



JAPAN HARVEST

Japan Evangelical Missionary Association

Winter 2000

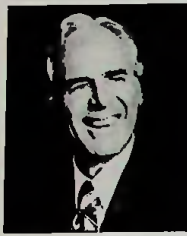
NEW HORIZONS

INSIDE:

- *Wanted: Hippopotamus Postmen!*
- *A Conference Full of Miracles*
- *Japanese Believers as Salt & Light*
- *What Difference Does Your Worship Make?*

MAIN SPEAKERS

Dr. Stephen F. Olford
 Founder of Olford Ministries International. World famous pastor / evangelist / expositor with inspiring and uplifting messages. Endearred as "Machine Gun" by Japanese Christians.



Dr. Raymond Brown
 Former Principal of Spurgeon's College, London. Distinguished minister, keen Bible scholar and outstanding expositor. Highly respected and loved regular speaker at Japan Keswick Convention.



**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE
 39th KESWICK CONVENTION
 at HOTEL HAKONE KOWAKIEN**

Dates : February 22 - 24, 2000

	Missionary Rates:	Regular Rates:
Overnight / 3meals	¥11,000	¥17,000
Two night / 6meals	¥20,000	¥29,500

All rooms are twin western style.

SCHEDULES FOR CONVENTION

Okinawa	Feb. 4 - 6	Naha Nazarene Church
Kyushu	Feb. 9 - 11	Kijima Korakuen Hotel
Osaka	Feb. 16 - 18	Morinomiya Pilloty Hall
Kobe	Feb. 20	Yamate Church
Kyoto	Feb. 20	Kyoto Yamaichi Hall
Tokyo	Feb. 26 - 27	Yodobashi Church
Hokkaido	Feb. 29 - Mar. 2	Sapporo Prince Hotel

CONTACT KESWICK OFFICE FOR DETAILS

JAPAN KESWICK CONVENTION

306 OCC BUILDING 2-1 KANDA SURUGADAI
 CHIYODA-KU , TOKYO JAPAN 101-0062
 PHONE/FAX 03-3291-1910



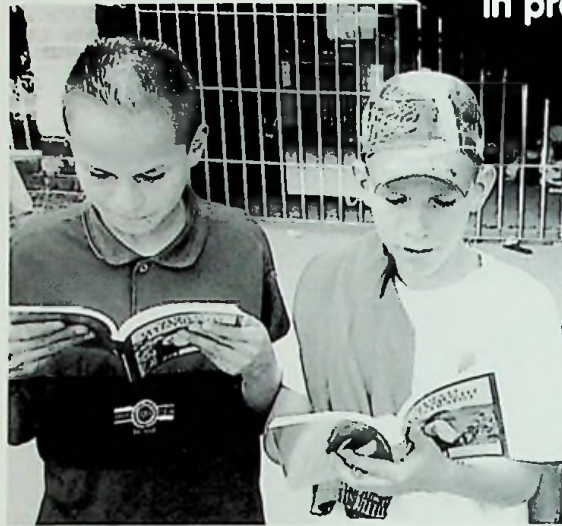
Good Day Good Bread.

We
CHALLENGE
you!

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involved in this most
urgent and impor-
tant task - both
in prayer and
financial
giving!

Do you know that

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- The greatest limitation to sending more Scriptures is the lack of funds?



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E-mail: nlljapan@msn.com Furikae number for donations: Shinsei Senkyodan, Kaigai Senkyobu 0010-3-759926

Fifty Years of Grace



This year Christian Academy in Japan will be celebrating fifty years of God's grace to the school with two main events! A 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration will be held on January 31, 2000, at 7:00 P.M. in the auditorium. The program will include a look back and a look around at what God has done here at CAJ, as well as a look to the future in anticipation of what He will continue to do here.

The 50th Anniversary Jubilee Homecoming is scheduled for June 1-4, 2000, on the CAJ campus. The weekend will feature former SEND missionary/CAJ teacher Howard Blair as keynote speaker and Japan MK Dan Oxley ('75) and other alumni in concert.

Christian Academy in Japan
Tokyo Campus • Educational Support Services

1-2-14 Shinkawa-cho, Higashi Kurume-shi, Tokyo 203-0013
Telephone: 0424-71-0022 Fax: 0424-76-2200 E-mail: infodesk@caj.or.jp Web: caj.or.jp



It's a Good Time for the Great Taste.



**McDonald's
Hamburger**

Drive Thru.

JAPAN HARVEST

Volume 51. No. 3 / Winter 2000

New Horizons

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David Humble tells the story of Dr. Joseph Ozawa, a consummate story-teller telling of God's love.

6 A Conference Full of Miracles

John Mehn gives highlights of the miraculous growth and dynamism of the 1999 CPI Conference.

10 I've Been Thinking

Warren Okerman challenges us to consider culturally sensitive ways to raise up salty, bright disciples of Christ.

16 Potpourri & Promises: Picking Cotton & the 10 Commandments

Janice Kropp takes a "cotton-fresh" look at the 10 Commandments for us today.

19 What Difference Does Your Worship Make?

Gary Bauman asks for your input in seeking ways to bring inspiring worship into our churches.

20 JCCC: On the Move

Steve Clark of Japan Campus Crusade for Christ brings you up to date on the Christmas Video Gift Project, and shares JCCC plans for 2000.

