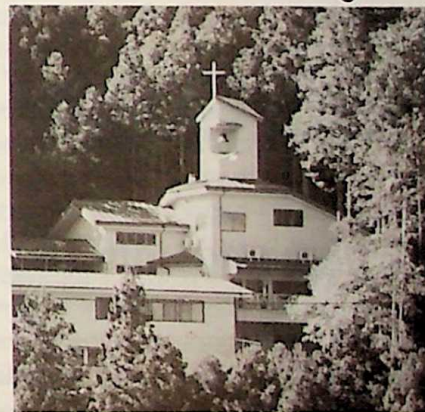
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## JAPAN'S LAST CHANCE?

-Donnel McLean

Is it possible that the countdown has actually begun? Absolutely everything points vividly to the soon return of our Lord Jesus! In His great discourse in response to the question, "Tell us...what shall be the sign of they coming and of the end of the world?" He said, "So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors" (Matthew 24:33) Every one of His prophecies have been overwhelmingly fulfilled except for the appearance of the Antichrist himself, and we are all assured that he, too, is about to make his appearance. The stage is all set! Euroland is another astounding additional evidence that is exciting for us to observe! How blessed we are to have God's blueprint found in His glorious Word.

But, my great concern right now focuses on the nation of Japan that is still said to be only 1% Christian even after over 50 years of postwar evangelism. Tragically, it seems that this nation looms almost as an impregnable rock of resistance to the Gospel. Thinking of this, one is forced to recall the parting prayer of Frances Xavier when he was being exiled from Japan. Before boarding the ship he fell on the rocky shores of Kyushu and wept, crying brokenheartedly, "O, Rock, Rock, when wilt thou yield to my Master!"

Nonetheless in all the postwar years we still have not seen the breakthrough. 1997 church statistics reported in the Christian Shinbun in April, 1998, that astounded me and that I simply have not been able to overlook or forget. None of us should! It should cause all of us to fall on our knees in agonizing intercession and concern, asking the Lord of the Harvest to show us where we are missing the mark. The report stated that here are approximately 8000 churches in all Japan and that in 1997 only 4000 souls had been won to Christ--an average of one per two

churches! In addition, the report stated that the average attendance dropped one person per church which meant that 8000 had dropped out of church!

Is this not extremely disconcerting? Should we not become very concerned and begin to cry out to God to show us where we are failing? This is especially so when we hear about what God is doing in many other places around the world. The worldwide reports are almost staggering. Listen! That same Christian Shinbun report stated that in 1997 five million souls came to Christ in China and three million in Brazil! We have all heard of similar moves of God in various other parts of the world, such as Russia, Argentina, Singapore, parts of Africa. Truly we are living in the last days, the very days that Joel foretold 2400 years ago, "**And it shall come to pass afterward, I will pour my Spirit on ALL flesh.**" Oswald J. Smith said "afterward" here focuses specifically on the end times, which is now. What an exciting time to be alive!

But what about our beloved Japan? Could it really be that time is running out? Personally, I am convinced that it is, possibly within the next two years, certainly not much more. The end of the world as we have always known it is fast approaching. The "end times" are here! Jesus is coming soon! What about Japan's millions? Do you not yearn passionately to see multiplied millions in this land swept into the kingdom? I can't bear to think this nation might be bypassed!

Beloved, there is absolutely no doubt whatsoever that God wants to bless Japan to the extent He is now blessing other nations around the world. Furthermore, the promise of Joel 2:28 clearly states that Japan is included. Please note again that awesome prophecy--and rejoice! The phrase "all flesh" is stunning, for it means every nation, every tribe and every people--a worldwide revival!



Yes, and Japan, too. Hallelujah! What a word of encouragement and challenge.

But let us move on. Note the conditions that God also specifies in the verses preceding this glorious promise of end time revival. In verses 12-17 we read, "Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your heart...and turn unto the Lord your God.... Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly: gather the people, assemble the elders....Let the priests, the minister of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, 'Spare thy people O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?'"

This is a divine summons! God is calling us to fast and pray for Japan's millions! Literally, the very destiny of millions hinges on our immediate and full response to this heart-rending call from the heart of God Himself. He cannot coerce us to obey. Not can He pour out that blessing which will usher countless precious souls in to the kingdom of God without our obedience. This will come only through human instrumentality, as we can see powerfully demonstrated in the time of Jeremiah when God could not find even one man who would stand in the gap before Him for his people. Again, listen to these words of anguish that poured from the very heart of God in Ezekiel 22:30, "An I sought for a man among them (the nation), that should make up the hedge and stand in the gap before me for the land, that should not destroy it; but I found none. Therefore I have poured out my indignation on them."

Beloved, please allow me to be blunt. Throughout the decades of the postwar era there have been numerous seminars on evangelism and church planting which are very important of course. Likewise there are annual missionary conferences where

renowned bible teachers come to expound the riches of God's wonderful Word. All of these are very good, but what about Fasting and Prayer Conferences where burdened missionaries gather to intercede with tears and anguish of soul that this nation might

boil, to make known to thine adversaries that the nations may tremble at thy presence! When thou didst terrible things which we looked not for, thou camest down, the mountains flowed down at thy presence...."

Jonathan Goforth tells with awe

what happened in Korea in his book, When the Fire Fell. The entire nation was inundated with the very presence

of God Himself. Tens of thousands were swept into the Kingdom. There was not a village or city that was not impacted! Yes, just as Isaiah prayed, God Almighty rent the heavens, coming down in all His holiness and glory--and, happily, that revival blessing continues until this very day.

Beloved, this can...will...happen in Japan too, IF we meet God's conditions. Let's get our priorities right, beginning now...today: united prayer! It is so much easier to be busy in evangelism, but God's way is, first of all, to go to our knees to pray. Yes and to "weep between the porch and the altar" and to continue much in prayer. This is a call for missionaries to unite their hearts in continuous prayer with fasting and weeping as the burden for this perishing nation consumes us.

What will your response be? It is absolutely imperative that you...that we all, pray! It is only as we meet God's clearly defined conditions for revival that the longed-for outpouring will ever come. I plead with you to absolutely, always put prayer first. Persist in believing prayer until that promised outpouring comes here!



## God is calling us to fast and pray for Japan's millions!

have a mighty visitation from on High? Have you ever heard of or participated in any? Do you know what a "solemn assembly" is? Why are we not responding to God's clear call? Why do we not gather in groups across the entire nation to do precisely what God has commanded us to do? Is evangelism more important than prayer? The answer to this, of course, is a great big NO!

Before the phenomenal outpouring on the entire nation of Korea soon after the turn of the century missionaries gathered daily at noon in Seoul just to intercede. After a few months, when nothing happened, some said, "We're all very busy so let us stop this gathering to pray every day for revival." Happily, others responded, "No, let's not stop. Let's change the time to 4 pm so we can continue in prayer longer." And they did!

Then it happened! Exactly like Isaiah prayed in Isaiah 64:1-4, "Oh, that Thou wouldst rend the heavens, that thou wouldst come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence, as when the melting fire burneth, the fire causeth the water to

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# "Heal our Land!"

## A Special Gathering for Fasting, Prayer and Praise

Israel, in the Old Testament, sought God's help through prayer and fasting in time of national crisis. What about Japan today? The country is materially well off, but it is really a time of spiritual crisis. It is, then, a necessary time for supplication by fasting and prayer.

From January 25 to 27, Japan Campus Crusade for Christ sponsored a "Special Gathering for Prayer and Fasting" at the Yodobashi Church in Tokyo. Participants came from as far as Hokkaido in the north to Okinawa in the south, and from Korea, the United States and other countries. Representing a broad cross-section of the Church in Japan, over 1000 people fervently prayed for the salvation of Japan and the revival of the Japanese Church, as well as for those who are oppressed and suffering from famine and poverty. The theme of the gathering "Heal our Land" was taken from 2 Chronicles 7:14.

Times of prayer alternated with

praise and Bible messages. A wide variety of prayer needs were covered, such as: our persecuted sisters and brothers in many parts of the world, cooperation of Japanese and Korean churches, the World Cup Soccer Games to be held in 2002, education, culture, arts.

Among the messengers were Dr. Bill Bright, President of Campus Crusade for Christ International, Dr. Kim Jungong, President of the Korean CCC, Rev. Koji Honda, president of Japan Gospel Crusade, Rev. Kim Sanfan, Rev. Akira Yoshimochi, Board member of JEA, Rev. Park, Chairman of Korean Committee of the 2002 World Cup Soccer Games, Mr. Koichi Doi, member of the House of Representatives, and others from Russia and Nepal.

Rev. Yoshiaki Suzuki, pastor of the Kyoto Evangelical Free Church, said, "Though Japanese Protestants are split into Evangelical and Charismatic camps, I was thankful we could pray together. Numerous evangelists and pastors representing the Japanese Christian community participated. Among them were leaders of organizations and denominations who have been critical of each other in the past. There was a feeling that the gathering might be the indication that something new is beginning to happen in Japan.

Rev. Mamoru Kuniyoshi, pastor of the Naha Baptist Church, was clearly impressed, saying that the gathering was profound and wonderful in all that went on. He was very glad to be able to deepen his relationship with God and pray for his neighbourhood and the world. It will surely be the first step towards the revival of Japan, was his comment.