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Cover Photo: Courtesy of Mission Transport Center

JEMA

JEMA Executive Committee,
1999-2000

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

Price Overseas - \$25/year
Price in Japan - ¥2,800/year
Single copy - ¥750

Postal Transfer:
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JEMA Windows

Gerald May, JEMA President



This is my last opportunity as JEMA President. and as Harvest editor to address you, the entire JEMA community.

As President I want to again thank those of you who have given our office encouragement and support for our small, essentially volunteer operation. I have appreciated and enjoyed the visits in our office, as well as your letters and e-mails.

I want to thank the other members of the JEMA executive committee, as well as the various commission people and members for your sacrificial giving of your time and energies on behalf of the missionary body in Japan.. Without your faithful service JEMA would not function in any way, shape or form!

And, of course, I cannot forget JEMA's long-suffering executive secretary, without whom I would have been lost from the word go. Matsushita-san's faithful work in a small, sometimes rather lonely office is what keeps us moving ahead. And that is no exaggeration! I encourage all of our readers to support her in prayer and with words of encouragement. We on the executive come and go, but she has remained constant over more than 15 years of service.

As Editor-in-Chief of the Harvest, and on behalf of the Publications Commission, I also have the privilege of thanking you, our readers, for your support of this and our other publications. Again, without your contributions the Harvest would not exist.

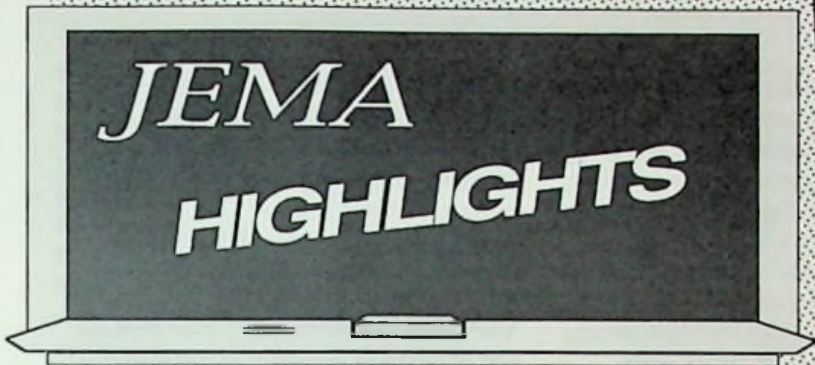
We want to extend our warmest wishes to you in this new year, new century, and new millenium! May God grant you strength and wisdom to fulfill your calling in Christ Jesus, until His return.



JEMA Publications Commission Members (L.to R.)
Don Wright, Ken Young, Mizuko Matsushita, Dave Scott,
Russ Epley, Janice Kropp, Gerald May (Jim Rew, not pictured)

JEMA Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Place
February 20 - 22, 2000	Mission Leaders' Consultation	Fukuin no Ie, Okutama
February 22, 2000	JEMA Plenary	Ochanomizu Christian Center
March 8 - 10, 2000	Women's Spring Retreat	Fukuin no Ie, Okutama
April 18, 2000	Kansai Day of Prayer	Bethel House - Kobe
May 16-19, 2000	Tokyo Men's Prayer Summit	Okutama Bible Chalet
May 23- 26, 2000	West Japan Prayer Summit	Hiruzen Bible Camp
August 3-6, 2000	JEMA Summer Conference	Karuizawa Union Church
October 10-13, 2000	CPI Conference	Tozanso YMCA Center



OPPS!!.....
Please note the corrected dates on our **JEMA Calendar on page 2.
The dates shown in the Fall 1999 issue were incorrect.
The address and phone number given in the **Mission West Advertisement on page 19 of the Fall 1999 issue were incorrect.
They should be as follows:
Mission West 1 Kami Idedacho,
Kitashirakawa, Sakyo-ku,
Kyoto 606-8287
Phone/Fax 075-721-3571
Our sincere apologies for any inconvenience these errors may have caused.

AFFIRMING & TRAINING LEADERS IN EXCELLENCE!



Leader's Consultation 2000

February 20, 21

Okutama, Fukuin no ie

JEMA's desire is to keep YOU encouraged as a leader.

So, if you are a present leader or a potential leader, COME join the two day Leader's Consultation, February 20 & 21. We will worship our Lord, fellowship, and have times for interaction.

Special focus will be —

- √ **TOOLS & IDEAS FOR ASSESSING CHURCH PLANTERS**
- √ **MEMBER CARE**
- √ **CELL-GROUP MINISTRIES**
- √ **COMPUTERS IN MINISTRY**

This two day consultation will begin at 6:00 P.M. Sunday the 20th, with dinner, and will conclude Tuesday morning, providing time to get to OCC for the Plenary Session.

Deadline for registration: Friday, February 4

Cost for two nights, six meals: ¥13,000

(Adjustments will be made depending on your length of stay.)

L-E-A-D-E-R-S & F-U-T-U-R-E L-E-A-D-E-R-S!

We extend to you a special welcome.

WANTED: HIPPOPOTAMUS

By David E. Humble
Harvest Time Ministries Staff

I'm going to be a what? Joseph Ozawa could barely believe his ears. He had come to this man because he had heard he possessed a prophetic gift—the ability to tell people about God's plans for their lives. But now, this fellow had just told him that God planned for him to become a hippopotamus! Ozawa had sought out this man during a time in his young life when he was confused about his future. He had driven half way across the United States, full of hope that he could receive some help in relieving his confusion. However, what he just heard had added to it significantly. Dejected, he timidly asked, Isn't there anything more you can say about me? The old man paused to think and scratched his head. Yes, I think so, he said. You will be a hippopotamus postman! He continued as he read the shock in Ozawa's face. You see, nothing can stop a hippo from going where he wants to go. He's so big that nothing gets in his way. You're going to be like that. Nothing will stop you from delivering your letters. Letters? What letters? Ozawa asked, feeling even more stupid. Why, love letters from God! he said loudly. And you're going to go all around the world telling people about God's love! Then, it clicked. Ozawa, who had never before been outside of the United States, now knew that somehow God was going to be leading him into a much larger ministry of sharing His love that nothing could stop. And, as it turned out the old man was right!

Now a psychologist working with the Singapore Ministry of Community Development and a licensed Anglican pastor, Joseph Paul Ozawa came to Japan in July of 1999 to work with Harvest Time Ministries in producing six television programs based on the love stories he has collected. These have now been edited into a children's book entitled, *The Hippopotamus Postman and Other True Stories of Love*. Ozawa, whose forebears had originally come from Shizuoka, had always had an interest in Japan. But that interest got a special boost two years ago when a Japanese junior high school student from Hyogo Prefecture, Yu Fukuda, translated a part of Ozawa's book

into Japanese. The book was published in Japan by Praise Publications as *Kaba no Yubin Haitatsunin*. Both Fukuda and his father appeared as guests on Harvest Time in September of 1997 and shared the story. Part two of the series has since been translated and was published in August of 1999. Included are more stories from the original work, along with the illustrations of Christian professional artists, Yoko Ishiyama and Kimiko Shinohara. Ozawa says that each of the stories in the book in some way illustrates the love of God in action. Some are his own experiences and

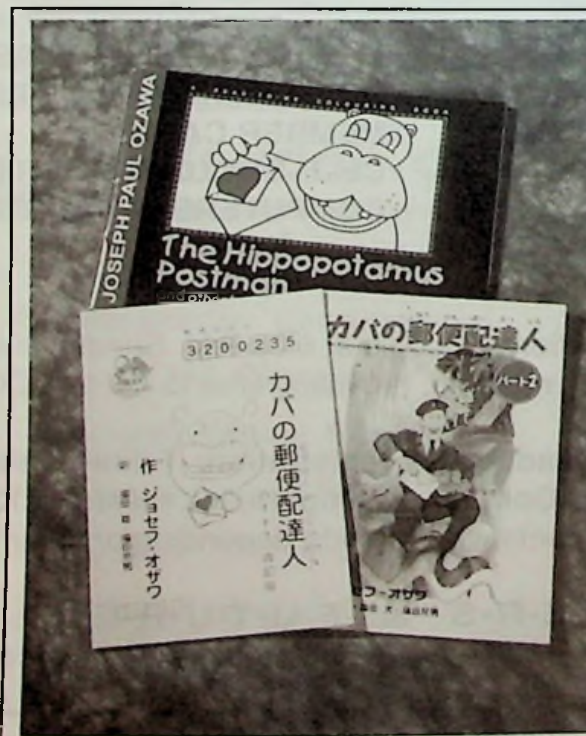
two stories illustrated with Ishiyama's or Shinohara's artwork, and include comments by Ozawa and a Bible message by program host Kenichi Nakagawa. Titles include, *A Little Russian Girl*, *The Odd Angel*, *A Faithful Friend*, *Forgiveness in Rwanda*, *The Good Muslim*, *A Bit of Rice*, *A Message in the Sky*, and *Did You Learn to Receive My Love?* Perhaps one of the most powerful of the stories is that of his sister, Alice, who was killed in an auto accident as a child. This tragedy, he said, played a significant part in his later decision to follow Christ. After the

"...nothing can stop a hippo from going where he wants to go You're going to be like that And you're going to go all around the world telling people about God's love!"

others are ones that people have told him over the years. The stories are all true, he said. Of course, after reading them, many people have trouble believing that. But, I've found that where God's love is involved, the truth is, indeed, stranger and more wonderful than fiction. The six Harvest Time programs featuring Ozawa's stories have been airing once a month since August. Each program introduces

accident, he said, a nurse at the hospital gave him a purse that had belonged to his sister. Inside he had found a folded napkin with the words, I LOVE JESUS scrawled on it in Alice's handwriting. He related his reaction in the book:

Alice's last note was strange to me. After all, my family originally was a Buddhist family. Some Buddhism was mixed with ancestor worship. Most of us



"Love Letters" From God

Dr. Joseph Ozawa's collection of love stories is now available as *Kaba no Yubin Haitatsunin*, Part I & Part II. The set contains a total of 29 stories collected by Dr. Ozawa as a part of his Hippopotamus Postman ministry. This (Japanese-only) version is available from Harvest Time for the price of ¥300 in postage stamps per booklet (or \$5 per booklet for U.S. orders). The six Japanese-language Harvest Time television programs are also available for purchase. These feature the artwork of Christian artists Yoko Ishiyama and Kimiko Shinohara. For details on tape purchases, please contact Harvest Time Ministries at (0559) 93-8880 or at the address on the next page.