In July 1997, at a similar Conference held in Colorado, Dr. Bright expressed his hope to go and help with evangelising Japan. That desire was realized only one and a half years later. The sponsors of the Gathering

could not help showing their surprise. "We had difficulties, but they were miraculously resolved one by one. It was clearly His will to have this Prayer and Fasting Gathering at this time," said Mr. Kazuyoshi Kurihara, representative of Japan CCC. The Gathering was adjourned after having adopted the Declaration expressing a commitment to mutual prayer and collaboration until His Coming.

### 300 Korean Christians Attend Prayer and Fasting Conference

More than 300 Korean students paid their own expenses to come and participate in the Prayer & Fasting Conference. During the well-attended evening gatherings that were open to the public, they willingly moved to the basement of the church to make room for other guests, praying and participating via television monitor.

One student said, "Once, while I was praying, I got a vision of God hugging Japan. I learned that He loves this country. It showed me that it was I who had to learn to love Japan more. I believe that is why I am here. I believe that the God who brought revival to Korea will surely do the same thing in Japan."

According to a Korean CCC staffer, this experience helped the young people enlarge their prayer world, learning to pray not only for themselves but for all people. Another student expressed that he has become interested in the evangelism of Japan. The Japanese are materially wealthy, but poor in spirit, was his impression. He would like to aid Japan in its spiritual need.

During the Conference, the young people also established ongoing team prayer-chains, maintaining a round-the-clock prayer vigil throughout the entire gathering.



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# Special Days of Prayer

## for the Church and the Advancement of the Gospel

-Dave Walker

**"We do not know what to do,  
but our eyes are upon thee."**

II Chronicles 20:12b, RSV

At the recent JEMA Leadership Consultation and Plenary session we discussed the question, "As we approach the new millennium just what can we as missionaries do to assist the Church in its prophetic role of bringing the Gospel of the only God in Jesus Christ to the Japanese?" What can we actually do to assist the church in experiencing and proclaiming the power of the Gospel? Would our best efforts center around giving money, or lending personnel to the church, holding more special evangelistic meetings, forming committees to explore and create new strategies? Is it a matter of us working harder, redoubling our efforts, and believing in God for more? Or is the answer a ceasing from striving in these ways and seeking His purposes for His people?

Those attending the Leadership Consultation and the Plenary season believed that one of the best responses to support the church as we approach the new millennium is to gather together quarterly in special times of concerted prayer to intercede for the church. This will be a time to express our quiet desperation before the Lord, not that He has failed but that we as His church need help. We need grace. We, who have already received grace upon grace in Christ Jesus, are actually in need of more grace. Not that God has been insufficient in any way but we have been insufficient as His people in understanding His person, His power and His sufficiency. It is fitting that we should pledge ourselves to gather like this, as prayer is the surest sign of dependency on our Master and He is honored by our dependency, not our independence.

### The Proposal

We as missionaries have pledged ourselves to seek God for the building up of the body of Christ and the advancement of the Gospel IN PRAYER.

### A Word about Concerted Prayer

The concerted prayer is designed not so much to gather God's people to convince God that something must be done, but to humble ourselves and seek the very thing that His word says He wants to and indeed intends to do among His people and in His world. Grasping this understanding of prayer can revolutionize our thinking about the meaning of the phrase 'seek the Lord'. We are not coming to a reluctant God who must be swayed with our petitions, rather we are coming to the Sovereign God and Father that we might prepare our own hearts to speak and agree with what He knows is best for us as His people. Prayer has everything to do with the changing of our hearts to the divine will, preparing the creature's heart for the blessing of the Creator. It has much to do with conforming us to the image of Christ and thinking God's thoughts after Him. That is why these quarterly days of prayer are so important. It is a time for us to cease from our individual ministries and quiet ourselves before God and seek His mercies and grace for His saints. Jonathan Edwards wrote, "That which God abundantly makes the subject of His promises, God's people should abundantly make the subject of their prayers." This will be the purpose of our concerted prayer times.

### An Action Plan

Because Christ is worthy of all glory and honor, we are calling on missionaries to begin to attend special quarterly prayer meetings for the express purpose of asking the Lord to move in our midst, to build up His church and advance the Gospel. These meetings

will be held in the first week in the months of July 1999, October 1999 and January 2000. Let me encourage you to make plans to attend one of these meetings by calling the area coordinator listed below who is nearest you. If those listed are too distant and you know of missionaries who are a reasonable distance from you, please consider starting a group yourself.

### Helps for Prayer

If you would like to start a group in your area or would like some guidelines and materials for these times of prayer please contact David Walker, 03-3904-9070 or [djwalker@twics.com](mailto:djwalker@twics.com)

Names of contact people and places of quarterly prayer meetings. If no address is stated please refer to the JEMA directory.

#### Tokyo

Dave Walker,  
OCC Ochanomizu 9th floor  
10 a.m.- noon, Monday, July 5, 1999

#### Osaka

Doug Woyke,  
telephone/fax 0721-28-5879,  
email: [woykeds@roy.hi-ho.ne.jp](mailto:woykeds@roy.hi-ho.ne.jp)

#### Chugoku/Shikoku region

DanReddington,  
31 Kaichi Nakamachi, Aboshi Ku,  
Himeji Shi, Hogo Ken 671-1253  
Telephone/Fax: 0792-74-5176  
Email: [VEN11210@nifty.ne.jp](mailto:VEN11210@nifty.ne.jp)

#### Hokkaido

Dale Viljoen,  
email: [viljoendale@omf.net](mailto:viljoendale@omf.net)

#### Nagano

Jon Benedict,  
telephone 026-255-6088, email:  
[benedict@wc4.so-net.ne.jp](mailto:benedict@wc4.so-net.ne.jp)

#### Chiba

John Taylor, OMF,  
from October 1999.





# The Japanese Page

- Miriam Davis

The above quote is how Toyohiko Kagawa is described in Inglehart's A century of Protestant Christianity in Japan, Tuttle 1959. In the early decades of this century he was to be Christianity's chief bridge into a world

## "Impassioned Advocate of humane dealing with any and all underprivileged people."

almost unknown to its other leaders. During his days as a student in the Kobe Theological Seminary, he had often crossed the deathline that separated respectable Kobe from the undescrivable slums of the Shinkawa section. In 1909 at Christmas, he shouldered his few belongings and moved into 2 tiny 6 foot cubicles in one of the long huts. He traced the desperate condition of the slum-dwellers to the fact that they had no corporate voice in dealing with employers. When dock workers went on strike he was imprisoned. In the ensuing labour and rural movements on a national scale Kagawa continued to take an active part. Almost alone among the Christians he consistently remained free from extremes;

never surrendering his position of active resistance to social injustice and never giving up hope of the church or leaving it for more radical programmes. Among other activities, he established Rural Gospel Schools, led evangelistic campaigns, headed a movement called the Million Souls movement, promoted cooperatives and pawnshops, enlisted seekers as Friends of Jesus, was a member of a group sent to America to avoid war, and despite being arrested during the war, assisted the Japanese premier in the months succeeding the end of the war. Below is a brief account of Kagawa's childhood and conversion taken from a "Kazokurenai" page of "Saiwai na Hito", for September 1998.

### となり人に神さまの愛を

人からしてほしいと思うことを、そのとおり人にもしてあげなさい。

(ルカ6:31 リビングバイブル)

お父さんとお母さんがそろって子どもの生まれるのを待ち望む…それは、当たり前のように聞こえるかもしれませんが、でも、ある人たち—たとえば豊彦—にとっては、当たり前ではなかったのです。

明治21年7月10日、神戸市にある運送屋の店主賀川純一と芸者のますえとの間に男の子が生まれたとき、それはむしろひとつの苦しみの始まりでもありました。「なんだ、おまえなんかめかけの子どもじゃないか」。豊彦は生まれたときから、みんなにつらいことばを投げかけられて育ちました。しかも豊彦がまだ4歳のときにお父さんが亡くなり、後を追うように2ヵ月後にはお母さんも亡くなってしまったのです。まだ小さかった豊彦は、親戚の家に引きとられました。家でも学校でもみんなに冷たく扱われ、いつもぼつんと一人ぼっちでした。「ほく、もう死んじまいたい！」豊彦はずっとそう思っていました、そのことを話す相手すらいませんでした。

豊彦は中学に入ってから、つらいことを忘れるかのように一生懸命勉強に打ち込むようになりました。とくに彼が興味を持ったのは英語でした。ちょうどそのとき近くに教会があってアメリカ人の宣教師が英語を教えているから行ってみないかとさそわれたのです。

「ただで英語を習えるなら…」、豊彦は夢中で教会に通い始めました。毎週の英語のクラスの他にも、ほとんど毎日のように教会に行ってもわからないところを聞きました。そのうち聖書の勉強会にも出るようになり、いつしか英語よりも聖書そのものにひかれていったのです。

「トヨヒコさん、困ったことがあったら、何でもワタシに言っていいんですよ。ワタシたちはお友だちです」「ワタシは毎日あなたのために祈っています」「悲しいことがあるならイエスさまの前で、ワタシと半分ずつ分け合いませんか？アメリカ人の宣教師マヤス先生はいつもやさしく豊彦を包み込むようでした。両親からも兄弟からも友だちからもやさしくされたことのない豊彦は、この先生といっしょにいただけであたかさととのびのびとした喜びを感じることができたのです。