...POSTMEN!

were not very spiritual. None of us would have considered ourselves to be Christians. What had happened to Alice? Then, later on, months after the accident, others told me the story. The weekend before the fatal trip, Alice had gone on a retreat and apparently had, accepted Jesus into her heart, as they said. Apparently, she was very, very excited. She had said that she couldn't wait to get home to tell me about it. Well, that fatal morning, the family had stopped for breakfast, and I guess Alice was just writing things on her napkin. That was her last gift. Her final present to me. I became convinced that Alice had gone to heaven. Where else would such a sweet girl go? Eleven years later, I, too, came to accept Jesus into my heart the way Alice had. And twenty years later, the whole

Dubbed the Hippoman TV Project, Ozawa believes that the English-language format will offer them more opportunities for reaching an even wider audience. We just want the Lord to get the maximum glory from this effort. Ozawa said, so that even more people can know how great God's love really is. Ozawa says that he is often amazed at how often stories like these succeed in touching people where a more direct evangelistic approach might fail. A combination of God's timing, he said, and a child-like heart attitude on the part of the hearer is the key. Ozawa urges Japanese viewers to let this all-important attitude be the lens through which they view the stories. Allow yourself to see the world like a child sees the world, he explained. Open your heart. Listen to the

...stories like these succeed in touching people where a more direct evangelistic approach might fail. A combination of God's timing and a child-like heart attitude on the part of the hearer is the key.

family came to know the great love of God. I will always thank Alice for being the first one in our family to learn about God's love. But most of all, I still love her so very, very much. And I know that someday I will see her again and we'll hug, and laugh, and cry, and share with each other all the stories we never had a chance to tell each other. from Alice's Last Gift

Accompanying Ozawa on his production trip to Japan was Dr. John Tay, senior pastor of Singapore's St. Andrew's Cathedral. The church is a well-known cultural landmark and the international nature of the church's fellowship, Tay said, means that they have an opportunity to minister to many different language groups including about 5,000 Japanese tourists per year. We want to make the Japanese-language programs and the books available to Japanese tourists who visit us, Tay said, so that our ability to share the gospel with them will be strengthened. We're very excited about this project. In addition to the six Harvest Time programs produced for regular broadcasts in Japan, the crew worked an extra day to record the same six programs in an English-language version, as well.

amazing things in our wonderful world. When you love, it comes from a deep well, a place where things surprise you and make you wonder. Drink from that well of love and you'll find you are no longer thirsty. He added, smiling, And who knows? Maybe you'll become a hippopotamus postman or postwoman too!



With A.B. and M.A.T. degrees from Harvard University and a Ph.D. from the University of Southern California, Dr. Joseph Paul Ozawa has been a psychologist for over 20 years. Dr. Ozawa is currently working with the Ministry of Community Development (Singapore government) where he deals with youth crime, probation, institutionalized youth, child abuse and welfare. He is also a consultant with Life Community Services Society (Asia Pacific Mission), Monk's Hill Secondary School, and various other agencies. On Sundays, he is a licensed (lay) Anglican pastor at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Singapore. Dr. Ozawa is married and is the father of three children.

y2k Blessing!

When Harvest Time Ministries began satellite broadcasting on DirecTV in April of 1998, the goal was to make Christian television programming readily available to viewers from anywhere in Japan - a first in Japan's history. By God's grace and the help and prayers of many supporters, that dream has become a reality with one hour of Christian programming being watched daily on Yokohama Bayside TV, channel 321. Now, to extend that vision, Harvest Time Ministries has joined with Japan Computer Bible Research to make Christian television programming available 24-hours per day via the Worldwide Web. This Millennium Project utilizes the streaming media technology developed by RealNetworks and uses their RealPlayer software to deliver media presentations from an Internet website in real-time to viewers anywhere in the world. Our goal is to make as many as 1,000 programs available for on-line viewing through this means starting from January 1, 2000. The Harvest Internet TV Station programming can be accessed by pointing your browser software to www.harvestjapan.com and clicking on the appropriate buttons. We invite you to visit the site and become a part of this extension of the Gospel into the new millennium.

Harvest Time Ministries

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A Conference

By John Wm. Mehn

I praise God for awakening my heart to what he wants to do from what I think is possible. This is my fourth conference and they keep getting better and better. In the weeks leading up to the conference, we kept hearing how attendance records would be broken. I admit having a fear that the conference would become unwieldy and maybe even collapseI was fearful that the conference would lose its spiritual passion and just be about methods, programs and numbers. I was wrong, thankfully." Wrote one participant at this past November's National CPI conference.

The CPI National Conference was a real blessing in seeing what God desires to do in equipping his choice people for reaching through a church planting movement. Each year we build more momentum, more networking, more and better training and resourcing. But, the greatest part of the conference is what God is doing in the CPI family as a whole. I simply stood back and thanked God for his miracles. I was not the only one who felt the same way, "[I was] very aware of God's presence with us during the entire week...Very apparent God has been giving you a vision and He is doing a great work among all of us."

THE MIRACLE OF MORE
We have experienced steady growth at the conference since its

beginning in 1994, but no one expected that the 1999 conference would more than double the number attending from last year to 260. Doug Birdsall (LIFE), in his Tuesday morning devotional, affirmed that God is certainly doing something in CPI to lead to nearly tenfold growth in five years. He mentioned that no matter how gifted and dynamic Steve Childers is as a speaker, or no matter how many emails John Mehn sends out, they cannot account for the attendance growing from 27 in 1994 to 260 in 1999.

The 1999 CPI conference was the largest gathering of church planters in the history of Japan. Because of the large influx of registrations, for a short time, housing registration had to be closed. When offsite housing was found we were able to register many more. Dozens commuted to Megumi Chalet each day. I thank God that no one was turned away from attending this conference.

A real miracle occurred in the practical handling of the larger number of registrants. Last year there was a long wait at registration, but at this conference the

registration was incredibly smooth due to the leadership of Gary Fujino (SB). In fact, this year the only long wait was at Burger King before the conference began!

"Sometimes we missionaries feel like we are all alone. What a thrill to meet and get to know missionaries from all over the country who have been given a vision for reaching Japanese for Christ," wrote a participant. Such a large group made for great opportunities to network with

people from other organizations and other areas who are facing the same challenges and

seeking the same answers. One person commented about the conference, saying that it was the *"most dynamic networking conference I have ever been to."*

Missionaries and pastors from 43 agencies and denominations attended, 15 of those for the first time. To date, nearly 60 agencies and denominations have been represented. Participants came from all over Japan, as well as from overseas. In all, participants have come from at least 18 countries. One person stated that the conference was, "A taste of



Full of Miracles

heaven worshipping and fellowshiping with so many from across Christ's church."

There were nearly 50 Japanese at this past year's conference. We hope to have many more present in 2000. All the main sessions were simultaneously translated into Japanese via radio. There were also 4 electives that were taught in Japanese by Japanese pastors. One Japanese church planter reflected, "This conference was one of the big events in my heart and life this year."

Another pastor wrote, "I received the great hope that missionaries and Japanese pastors can now work together!"

Nearly 70 women joined the conference this year. Our policy of giving special discounts for



Nearly 50 Japanese pastors attended

couples allowed many more married women to attend. We also had 17 children on hand as we provided child care for the first time. One woman wrote, "It has been exciting to see what is going on with the church planting movement. But most of all it has

been a place to meet God and experience His touch in a new way." Another commented, "I believe my personal relationship with God has changed and it will continue to change and grow as a result of the gospel's power which has impacted my heart and whole being."

THE MIRACLE OF BETTER

The conference has also grown in quality. We desire to offer the best, cutting edge, and fully contextualized program for those involved in church planting in Japan.

Steve Childers was again our featured presenter. Steve Childers is the director of the doctoral of ministry program at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida. He is also the founder and director of the U.S. Center for Church Planting. This was his seventh visit to Japan for the CPI. Steve presented in joint sessions the Vision for Church Planting, and Ordering the Private World of a Christian leader.

Steve also taught the Foundations for Church Planting track for those attending for the first time and for those wanting a refresher. About 450 people have now had this basic training. The conference included a new, revised training manual which also includes new material for the Japanese ministry context. Some of this material is from JEMA



publications and from some CPI electives and workshops conducted. There were at least 20 case studies from Japan given during the foundations training course.

Charlie Williams (SB) and Pat Hansen (OMF) organized the new Ministry in the Japanese Cross-cultural Context track. The track included five presentations by four missionaries on church planting movements, building trust cross-culturally, the Japanese cultural value of amae, along with Japanese religious practices. About 40 participants attended this track who had the Foundations training before. Tom Nebel also led a track on developing coaching skills that was attended by at least 12 who are involved in coaching and mentoring in the CPI movement.

Others were asked to speak to the whole conference in special presentations that highlight some of the CPI vision and core values. One morning Tom Nebel, international expert on church planting coaching systems, gave a brief presentation about coaching in ministry. Another morning Pastors Hiroshi Kawasaki and Hiroyuki Akae, along with missionary Ralph Cox (TEAM) shared their visions for multiplying churches.

For last year's conference we
-continued on page 8

NEW AT OCC LANGUAGE SCHOOL

*English Reading &
Conversation Class

*Internet English

*English Bible Patchwork

*Business English

And As Always
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Weekly Bible Classes

Bible Class Schedule

◆ English

Tuesday 1:00-2:00 pm
7:00-8:00 pm

◆ French

Thursday 7:20-8:20 pm

◆ German

Friday 1:00-2:00 pm

EVERYONE IS
CORDIALLY INVITED

PLEASE
JOIN US

OCC

LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Second Floor,
Ochanomizu Christian Center
2-1, Kanda Surugadai
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101
☎ 03 (3295) 1285

CPI - continued from page 7

first established our elective system with about 15 electives. This year there were over 30 electives. They included personal spiritual renewal, English teaching ministry, team church planting, coaching skills, conflict management, evangelizing Japanese, The ALPHA Course, preaching to Japanese and many more. This year there were also four think tank forums. One was on how to reach men and whole families, another was on establishing gospel-driven churches and two were on developing leaders for the new millennium.

One of the key strategies of CPI is to develop and distribute resources. Each year the conference resource center has grown. Several year's ago it consisted of one small table. This year a small gymnasium was turned into a massive resource center full of materials for evangelism, worship, church planting, discipleship and renewal. There were even booths set up from various organizations such as Campus Crusade and New Life League.

Over 24 Regional Peer-mentoring groups met each night to challenge each other. They met for encouragement, accountability, sharing, and prayer.

Some of these groups are already meeting year-round in their various locations. Some new groups were formed, while other

groups were created when some areas split into smaller regions.

The conference had a wonderful worship environment. *"The spiritual emphasis was powerful, meaningful and beyond my expectations for the conference. The vision for starting new churches has been rekindled,"* one said.