愛するお友だち、だれかに神さまのことを伝えるなんて、とてもむずかしく思えるかもしれませんが、でもあなたのとおりにも、きっと悲しい思いやさみしい思いをしているお友だちがいるはず。あなたもそういうお友だちの悲しみを半分にしてあげられませんか。



**'Impassioned Advocate of humane dealing with any and all underprivileged people.'**

語彙リストーとなり人に神さまの愛をー

当たり前	あ (たり) まえ	natural
運送屋	うん そう や	a carrier
芸 者	げい しゃ	geisha
むしろ		rather
苦しみ	くる しみ	suffering
始まり	はじ まり	beginning
おまえ		you
めかけ		a mistress
(を) 投げかけられる	(を) な (げ) かけられる	to have (harsh words) thrown at (one)
育 つ	そだ (つ)	to grow up
親 戚	しん せき	relative (s)
(に) 引きとられる	(に) ひ (き) とられる	to be looked after, taken in
扱われる	あつかわれる	to be treated
ぼつんと一人ぼっち	(ぼつんと) ひと り (ぼっち)	lonely and all by oneself
話す相手	はな (す) あい て	some one to talk to
す ら		even
(に) 打ち込む	(に) う (ち) こ (む)	to devote oneself to, be absorbed in
(に) 興味を持つ	(に) きょうみ (を) も (つ)	to be interested (in)
夢中で	む ちゅう (で)	absorbed
通い始める	かよ (い) はじ (める)	to start going to~
~の他に	(~の) ほか (に)	besides
(に) ひかれていく		to be attracted to
悲しい	かな (しい)	sad
半分ずつ	はん ぶん (ずつ)	half each
分け合う	わ (け) あ (う)	to share
包み込む	つつ (み) こ (む)	to wrap
のびのびとした		relaxed, at ease, relieved
お友だち	(お) とも (だち)	This story is written for children and this is how the readers are addressed.
なんて		なんということ
さみしい		lonely, sad



# JEMA Missionary Prayer Fellowships

JEMA has had the following, on-going Prayer Fellowships in place for some time. They are open to anyone who wishes to join in prayer with her or his fellow missionaries.

## Location

Covenant Chapel,  
Ark Hotel Okayama  
2-6-1 Shimo Ishii,  
Okayama Shi 700  
Telephone: (086) 233-2200

Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
(Buy your own lunch)

Dates for 1999:  
April 20, September 29.

Leader: Ken Reddington  
Telephone: 0888-91-5717  
Email: doulos@d1.dion.ne.jp

(Please contact Ken if you do plan to attend the meeting, preferably by the Friday before the scheduled date)

## Location

Mure Mura, Nagano  
Mure Seisho Kyokai

Time: 2:00-4:00 pm

Dates: Every Wednesday

Leaders: Tim Carrico  
Telephone: 026-253-8735  
Email: carrico@po.cnet-na.ne.jp  
Masami Nakazawa  
Telephone: 026-239-2372  
Email: logos@iname.com

## Location

Nakano City  
Nakano Kiristo Kyokai

Time: 10-12:00 am

Dates: Every Wednesday

Leader: Tim Cole  
Telephone: 0269-22-6792

## Location

Higashi Kurume City, Tokyo  
5-1-10 Minamisawa

Time 9:30 - 11:30 am  
(Pick up by van at Hibarigaoka Station at 9:20 am)

Dates: Third Monday of each month

Leaders: Neal Hicks  
Telephone: 0424-67-4101  
Email: nealmsum@ktx.or.jp

Bill Paris  
Telephone: 0429-58-1349  
Email: b-paris@interlink.or.jp

Dave Walker  
Telephone: 03-3904-9070  
Email: djwtokyo@aol.com



An Invitation...  
Missionaries, Pastors,  
Youth Workers

*KirisutoKyo Gakusei Kai*  
(KGK) is sponsoring a  
symposium on the theme--  
"Drawing Youth to Church."

### Program:

- 1) Discussions on youth evangelism and related issues.
- 2) Small problem-solving discussion groups.
- 3) Prayer time

\*KGK Office (OCC, 3rd flr)

\*Tuesday, June 8, 1999

\*2:00-5:00 pm

\*No charge

Register with KGK at

Ph. 03-3294-6916

Fax. 03-3294-6050

e-mail

YHY03315@nifty.ne.jp

## AMERICAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE Now Offering Programs in Advanced Studies

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3-7-8 Higashi Nakano, Tokyo 164-0003

TEL/FAX 03-5389-2734 (Evenings 0298-56-2167)

E-mail: axtonpf@compuserve.com





# MEN'S PRAYER SUMMIT

FOR WESTERN JAPAN

MONDAY, MAY 24 (11 AM) ~ THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1999 (1 PM)  
HIRUZEN BIBLE CAMP (NLM), OKAYAMA

## What is it?



It is a four-day mountaintop experience designed to bring men apart from everyday life for an extended period of time with God.

**"Our goal is not to talk about praying, but to pray;  
not to discuss God, but to meet with God;  
not to discuss man's agenda, but to seek God's agenda."**

Men from all backgrounds come together to put first things first. As we worship the Lord in song and prayer, as well as through the Word, differences fall by the wayside and He once again comes to have first place in everything.

Bring your fellow missionaries (bring the whole mission if you can!). And we would like to see as many of your fellow Japanese pastors as possible as well. This will be a bi-lingual (English and Japanese) Summit. So, no knowledge of English is necessary, though there will be some portions done mainly in English.

## Won't YOU join us?

We will start with lunch on Monday and continue through lunch on Thursday. You may be thinking that you can't afford to take so much time away from your ministry. But actually,

**You can't afford NOT to give this time to the Lord!**

## What does it cost?

**¥26,000** (includes 3 nights lodging and 10 meals). Registration fee is ¥5,000 (non-refundable; included in the total). If you register after April 24, it will be ¥29,000. So register now!! There is a scholarship for all first-time Japanese pastors of at least ¥5,000 (hopefully more)

## How do I get there?

We will send you a map so you can go either by train, bus or car. But we will also be arranging transportation between JR Okayama Station and Hiruzen Bible Camp. Let us know any specific needs. International Renewal Ministries reminds us that the travel to and from the campground is an important part of each Prayer Summit (that's why we call it a FOUR-day event!).

## How do I register?

**Step # 1:** Send the form below by mail, fax or e-mail to the JEMA Office

**JEMA**, 2-1 Kanda Surugadai, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0062  
Phone/fax: (03) 3295-1949, E-mail: [jema@jemanet.gol.com](mailto:jema@jemanet.gol.com)

**Step # 2:** Send ¥5,000 by postal furikae to:

**JEMA-Japan Harvest**, Acct. No. 00130-4-180466  
(Please specify "For Prayer Summit West")

## What if I have questions?

**Contact:** Ken Reddington: Ph/Fax:(0888) 91-5717; [doulos@d1.dion.ne.jp](mailto:doulos@d1.dion.ne.jp)  
or: David Walker: Ph/Fax:(03) 3904-9070; [djwtokyo@aol.com](mailto:djwtokyo@aol.com)



**Plan on attending... It WILL change your life!**

## ----- MEN'S PRAYER SUMMIT APPLICATION -----

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE/FAX \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I'll be sending my ¥5,000 for Prayer Summit West right away!



# メンス・プレイヤー・サミット

のご案内

1999年5月24日(月) 11 am ~ 27日(木) 1 pm

ひるぜん  
森山バイブルキャンプ・岡山県

## 「プレイヤー・サミット」とは？

毎日の忙しい生活から離れて、私達が神様と長い時間を過ごせる絶好のチャンスです。プレイヤー・サミットは4日間の「山上の経験」として、計画されているものです。

「私達の目標は祈りについて語るのではなく、実際に祈ることです。

神について話し合うのではなく、神に会うのです。

人が考えるアジェンダ(プログラム)を行なうのではなく、  
神が与えるアジェンダを求めて、行なうものです。」

普段の奉仕などの忙しさの中で、神との1対1の密度の濃い長い時間をなかなか取れない事もあります。そんな困難を持つあなたのためにプレイヤー・サミットがあります。色々な背景のある人々と共に祈り、歌、御言葉を通して主を礼拝する時、日々の信仰の歩みも心も軌道修正され、お互いの違いが小さくなり、神ご自身が他の何ものよりも全てのことに於いて、第一のものとなってきます。

共に労しておられる同労者——他の牧師、宣教師の方々——を誘ってご参加下さい。今回のサミットは2ヶ国語(英語と日本語)です。英語を全く知らない方でも、大丈夫です。英語をメインに使う時は、必ず通訳がありますから、安心して下さい。

皆様が来られるのを楽しみにしています。

ニュース! 2000年に、日本語によるサミットを計画しています。ご期待下さい!