The whole conference began with a one-hour praise concert by Copain a music group associated with the Japanese Continentals. Gary Bauman (LIFE) headed the music and worship team while other missionaries and Japanese led the various worship sessions. On two evenings we all took a look at the riches of the Gospel of Christ with Steve Childers. One evening his presentation on repentance was followed by testimonies by Debbie Walker (OC) and Fred Reid (PCA). On the following evening, after a presentation on Faith in Christ our source of spiritual power, Terry Giles (YWAM), who is a member of the JEMA Prayer Commission, led a concert of prayer, which became a crescendo of praise and worship.

This spiritual emphasis is not a



small addition to what we do in CPI but is the very heart of what we do. We are not only interested in recovering

the apostolic method to reach the world, which is church planting, but we also want to recover the apostolic message of the

gospel, which changes human hearts. Several commented on this aspect of the conference. *"I appreciate having my heart dealt*



with as well as my head." *"An incredible time! The thing I appreciated most was the balance between worship and teaching, spiritual encouragement and practical ideas for ministry."* To many, personal renewal and spiritual growth was the highlight of the conference. For me the greatest blessing was seeing the tears of His servants, especially mine. One said, *"It's finding Christ again."* Another said, *"CPI reinforced that gospel in my life; expanded my vision of the God of grace and gave me a glimpse of white hot worship."*

THE VISION GROWS AND EXPANDS - The vision of CPI is **"Advancing God's kingdom by mentoring leaders to be part of movement that is multiplying churches that are multiplying disciples through the power of the Gospel."** This vision is being more widely understood and more widely committed to by many missionaries and nationals. It is something that we can all rally around and work together for in Japan.

Especially at this conference there was more said about multiplying churches and church planting movements. One participant shared, *"It was extremely encouraging to see a broad movement among many mission agencies and many Japanese pastors committed to multiplying churches in Japan. It fills me with anticipation for what the Lord will be doing in Japan."*

One missionary wrote, *"For the first time I have a deep desire to be a whole-hearted participant in the vision to be part of a movement of multiplication of churches which are multiplying disciples. Up until now I have been an enthusiastic participant seeking to benefit myself and my church. But listening to the Japanese pastors, hearing the Gospel and enjoying the fellowship has propelled me to join 'the movement' and to sustain and build it through a local mentoring group. May God be gracious to Japan, the churches and each of us missionaries to pour out His Spirit for a great awakening, a revival, a harvest for the glory of Jesus Christ!"*

WHAT TO DO NOW - *"I came last year, and I came this year; I plan to come next year. Each time it gets better. Next year we hope to bring more!"* Pray and begin planning to attend next year. The 2000 CPI Na-

tional Conference will be held October 10-13 (Tuesday to Friday) at the YMCA International Conference Center in Gotemba Shizuoka Ken. Plan to bring others with you. We will have housing for 500 this time. You may be able to say with one participant, *"These four days have been four of the best days of my ministerial life! This conference has been a blessing to me both personally and ministry wise I have heard things for the first time and been challenged in areas I never dreamed possible. What an awesome time."*

I encourage you to get involved now in a regional peer-mentoring group in your area. You do not have to wait until next October to enjoy what CPI is doing. Also, please place your orders for tapes books and printed materials. Tapes of all sessions, and electives are available in Japanese and English.



Handouts from the electives, the conference manual and helpful books are available through the JEMA office.

Please check out the new Internet

Web site CPI has at **JCPI.NET**.

Also you can get into our Internet discussion forum by signing up for CPI-net.

Finally, pray for the harvest yet to come in Japan in these days and for the CPI movement.



I've Been Thinking...

Japanese Believers as Salt and Light in Modern Day Japan

By Warren Okerman

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth." He also said, "You are the light of the World." A reading of these passages from Matthew 5 through Western eyes tends to emphasize the active attributes of salt and light. The bright, zesty, penetrating qualities of both salt and light fit well into our scheme of bold-faced straightforward, unashamed proclamation of the Gospel. We see this as the emphasis of the passage because of cultural self concept.

As the Japanese see us, we are all "John Wayne's" sporting a "pioneer spirit". We respect individuality, confrontation, and creativity. We believe that we are what we do, emphasizing the essence of doing. A man or woman in America who has certain qualities and accomplishes certain goals is rewarded based on what they have done. Worth often comes to be measured by what we accomplish. What we do is often more important than who we really are (or what we Do IS who we are.)

A Japanese might take a rather different approach in reading these verses. Salt and light both have a passive aspect to them as well. Both light and salt are simply there. They are applied to various things. Light doesn't turn

itself on, it is applied by someone or something to darkness. Salt does not find it's way to your plate, it is applied to do its transforming work on the food. It is the passive nature of both salt and light that make them both so useful. The Japanese view these things from a passive perspective because they acknowledge "being" over "doing." What a person is, intrinsically is valued over what he can do. One practical example is how Japanese deal

...we need to encourage the national believers to use their culture as a medium in which to be salt and light.

with their company employees. A worker in Japan is not hired for a particular skill he is hired as a person of a certain rank. Position and rank in the company determine who you are. Skills and actions are secondary and are developed as needed.

When applied to evangelism in Japan this passage has some interesting ramifications concerning the methods of evangelism (dendoo). As western missionaries in Japan it would behoove us to adapt the passive reading of this passage in order to suggest culturally relevant ways of doing dendoo which are consistent with the attributes of bright light and savory salt.