**あなたも、ぜひご参加下さい!**

月曜日の昼食から始まり、木曜日の昼食までとなっています。今の奉仕から離れてそんなに長く時間が取れないと思われるかも知れません。が、実際に、

この時間を神様に献げないわけにはいかない、となる事を確信しています。

## 費用:

¥26,000(3晩、10食分。¥5,000(返却なし)の申し込み金含む)。×切は4月24日(土)です。4月25日以降の申し込みは¥29,000。お申し込みはお早めに! 初参加の日本人牧師のために、少なくとも¥5,000のスカラシップ(援助金)があります。お問い合わせ下さい。

## 行き方:

申し込んで下されば、お車、列車、バスなどで行かれるように、地図や時刻表をお送りします。また、去年同様、JR岡山駅から車で乗り合わせて行けるようにします(月曜、9 am 出発)。ご利用下さい(利用される方はお早めに、ご連絡下さい)。インターナショナル・リニューアル・ミニストリーズからの一言: キャンプ場の行き帰りの時間も、毎回のプレイヤー・サミットの大切な部分です(それで4日間の企画と呼んでいます)。

## 申し込み方法:

ステップ1: 郵便、FAX、又電子メールで、以下の申し込み書を JEMA Office にお送り下さい:

〒101-0062 東京都千代田区神田駿河台2-1 JEMA

電話・FAX: (03) 3295-1949

電子メール: jema@jemanet.gol.com (英語のみ)

ステップ2: 郵便振替で¥5,000を以下にお送り下さい:

JEMA-Japan Harvest、口座番号: 00130-4-180466

(西日本メンス・プレイヤー・サミットを明記して下さい)



## お問い合わせ先:

レディングトン・建 ☎/Fax: (0888)91-5717

電子メール: doulos@d1.dion.ne.jp

参加できるよう、ご計画下さい。きっと、新たな歩みへと変わります!

-----メンス・プレイヤー・サミット・申し込み書-----

氏名 \_\_\_\_\_

住所 \_\_\_\_\_

☎/FAX \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

私の ¥5,000 の申し込み金を、今すぐ送金します!



# Kariuzawa Union Church

## July 18 - August 22:

### Sunday

9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship Service  
7:00 PM Evening Service

### JEMA

#### Conference:

July 29 - August 1  
with Haddon Robinson

### Wednesday

7:00 PM Prayer Meeting

### Youth Conference:

August 2 - 4

### KUC Annual Meeting:

August 4, 7:00 PM

### Deeper Life Convention

August 5 - 8



### Dr. and Mrs. Trevor Craigen

Dr. Craigen holds dual citizenship in South Africa and Britain. He has lived and worked in six different countries, and is presently an associate professor of theology at the Master's Seminary in Sun Valley, California.

Dr. Craigen will be the summer pastor for the Kariuzawa Union Church this year, and he will also be speaking at the Deeper Life Convention.

*Please pray for the services and come prepared to be renewed and refreshed. We are expecting a very exciting and wonderful summer.*

*See you in Kariuzawa*



## FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

In this video seminar **Dr. James Dobson** discusses the many challenges that threaten meaningful family life. He points out what he believes is the most important need among families to day- namely, responsible fathering.

- Vol.1 Role of the Father** (62min.)
- Vol.2 Lonely Wife** (50min.)
- Vol.3 Money & Sex** (35min.)
- Vol.4 Strong-Willed Child** (64min.)
- Vol.5 How to Discipline** (60min.)
- Vol.6 Prepare For Adolescence** (51min.)

3,800 yen per each volume. 22,000 yen for the whole set.

**フォーカス・オン ザ ファミリー**  
**FOCUS ON THE FAMILY**

**Dr. ドブソンの 幸福な**  
**Dr. JAMES C. DOBSON 家庭セミナー**

●全米で200万部のベストセラーとなった「思い切ってしつぱせよう」の著者が、家庭においてクリスチャンが最も直面する問題に、長年のカウンセリング経験と豊富な聖書知識に基づいて適切なアドバイスを与える。



VHS



### SEX, LIES & THE TRUTH

This compelling video (32 min. English with Japanese subtitles) features sports and entertainment personalities speaking frankly and debunking the myth of "safe sex."

4,065 yen. Public school version (English only) is available for 2,490 yen.

OTHER TITLES AVAILABLE IN JAPANESE

#### BOOKS

**WHEN GOD DOESN'T MAKE SENSE** 2410yen  
**HIDE OR SEEK** 2515yen

(Both by Dr. JAMES C. DOBSON)

**PROMISE KEEPERS** 1710yen

**QUIVER FULL OF ARROWS** 2350yen

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#### VIDEOS

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OT VOL. 1 THE PROMISED LAND 4190yen

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**KEYS TO A LIFELONG LOVE** 4490yen

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All the prices include tax & shipping. The postage may vary depending on the number of items needed.

\* Contact our office below for membership discount and for other resources in English.

\* Full Payment is requested through Postal Furikae upon receiving the sale items. (Account # 00130-7-153842)



ファミリー  
フォーカス  
ジャパン  
**FAMILY FOCUS JAPAN**

026-0034 長野市高田 831  
831 Takada, Nagano-Shi  
Phone/Fax 026-227-4632  
DZD10511@nifty.ne.jp  
familyfj@po.cnet-na.ne.jp



# Strengthening Japanese Families Worldwide

## ***FAMILY FOCUS JAPAN***

-Tsuneo Maejima

Family Focus Japan is a non-profit, interdenominational Christian organization operating under The Evangelical Alliance Mission. Our purpose is to permeate the Biblical understanding of the family among the Japanese people and to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ by means of strengthening Japanese families worldwide. We are an affiliate of James Dobson's FOCUS ON THE FAMILY, USA, and operate as an independent entity. There are affiliate offices in fifteen countries including Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Philippines, and Indonesia.

### ***From the Prayers of Christian Businessmen***

An embryo of Family Focus Japan was formed when two Christian businessmen (Mr. Kaneko and Mr. Itoh) in the Yokohama area started praying in the late '80s that God would use them in some way to help the Japanese family and churches in general. Shortly after paying a visit to Dr. Dobson in 1994, they formed the Steering Committee of Family Focus Japan with other like-minded Christians, whose members still serve on a voluntary basis to this day.

Tsuneo Maejima, the Office Manager, joined as the first paid employee in 1995. Most of the financial needs for the first two years were met by donations from ABLE Co., Ltd., a company run by Mr. Kaneko and Mr. Itoh. Presently, 550 Supporting Friends, most of whom are pastors and missionaries, give regularly to the ministry. We need at least 2,000 faithful do-

nors to successfully run the present operations. YOU can become a supporting friend (a member) by paying an annual fee of 2,000 yen. Members

receive a discount on all of our items. The main office is in Nagano City, while ABLE serves as a Yokohama office. Presently, we are looking for volunteers who are able to help out with editing and designing at the Yokohama office.

### ***Resources For Families***

We have been distributing a quarterly "FAMILY FOCUS MAGAZINE" (20 pages; 7,000 circulation; 1000 yen subscription per year) since February 1996. As we have been unsuccessful, so far, in launching effective radio programs, this periodical remains the only tool of communication to our constituents. But, we are getting very encouraging responses from the subscribers. The most popular columns are the "Media Report" and "Solid Answers" by Dr. Dobson.

Our Resources in Japanese include 6 volumes: FOCUS ON THE FAMILY video series (Japanese); Sex, Lies, & the Truth video (Japanese subtitles); Dr. Dobson's books WHEN GOD DOESN'T MAKE SENSE; HIDE OR SEEK. The video series "THAT THE WORLD MAY KNOW" and "LIFE ON THE EDGE" will be marketed this year. (To order, please see our ad for details). Dr. Dobson's book WHAT WIVES WISH THEIR HUSBANDS KNEW ABOUT WOMEN will be released in 2000. (The translated work by Word of Life Press is now out of print).

Free counselling service on family issues is offered through phone,

mail and e-mail. The phone line is open 8 am - 5 pm Monday through Friday. Many hurting families have contacted us over the past year. Problems range from marital discord to adolescent delinquency to pornography. For English speakers, Tim Cole (International liaison) and Jonathan Benedict (Missionary liaison) are offering counselling help in the midst of their busy schedules.

Family Camp is planned in July 1999 in conjunction with the alumni association of KGK. The featured speaker will be Dr. Takashi Bano.

### ***CONSTITUENTS RESPOND***

One woman called to ask for resources, and shared why she has become interested in family issues. Since childhood she has been verbally and emotionally abused by her own father. She has read numerous books on education and Christian child-rearing published in Japanese, but few have been found satisfying. Gary Smalley and James Dobson are exceptions in the sense that they clearly point out that the key is the father's leadership at home. We feel that more people would call us if we had a full time counsellor ready.

One pastor said, after reading WHEN GOD DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, "Other books which I have read so far dealing with the same topic [suffering of believers] contain a grain of truth in them, but are not quite thorough in their approach. I hesitated to give these books to my friends who were experiencing pain in their lives. But this book by Dr. Dobson I can recommend wholeheartedly to those who are suffer-

(continued on page 16)



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## Strengthening Families

(continued from page 15)

ing in real life.

A young man who viewed the Sex, Lies, & the Truth video at a summer camp said, "I deeply regret my past sinful life of promiscuity. I am now dedicated to sexual purity until marriage. Temptations are still great. Understanding and prayerful support from people around me are indispensable for keeping my secondary virginity."

A mother of three who offered to serve as a volunteer monitor for the magazine, wrote, "*Husbands, Protect Your Wives*" (Dr. Patrick McElligott) became a discussion starter between me and my husband. (Dr. McElligott shares an episode where a high school boy beats his mother just because supper was a few minutes late, and his father is absent from home both physically and emotionally.) My husband admits that the typical Japanese husband does NOT feel compelled to protect his wife from their abusive children. I pray that this article will be a wake-up call for "absent-minded" husbands. I would appreciate articles that will encourage women readers. Anyway, hang in there, Family Focus Japan. We are here for you!"



To contact Family Focus Japan:

**FFJ Nagano Office:**  
381-0034 Nagano-Shi,  
Takada 831  
Phone & Fax: 026-227-4632

**FFJ Yokohama Office**  
227-8510 Yokohama-Shi,  
Aoba-Ku, Moegino 13-21  
c/o ABLE  
Phone: 045-972-3809  
Fax: 045-972-3116

## News Release

Japan Campus Crusade for Christ is announcing a project called "Jesus to the Nation" in celebration of the year 2000.

Based on an agreement toward cooperative action made by leaders and representatives of all JEMA missions in the February Plenary, JCCC is spearheading this effort to provide a copy of the "JESUS" video to every Christian believer in Japan to give to a non-Christian friend, neighbor or co-worker in December 1999.

With the cooperation of church groups, including JEMA-related missions, a bulk purchase of Japanese-language videos could bring the price per tape down to under 500 yen. Campus Crusade intends to pass along only the actual production cost of the video for this campaign.

Combined orders through JEMA need to be turned in by mid-September 1999. With 250,000 believers in Japan, this could help touch a very large number of families across the nation with the reality of Jesus Christ.

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# 1999 SCHEDULE

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**SEPTEMBER 27 to 29 #99095**

Flowers of the Field:

Watercolor Painting Seminar:  
Looking for the flowers of the field  
in Karuizawa

With Fumihiko Yamaoka  
& Nobu Shimizu

**SEPT. 30 to October 2 #99101**

Life-style Evangelism  
That Anyone can Do

With Toshiyuko & Megumi Okano

**OCTOBER 10 to 12 #99102**

Grace Seen and Unseen:

Grace in Daily Life  
With Toshio Goto

& Norifumi Kageyama

**OCTOBER 12 to 14 #99103**

To Live with Vitality: Senior Friends  
With Hideo Chiyozaki

**OCTOBER 28 to 30 #99104**

Flower Design for Churches  
With Namie Yonenaga

**NOVEMBER 1 to 3 #99111**

Interpreter's Seminar

With Kazuyoshi Kinoshita  
& Katie Sisco

**NOVEMBER 7 to 9 #99112**

Heart Refresh Seminar  
With Nobuo Kudo

Special Music: Rutsuko Fukuzawa

**NOVEMBER 11 to 13 #99113**

Heart & Story in Karuizawa:  
Testimony Writing Seminar

With Haiyato Ikeda  
& Reiko Yokoyama

**NOVEMBER 21 to 23 #99114**

What is the Trinity?

Karuizawa Bible School  
With Kazuhiko Uchida

**DECEMBER 27 to 30 #99121**

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**JUNE 10 to 12 #99061**

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**JUNE 20 to 22 #99062**

What is Worship?

Karuizawa Bible School

With Kazuhiko Uchida

**JUNE 24 to 26 #99063**

Gospel Magic:

Enjoy Church Fellowship  
With Smiley Ishii

**JULY 12 to 14 #99071**

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**JULY 12 to 13 #99072**

Pastor's Wives Seminar:

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**JULY 18 to 20 #99073**

Experience with Your Mind  
& Body the World that the  
Creator God has Made.

With Geoff Stevens,  
Answers From Genesis  
Translator: Nathaniel Elkins

**AUGUST 16 to 18 #99081**

What Does the Bible Say about the  
End of the World?

With: Hideo Chiyozaki

**AUGUST 22 to 25 #99082**

Integration Seminar:

Quiet Before the Lord

With: Koichi Otawa

**AUGUST 26 to 28 #99083**

Living a Life Uniquely Yours

With: Koichi Hirano

**SEPTEMBER 2 to 4 #99091**

How Are We to Live?

Christians Approaching the 21st  
Century

With Hisakazu Inagaki

**SEPTEMBER 3 to 5 #99092**

Tennis Seminar

With Yuji & Sawako Ogawa, Hideo  
Obata, & Masato Fukuda

**SEPTEMBER 14 to 16 #99093**

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# “EXCEPT A GRAIN OF WHEAT

By David E. Humble  
Harvest Time Ministries Staff

“Come on over here and listen to a message from the Bible. It'll only take 10 minutes. You can put your paint thinner-sniffing bag down that long, can't you?”

Half-joking comments pepper his coaxing invitations, but Yasuhiro Kanazawa, 35, is deadly serious about the reason he's standing on the street corner this Saturday night. It may be just another endless evening of cruising around downtown East Osaka for these teens, but he knows the reality of the hopelessness most of them live in.

With left hand resting on his open Bible and in descriptions readily understandable to them all, Kanazawa begins to address a small group of these social “bad apples” clumped on the sidewalk in front of him. A missing left pinky finger – chopped off at the second joint – draws their attention like a magnet and fires real curiosity about what could have happened to change this ex-Yakuza gangster so radically.

Now pastor of Disciple Church in Osaka's Ikuno Ward, Yasuhiro Kanazawa and wife, Chiyoko, were guests on Harvest Time in February and told the story of their long journey from darkness to light – and the vision of Grace that God has now given them.

Born of Japanese-Korean ancestry, Kanazawa says that his father and grandmother had been strong Christians all their lives and that he and his younger sister had gone to church regularly throughout childhood. However, by the time he got to high school, he said, his friends in the motorcycle gang had begun to replace his Christian home as the main influence in his life.

“Several of these motorcycle gang friends of mine would come over wearing nice clothes and flashing their money around,” he said. “When I asked them where they got it, they told me that they were Yakuza members. It sounds foolishly simple to me now, but from the moment I heard that, I made up my mind to become a Yakuza gang member.”

Within a short time, 18-year-old Kanazawa was a full-fledged member of an organized crime group. He and his girlfriend from the motorcycle gang days, Chiyoko, moved in together and by the

time he was 19, he was a father. However, he said, instead of concentrating on his new family, he sent them to live with his parents while he lived and worked at gang headquarters.

Sports betting, loan sharking, fighting, a full upper body tattoo, cutting off his own finger over a point of gang honor – Kanazawa went deeper and deeper into the Yakuza underworld. But by the time he had been in for 10 years, he said, things weren't going nearly as well as he had hoped.

family to Tokyo. After some initial difficulties in finding work, he finally got on at the grilled beef restaurant owned by his father's brother. His uncle, determined to help him make a new start, encouraged him to learn the business and work toward the goal of someday operating his own restaurant.

With a steady job and a goal to work for, Kanazawa began to enjoy family life for the first time. Then suddenly, for no apparent cause, his father collapsed and was rushed to the hospital. This long-

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## *Sports betting, loan sharking, fighting, a full upper body tattoo, cutting off his own finger over a point of gang honor – Kanazawa went deeper and deeper into the Yakuza underworld.*

---

An endless series of confrontations with rival gangs and police had him wearing a bulletproof vest everyday and unable to go anywhere alone. Plus, his personal gambling debts had begun to increase dramatically.

The situation began to become unbearable for both of them, since Chiyoko was working full time and trying to care for their (by that time) three children. “We both came to the conclusion that it would be better to try to make it on a shoe-string – just the five of us on our own – than to try to keep going the way we were,” he said.

Kanazawa left the gang and moved his

suffering, praying father of his – who had always been in good health – was suddenly at the brink of death at the age of 63. Kanazawa was devastated.

“There is no God!” Kanazawa bitterly declared. “And no hope, either!” Just as this black despair began to envelope him, a friend of his father's reached out to him with just the right words: “Yasuhiro, let's go to church.”

He and his younger sister went together with this family friend to church – just like when they were children. Feeling like prodigals come home, they sang familiar hymns, prayed with the church members, and began to receive some much-needed



### **FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT**

With Jesus as his new “boss,” former Yakuza gangster Yasuhiro Kanazawa is pastor of Disciple Church in Osaka's Ikuno Ward. A heart for troubled young people motivates him and wife, Chiyoko, to teach and preach Christ to all who will listen – whether in the church building or out on the street. “Anyone who believes in Jesus can be born again,” he says. “I'm living proof!” TV Asahi's “Telementary '99” broadcast on January 31<sup>st</sup> featured their work.



# FALL...”

rest in their souls. From that place of rest, Kanazawa said that a deep conviction of sin and a genuine repentant heart began to grow within him. And the words from the pastor's sermon hit him like a ton of bricks:

"Jesus was nailed to the cross to atone for the sins of every one of us. Through His sacrifice, our sins were completely forgiven... Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more' (Heb. 10:17)."

That was enough. Both Kanazawa and his sister confessed Christ as Savior that day. So powerful was the observed

featured the Kanazawas' work in recent news broadcasts.

Unfazed by the media attention, his focus is fully on the seriousness of Japan's growing youth problems and, he says, proclaiming the Gospel and serving God and people is the answer.

"I'm here today because the prayers of my father and grandmother carried me from the place of an 18-year-old hoodlum just entering the world of organized crime to where I am now. Indeed, my father laid down his life so that my entire family could come to Christ."