Perhaps one reason evangelism has been "relatively slow" is the

failure of those teaching evangelistic method to correctly view scripture through Japanese eyes. Therefore, it is not surprising that the methods of evangelism in modern day Japan are similar to those used in the 50's and 60's in America. To be fair to the brothers and sisters in Christ who labored faithfully before my time in Japan, it must be acknowledged that the cultural stratification and the Japanese inbred fear of standing alone have played a part in hindering the wholesale proclamation of the Gospel.

It is true that Japanese do fear being different. They fear not having a group to which they can belong, where they can let their hair down and speak freely from the heart, (honno). Yet, we, on both sides of the ocean, realize that intrinsic in these verses is our responsibility to impact the world in which we live.

Salt and light are distinctive by their vary nature. And it is this distinctiveness that makes them useful. Salt is naturally salty. It is of a different taste than the surrounding flavors. Applied to food it improves the flavor of what is eaten. Should salt not be distinctive or different it would not have an effect.

So, also, the Japanese believer can be different from those around him, not in a way that is

repulsive, but in a way that brings distinctive goodness. Salt is distinctive-- that is why people need it and use it. Without it they would die. In the same way, without our permeating influence in society, non-believers are perishing for lack of spiritual sustenance.

Light also is distinctive from darkness. It is the exact opposite. It is very different than darkness. For this very reason people need it and rely on it to find their way.

Japanese Christians, by their vary nature as children of light, can impact their nakamas (groups) just by virtue of the fact that they are light. Japanese Christians need to be different than their surrounding friends and family; yet, different in a unique way. As salt and light are distinctive yet welcome, so also is it possible and necessary for our lives to be likewise.

Acceptance of things foreign into Japan in past times was slow and often hindered. But this is not to say that when the Japanese people see a good and useful foreign idea that they do not accommodate it and put it to full use. Being different does not mean that we have to be rejected. We need to develop ways in which we can be distinctive in an appealing way.

What we really are talking about is how to teach Japanese believers the skills to develop naturally into winsome witnesses that exist as spiritual light and salt to their communities. May I suggest a few thoughts as to what this training might entail.

1. We must help the Japanese realize the nuance between being

different and being distinctive. Distinctiveness draws and attracts people. Teach and model the distinct character of Christ, in a spirit of humility and cultural sensitivity. The min- set, specifically the fear of being made to stand out (literally on a street corner), has to be replaced with the confidence that distinctive (seikatsu) living can be a winsome and effective way of doing evangelism.

I think of my own children as the only foreigners in their elementary school. They stand out because they are different. This repels some and attracts others. There is nothing we or they can do to change this situation. But, moreover, we are attempting to teach them to be distinctive.

Each child prays over their lunch as a thank you to God. No one else in the whole school does so. We believe this is being distinctive in a good way. Already the teacher and other students have noticed and have commented on this practice. Who knows what fruit this distinctive action will bring.

2. Next, we must discuss the importance of prayer as a means of doing evangelism. In the West we have studied strategy on the most effective ways in which to do evangelism. We have used mass evangelism utilizing TV, radio, newspaper, and now also the Internet and phones. We have house churches, mega-churches, interracial churches and specialized churches. Unfortunately, not one of these myriad of methods has born the same results in the land of Japan.

-continued on page 12

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-continued from page 11

Perhaps we need, then, to focus on a method employed by a culture similar to that of Japan's, namely the culture of Korea.

Through the power of prayer, over a span of 50 years, the church in Korea has blossomed. A history of Christianity at a glance will reveal to us that methods of evangelism are culture- and time-bound. Only the Holy Spirit and His leading made known through prayer can cross the boundaries of time and culture.

In other words, prayer is *the* trans-cultural method of doing evangelism anywhere in the world. Therefore, we must train our Japanese disciples how to pray and what to pray for. Not the typical "Lord grant health and strength", help us to be faithful, and heal my cold". But, instead, we must train our people towards aggressive (imprecatory) full of faith-type praying.

Praying for unbelieving friends and relatives in a regular organized manner should be paramount on our weekly lists. Perhaps attempting to organize your small group of believers so that they are targeting and praying strategically for the same unbelieving person will yield more fruit for the kingdom of God.


3. Do not overlook another transcultural method of doing evangelism--the act of demonstrable love. Call it showing mercy, call it random acts of kindness, call it caring; whatever you call it don't neglect it in training your people.

Extending help to a person offers the start of a new relation-

ship. Offering help opens up opportunities for deepening of a relationship with a view towards evangelism. Care, both the giving and receiving of it, often leads to spiritual questions. We must train our people to seek out and exploit areas where they can care for people.

4. Lastly, we need to encourage the national believers to use their culture as a medium in which to be salt and light. For example let's consider the art of gift giving in Japan. Obligation (*giri*) dictates that when one receives a gift from a neighbor one must repay with an equal or more expensive gift. This occurs to keep the flow of "relation" going between the two parties.

Christian believers can use this exchange of gifts as an opportunity for distinct witness. A tract given with a basket of fruit or simply a word of testimony can be a mark of distinctiveness that offers inroads into the Gospel. Upon receiving a gift one might say to the giver, "This is such a wonderful gift and it reminds me of the gift that God gave to all of us...." Or upon giving a gift one might say, "God showed me his love today by answering one of my prayers and I would like to give this gift to you to let you know that I love and pray for you too...."

In using this natural bridge we can be distinctive and yet culturally sensitive. For the creative witness there are multitudes of opportunities for distinctive witness within the culture. Remember who you are. You are the Salt and Light of the earth. 