***"I want as many people as possible...to know how the love of a great God touched someone like me and brought me to the place of repentance and forgiveness."***

peace in the lives of both of them, that soon his mother, wife, and all three of his children also received Christ as Savior. They were all baptized together.

The father who had been hanging onto life so precariously passed away three days later. Kanazawa realized that through this incomprehensible illness, his father had been a "grain of wheat" (Jn. 12:24) for the whole family's salvation. The funeral was painful, but now real peace was in their lives to stay.

Kanazawa moved his family again, this time back to Osaka, where he had grown up. But soon it began to dawn upon him that God was leading him into the ministry and not into the restaurant business at all.

Against the initial objections of his wife, Kanazawa entered Ikoma Bible School, determined to give his all to follow the Lord. Bible school was a big challenge for a high school dropout like Kanazawa. But, he said, as he disciplined himself to the task, God provided abundant grace for his needs. By the time he began his third and final year of studies, the entire family had moved into married student housing and Chiyoko, as well, had enrolled for classes.

In March of 1997, Kanazawa graduated and received ordination, becoming the full-time pastor of the mission church he had planted a year before in the North Katsuyama area of Osaka's Ikuno Ward — "Disciple Church." With the simple goal of "being and making disciples of Jesus," he and his family work together as a team. Both the TBS network and TV Asahi have

"I want as many people as possible to hear about my experience and to know how the love of a great God touched someone like me and brought me to the place of repentance and forgiveness."

He added, "ANYONE who believes in Jesus can be born again! I'm living proof of that and I'll never stop telling the story." ❖

Yasuhiro Kanazawa can be contacted at his office in Osaka:

**DISCIPLE CHURCH**  
1-3-16 Katsuyama-kita,  
Ikuno-ku, Osaka 544-0033  
Tel/Fax (06) 731-1745

In addition to his regular pastoral duties, Kanazawa is also an active member of *Mission Barabbas*, an outreach organization led by former Yakuza gangsters. Much of the information above is translated from his testimony, which appeared in the book, "Irezumi Kurisuchan" (Tokyo: Waseda Press, 1998). For information on their activities, contact:

**MISSION BARABBAS**  
2-16-16 Hon-cho, Funabashi-shi  
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# The Returnee Christian Network

-Dave Kennedy

## IN ACTION

*(The following is an excerpt from a letter received recently by RCNJ. It is a small indication of how God is using this unique ministry.)*


"Thank you for all the help you gave me so that Yuriko was better prepared to return to Japan for a visit. Now I need to give you an update. Yuriko had a good one month in Japan. She spent a lot of time with her family and really shared her new faith with them. She placed lots of Bible verses around the house. Her father allowed her to pray at meal times. They could tell that she was a changed person.

Dave Kennedy directed me to Jim May with SEND Int'l who told Yuriko about a small church just five minutes walking distance from her home. Yuriko attended faithfully along with her younger sister and mother. They were well received there. Yuriko even wrote a theme song for the church which they appreciated so very much. Yuriko returned to Dallas, TX for second semester classes mid-January.


We prayed that her mother and sister, Michiko, would continue to attend the church. Praise the Lord — they did! Yuriko called me last week and told me that her sister re-

cently trusted Christ as her Savior!!! Praise the Lord for one more Japanese Christian!!! Your prayers for Yuriko and her family have born fruit!!!

Please pray that Michiko would grow in her faith and be a strong witness to her mother, father and boyfriend. (Apparently Mrs. Ogino is considering becoming a Christian.) Pray, too, for Yuriko as she's still a young Christian and needs to grow in her faith. Thank you once again for your part in the salvation of one more Japanese!

In Christ, (name withheld)" 

**Correction Notice:** In our last issue the RCNJ Email address was incorrectly printed. It should read: [djkkennedy@aol.com](mailto:djkkennedy@aol.com) Our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.



**TAKE ROOT  
&  
BEAR FRUIT**

...like a tree...planted...  
and will bring forth fruit

## Returnee Christian Network in Japan

## Returnee Christian Network in Japan

*Linking Japanese returnees with churches and missionaries throughout Japan*



NETWORK COORDINATOR:

Dave Kennedy

E-mail: [djkkennedy@aol.com](mailto:djkkennedy@aol.com)

Tel/FAX: 0424-71-0590

WEBSITE DIRECTOR:

Dave Scott

E-mail: [Tokyodave@bigfoot.com](mailto:Tokyodave@bigfoot.com)

Tel.: 0422-48-6250

FAX: 0422-48-6235

English Website: <http://www.asahinet.or.jp/~uu7d-knnd/RCNJhome.html>



## Gleanings from

by Mizuko Matsushita

クリスチャン新聞  
THE CHRISTIAN

### *Four Years After The Quake*

Four years have passed since the Kobe Earthquake. Splendid new buildings and houses are appearing along the main streets, giving the illusion that there never had been such a disaster. However, go into the back streets and you find land still left vacant, or temporary housing for the still homeless, or even people still living out of doors. The aged have been placed in apartments, but the loss of their own community has left them in anxiety and loneliness. Some bear great financial burdens and face legal problems after having constructed new homes. Some remain deeply wounded by the loss of their families.


Christians and churches in the area face the same difficulties. How these victims can rise up to show love and share the Gospel with their neighbours under such severe conditions is a major challenge. This is a report to find out how the Christians have dealt with the disaster. There are scars that seem to be incurable, yet it seems that there is some spiritual renewal taken place.

Mrs. Yoko Katagiri, wife of the former pastor of Shinwa Church who passed away at the age of 44 after laboring as a volunteer during reconstruction. She is now a student of theology at Kansei Gakuin University and lives with her parents and 4 children. On January 15, she played the Lead Organ for a charity concert sponsored by the Osaka District Women's Committee. The owners of the organ lost their home in the earthquake and had to sell the instrument. She played the same pieces she had played for the funeral service of a church member who died in the quake. She desires that many people truly understand what the earthquake brought about. With the passing of time, she became aware of a big change in her own life. The loss of her spouse has allowed her to meet a broader variety of people. After her graduation, she would like to work for people in different circumstances as

she learned a lot from her own experiences.

Pastor Toji Kojima lost his own child in the quake that damaged his part of Kobe more than any other area. This past January 15, he held a prayer meeting at 5:30 am with silent prayer at 5:46, the time when the earthquake occurred. He then did a memorial pilgrimage, stopping in front various "monuments" while praising God, praying and reading the Bible. His church was open the entire day and many came bringing floral tributes. In a Kobe memorial-day message given at the Kobe Jogakuin, he chose Revelation 1:13 as his text. The students listened intently as he stressed that we, who are entrusted with governing the earth, could also fulfill our responsibility of attributing glory to our God in Heaven.

Pastor Mitsuru Nagai is working in northern Awaji Island near the seismic center of the quake. In looking back to the day of the earthquake, he gave a message about what God has taught us through the earthquake, and that we should not forget the help and support received from so many people. He has ministered to a elderly woman who was forced to leave the island with her husband, only to see him pass away soon afterward. He has tried to introduce her to a church in her new area, but it is proving difficult for her to start with a new church.

Rev. Tsuneo Yamatori, is a representative of the volunteer team "No-side," who continue their support for those victims still living in temporary housing. He expressed a desire to work for other homeless and less fortunate in society in addition to helping earthquake victims. He asked his church members to back up that resolution. The winter camp organized by No-Side had about 40 volunteers, including students, working together. He commented that Revival in Japan won't happen unless Christians go beyond the intellectual and truly seek to impact society through practical, tangible, proofs of God's love. 



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# POTPOURRI & PROMISES

by Janice A. Kropp

## *My MENTOR, That Woman I Love*



Webster's Dictionary of the English Language defines mentor as:

1. A friend to whom Odysseus, when setting out for Troy, entrusted his house and the education of Telemachus.

2. Hence, a faithful counsellor. The concept of mentoring, now in vogue, is being encouraged by both spoken and written word.

Although my experience took place several decades ago, I think you will find the following vignettes inspiring.

We won't find the word mentor in God's Word, but, we do see its power in the shaping of lives and ministries—accomplished through personal observation and close association.

What great mentored Old Testament character comes first to mind? Elisha, for me! It was he whom I Kings 19:21 records, ...took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them...then he set out to follow Elijah and became his attendant.

These two men walked together, talked together day in and day out. Then, when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel. But Elisha said, As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you....Then just before Elijah was taken away to Glory the inquiry, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" To which came the plea, "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit." And, what a prophet Elisha turned out to be (II Kings 2)!

Gentle Ruth was mentored by her mother-in-law, Naomi. Gorgeous Queen Esther was coached, yes, mentored by Uncle Mordecai. These were beautiful

relationships where two persons gave and gained — the learner always increasing in wisdom, knowledge, and experience.

In the New Testament our Master Mentor, Jesus, allowed Peter, James and John to privy holy moments. The other important nine also lived, talked and ate with Him for three special years.

Missionary Paul counselled young Timothy when he wrote, "...Physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things..." (I Timothy 4:8). Peter, in his first book chapter 5, urged young men to be submissive to those who were older — watch the older men, imitate them, learn from them. And in Titus 2 Paul challenged older women to the teaching of the younger!

It is not that one becomes a carbon copy of the other, but that the mentored one through faithful counsel — learns. The core issue is, that we take on a striking likeness of the model/mentor. C.H. Spurgeon says, A Christian should be a striking likeness of Jesus Christ. **"That LIKENESS," Spurgeon writes, "should be in His BOLDNESS, in His LOVING SPIRIT, and in His HOLINESS—which include His ZEAL, His SELF DENIAL, His PRAYER LIFE, His ENDURANCE, and His FORGIVING SPIRIT!"**

As a brand new missionary way back in 1969, my eyes were wide open! I had to find myself here! I had to know my gifts and put them to use. I had to learn my lessons from books, to be sure, but I had to learn from those who knew more than I did, too! I had to see with my eyes how the work was to be done. I had to see hands and feet in motion. I had to see what worked in ministry. Was I being mentored? Well, she didn't know it, neither did I, but it took place! When it came to language, to witnessing, to praying and serving, she more than anyone else showed me how it was to be done. Susan Dyck, Canadian Christian & Missionary Alliance missionary here

from 1953 to 1985, was my precious mentor and how I grew to love and appreciate her. What a woman of passion. What a missionary.

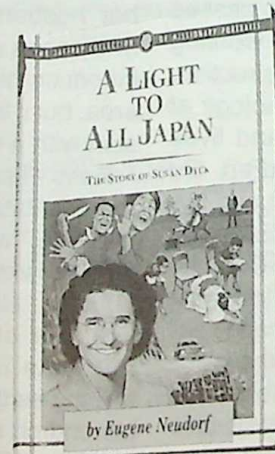
### **CHRIST LIKENESS IN: BOLDNESS**

Boldness has two faces! It can be harsh, unfeeling---paralyzing, or it can be forceful, feeling --- transforming. Jesus' boldness was the latter. Remember the man living in the region of the Gerasenes? Evil spirits, numbering possibly as many as 6,000, drew this man from the tombs intentionally to meet the holy Nazarene. Jesus spoke a total of 36 power packed words. The man was set FREE (Mark 5)!

The best way to advertise the Gospel's changing power would be if the worst man in town came to Christ, reasoned Susan shortly after arriving on her station, Matsue. Idol worship and lack of receptivity to the gospel was a known fact among missionaries who had ministered there before her. Susan actually knelt before the Lord one day and asked Him to bring the worst man in town to her door. A year later a well dressed Japanese man came to her door and asked, "Is there a priest living here?" Both got right to the point. Susan explained that she and her partner were

missionaries. Yes, they could be of help. Mr. Kodake blurted out, "What is God like?" He was invited in, seated politely and then the explanation began from Genesis to Jesus' death on the cross. When he was asked for his response, Mr. Kodake answered with, Yes, Miss Dyck. I want to receive Jesus! His life was changed forever.

Was Mr. Kodake the worst man in town? Next door neighbor, prosecuting attorney, Mr. Owake privately told Susan that indeed Mr. Kodake was the most dangerous and violent man in Matsue. He was an alcoholic. He was violent. He inflicted harm on his family. Following his last brush with the law, the court informed





him that if he ever stepped over the line again in violent behavior he would be banished from the city, never to return. That was when God led Mr. Kodake to Susan's door, which opened his life to forgiveness, to hope and to life eternal, (A Light to All Japan, Chapter 10). Susan took little time getting seekers to the point of the gospel and then she would ask the question. Susan was bold in ministry. She, as did her Master, gave clear witness to the will of the Father, that all men come to a knowledge of the Truth. Jesus made every encounter an opportunity for change! Susan's boldness was unforgettable.

### CHRIST LIKENESS IN: LOVING SPIRIT

Remember how Jesus had time for people? Rich, poor, dead or ill, Jesus got involved with individuals, yes, and even with children.

During our first term of missionary service we lived and ministered in the great city of Kyoto. Susan lived just several hours up the big highway in Nagoya. It was our privilege to go once a month to help her, with communion mostly. Our active little sons, always welcomed lovingly, were a challenge among the pretty prettiest of home decor! (I don't remember the boys breaking anything.) Aunt Susan as they called her, always treated us with such kindness and love! She delighted in serving our little family meals, like fixing yaki niku at her teppan table. And when we stayed overnight she put on the waffle breakfast. Waffles were a Saturday morning special for years up until the last of our four sons went off to college. Our two older sons, Karl and Todd, will never forget, Aunt Susan!

And we weren't the only ones special to Susan. Everyone who came to her home was treated with the same kindness and love. Students came, mothers came, businessmen came, upper class ladies came, no matter who, no matter when — the graciousness of Susan touched hearts and souls. What a wonderful example Susan was to me, and I deeply loved and respected her. I also know that she loved me. Isn't that the way people felt when they had spent time with our Lord? A conversation about a drink of water, changed the

Samaritan woman's life and it was she who brought out the village with, Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did (John 4:29)! And, Jesus took a deep interest in children too as he touched, blessed and announced, For the Kingdom on Heaven belongs to such as these (Matthew 19:13-15). Loving spirits draw you in! Susan got right into my heart, and how I loved her!

### CHRIST LIKENESS IN: HOLINESS

Holiness as evidenced in His zeal, His self-denial, His prayer life, His endurance and His forgiving spirit are in holy writ for ALL to see the perfect God Man, walking in harmony with His Father!

It is so refreshing to see a real live person seeking after God with utmost sincerity and humility! I can still hear Susan praying in Japanese. Those prayers were powerful, clear, specific and bold. And we are told that for a long time, as Alzheimer's Disease took over Susan's mind, one thing she could do was PRAY. Her life, holiness in progress, is even now complete as she worships with joy and freedom at Jesus' feet. Susan went to be with her Lord May of 1998, on Mother's Day bringing to a close a life of dedicated service and deep Christian commitment. Her home going also brought an end to her eleven years of AD suffering.

Returning for her second term, Susan found her new place of ministry in Shobara, Hiroshima Prefecture. Working along with a saintly Japanese, Susan found great joy in service. The church, however, was in desperate need of revival and cleansing. Compromise and lack of love turned Susan to prayer only to find that the God who searches all hearts showed her where she needed to change. Revival came in November of that year (A Light to All Japan, Chapter 14).

Story after story, recorded in the recent book written by Eugene Neudorf about Susan's life and ministry, **A Light to All Japan**, thrilled my heart and I consumed the book cover to cover. You most surely would want to have this book in your home library. It is in stock at CLC in Ochanomizu Christian Center, Tokyo. Its publisher is Christian Publications, Camp Hill, Penn.. USA.



### CHRIST LIKENESS in boldness, loving spirit and holiness is our challenge.

There is no time like the present to examine our hearts and ministries. And, someone just may be watching!

#### QUESTION:

Have you ever considered being mentored?

#### OR

Have you ever considered mentoring?

Personally, I'd say both are a very good deal! jk

"LORD,

Grant

That I

May

Always

Desire

More

Than I

May

Accomplish."

-Michaelangelo



### THIS ISSUE'S PROMISE

JESUS SAID,

**But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.**

John 12:32



#### QUESTION:

Who does the lifting?

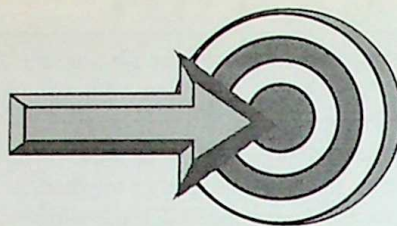
#### QUESTION:

Who does the drawing?



# On Target

by Haddon Robinson



**"And not for ours only..."**

I John 2:12

These five words sound like a throwaway line, an afterthought added like a footnote. Yet, in this small phrase lies the motive for evangelism. Christ, John tells us, is "the atoning sacrifice for our sins." Standing by itself, that could make us self-satisfied, like members of an exclusive club not open to outsiders. Therefore, John reminds us that Jesus Christ died for all mankind "and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

"Not for ours only" and we avoid the misapplication of the doctrine of election. "Not for ours only" and immediately we become debtors to an entire world.

For those who believe that phrase, evangelism is inevitable. In the history of Israel as it stands recorded in II

kings 7, Ben-Hada, king of Aram, laid siege against the city of Samaria and the people resorted to cannibalism in order to live. Four lepers deciding that it would be better to die at the hands of the Arameans than to die of hunger went to surrender to the enemy. When those four men came to the camp of Ben-Hada, they found it deserted. God had frightened the Aramean troops so that they fled in the night.

Food lay everywhere in abundance. Such food and in such quantities as they had not seen for years. The lepers stuffed themselves with food and drink, and they were strongly tempted to keep what they had found a secret. But the memory of Samaria with its starving inhabitants came back to their minds.

"We're not doing right," they said. "This is a day of good news and we are keeping it to ourselves. Now let us go and tell the king's household."

The find demanded instant expression and those four lepers became evangelists.

"And not for ours only...." Someone has described evangelism as "one old beggar telling another old beggar where to find food." If we have found in Jesus Christ forgiveness--complete forgiveness--for all our sins, and there is forgiveness enough for all, we cannot in good conscience keep that news a secret.

Evangelism is not being a huckster, a slick salesman peddling religion, more interested in results than in people. It has nothing to do with grabbing someone by the lapels to shove on him a faith that goes no deeper than the shirt pocket. What a grim indictment lodges in the remark, "He witnessed to others; you could tell them by their haggard look,"

Evangelism gets down to this. "Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only...." Whenever I get the opportunity, I want to tell someone else that great news. God is satisfied with the death of Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for my sin, and not for my sin only, but the sin of all mankind.



## Did You Hear the One About...?

(Stories that Christ Told)

### Annual Conference

Our Guest this year... **Haddon Robinson**

Mr. Robinson is a noted speaker and author

from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Thursday, July 29 to Sunday, August 1

**"He who has ears, let him hear"**

**AT UNION CHURCH, KARUIZAWA**

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# KARUIZAWA

## DEEPER LIFE CONVENTION

### Y2K? 4

(why to Karuzawa? ... for...)

*...a time of fellowship, refreshment and  
indepth study in God's word*

#### GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Trevor Craigen

\*Dr. Craigen holds dual nationalities in South Africa and Britain.  
\* He has lived and worked in six different countries and is presently an Associate Professor of Theology at The Master's Seminary in Sun Valley, California.

\*Dr. Craigen's missionary service has included being:

- Bible teacher in the Black Forest Academy in Germany,
- Coordinator of Biblical Studies with Grace Seminary Extension in France,
- policeman in Rhodesia,
- an accountant in South Africa and
- a pastor in Alabama.

### KARUIZAWA UNION CHURCH

AUGUST 5-8, 1999

- Thursday 10:00am\* & 7:00pm
- Friday 10:00am\* & 7:00pm
- Saturday 10:00am\* & 7:00pm
- Sunday 10:30am\* & 7:00pm

\*Child care through age 5 will be provided by Mrs. Craigen.  
Child care for ages 5-12 is being considered. Parent assistance is needed.

1999 Deeper Life Convention Contact Person: Ron Stoller 052-736-0341 (Nagoya)

## ILLUSTRATED & INSIGHTFUL READING



Dr. Hepburn of Yokohama by Sachiko Sugita.

Illustrated version of the life and impact on Japan of pioneer missionary doctor and linguist James Hepburn. He invented *romaji*, translated the Bible and wrote the first Japanese-English dictionary.

Yokohama no Hebon Sensei

横浜のヘボン先生

(12370) ¥1600

Even Though You Believe, You Still Have Questions by Nanami Minami

Through engaging manga, author communicates insights on how to deal with issues such as self acceptance, cults and mind control, volunteerism, church work, homosexuals, pregnancy, adoption, discrimination, marriage.

Shinjitatte Naiyanjau

信じてたって悩んじゃう

(23080) ¥1,200



Even Though You Believe, You Still Have Questions #2 by Nanami Minami

Encourages the believer through discussion of anorexia, love, astronomy, evolution, creationism.



Looks at questions a new believer may have. Very current and topical through engaging manga.

Shinjitatte Naiyanjau #2

信じてたって悩んじゃう#2

(23100) ¥1,200

Down the Road of the Narrow Gate, by Nanami Minami

Manga-style book with essays. An honest testimony of the author's encounter with Christ and the power of God to change her family. Her journey to faith from Sunday School, through her rejection of cults, meeting loving Christians as a exchange student in the U.S., and return to Japan.

Chiisana Mon ni Tsuzuku Michi

小さな門につづく道

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Natural Life Care

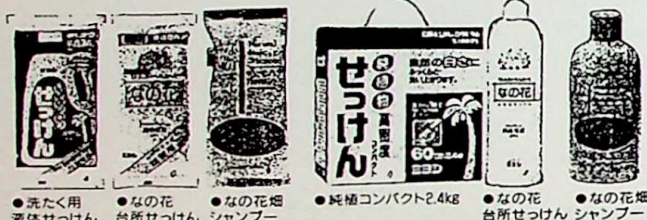


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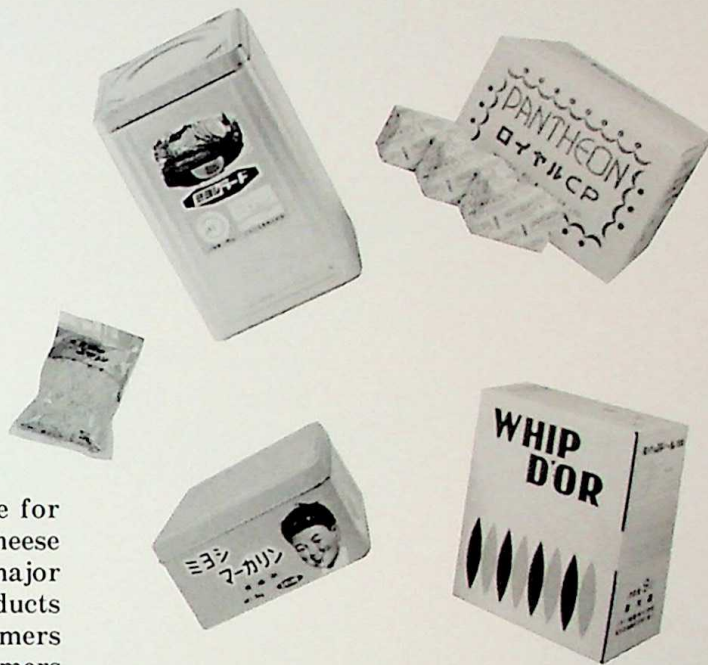


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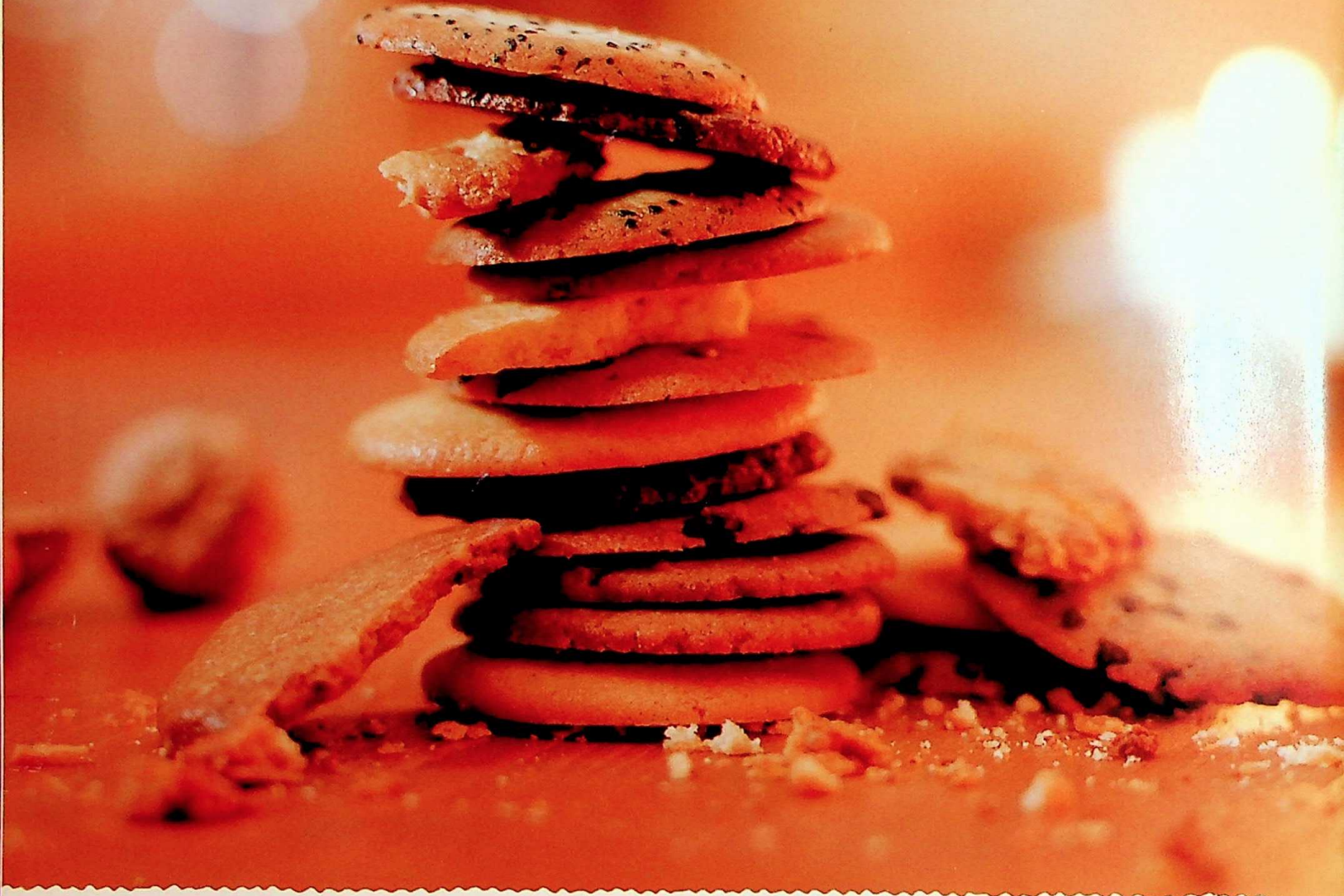


OMI ■



Warm heart communication by Aunt Stella

From the Heart of the  
PENNSYLVANIA  
DUTCH COUNTRY



*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.*