The Japanese Page

By Mirriam Davis

The epitaph of one of Japan's first Protestant missionaries

米国聖公会の宣教師ウィリアムズ (1829~1910) は、リギンズと共に日本最初のプロテスタント宣教師として1856年禁教下の日本に上陸した。

彼は多くの人々に信仰を伝え、立教大学、立教女学院などを創立し、学問においても貢献し、人々にしたわれ尊敬されたが、日本教化のためにつくした長い年月の彼の立場は、京都にある彼の墓標にしるしてあるとおりであった。

「道^{みち}を伝えて五十年、福音^{よくいん}を伝えて己れを伝えず」

聖公会	せい こう かい	Anglican church
宣教師	せん きょう し	a missionary
～と共に	～と とも に	with, accompanied by ~
最初	さい しょ	the first
禁教	きん きょう	prohibition of Christianity
～下	～か	under
禁教下の日本	きん きょう かの に ほん	Japan where Christianity was prohibited
上陸する	じょう りく する	to land
多い	おお い	lots, many
信仰	しん こう	faith
伝える	つた える	to tell, communicate
立教	りっ きょう	Rikkyo (well-known Anglican university in Tokyo)
立教女学院	りっ きょう じょ がく いん	Rikkyo Women's College
創立する	そう りつ (する)	to found
学問	がく もん	learning
～において		~with regard to, in respect of
貢献する	こう けん (する)	to contribute, make a contribution to
(～)にしたわれる		to be liked, loved (したう—to like, love)
尊敬される	そん けい (される)	to be respected
教化	きょう か	strengthening
つくす		to serve
年月	ねん げつ	years
立場	たち ば	viewpoint, standpoint
墓標	ぼ ひょう	a grave marker (epitaph)
己れ	おの れ	oneself
伝えず	つた えず	= 伝えない

My sincere apologies for 2 errors in my article on page 8 of the 'Spring 1999' issue of 'Japan Harvest.' Line 6 of the Japanese text should read 「むすめ」 and not 「ますえ」. Line 17 should read 「習えるなら…」 not 「習えるならら…」 —Mirriam Davis.

Gleanings from *The Christian Shinbun*

By Mizuko Matsushita

クリスチャン新聞
THE CHRISTIAN

Help & Hope In Sanya

Alcoholics, mental patients, drugs addicts, ex-convicts—society's rejected—struggle to survive in Taito Ward, slum area of Sanya, Tokyo. These are often Japan's poor, lost in the depths of hopelessness. But, there are those who have been saved through the life-giving power of the Gospel. September 28, 1999, Pastor Haruko Morimoto baptized one-hundred seven day laborers and homeless in the Kinugawa River, Tochigi Prefecture. Pastor Morimoto says she accepts candidates for baptism only when they confirm their faith and make clear promise to attend church for the rest of their lives. These attend Seikawa (Holy River) Christian Evangelical Church in Sanya and Seiai (Holy Love) Christian Evangelical Church, Senju, Adachi Ward.

Pastor Morimoto has ministered in Sanya for 29 years and has provided meals for about 1,200,000 people and baptized nearly 3,000. Two hundred fifty attend the church in Sanya. Pastor Morimoto knows well the harsh realities of Sanya where she cares for those dying from cold and hunger. Sensei says that Sanya is the place to which the Lord called her, and she has decided to give her life for those who quietly die everyday.

Testimonies of new believers

are full of hope and gratefulness. One such believer shared that he had ruined his life fighting and gambling, but, in listening to Morimoto Sensei's messages, his short tempered nature has changed and his physical health has improved. Experiencing gradual release from pain and grief, this new believer wanted to be baptized.

Another said that in seeking answers in a number of religions he only succeeded in losing his money. On the other hand, the messages he hears in church have given him power to live his life from day to day. Yet another stated that having been born again, he would like to start anew with Morimoto Sensei's guidance.

The Sanya Church completed construction of a new 350 seat chapel in May 1998. From December 99 to March 2000 fifty to seventy homeless will be given accommodation for a four month period. These will be chosen based upon their length of church attendance and evidence of Christian dedication. In addition, the church will provide lodging for those particularly ill. All lodgers will be given in-depth Bible study throughout their stay.


International World Missions Conference Draws 2500

Three hundred representatives

from 120 countries joined 2200 Japanese pastors, believers from a wide spectrum of churches and mission organizations, as well as para-church groups for the International World Missions Conference on Evangelism. The conference was held in Kyoto from October 25 to 29, 1999.

The theme of the conference was "New Evangelism for the 3rd Millennium." Dr. David Cho of Third World Missions Network gave the keynote address. He said that the 20th Century had been marked by rapid changes in politics, the world economy and society in general. Evangelism's thrust has shifted from western to non-western countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. This new Evangelism wave has cast off traditional approaches and ideas, and now needs leaders with a world-wide vision in order to meet the challenges of our rapidly changing world.

Dr. Cho stated that the focus of Evangelism in the 3rd Millennium will turn to the Pacific and Indian Ocean regions, thus re-working the world structure as we have known it.

Evangelical representation at the conference was small, perhaps due in part to the conference being sponsored by the Pentecostal Church in Japan. 

NEW VIDEOS FROM LIFE ENTERTAINMENT



THE BIBLE-ABRAHAM

Featuring Richard Harris as Abraham, Barbara Hershey as Sarah, and Maximilian Schell as the Pharaoh. Richard Harris gives a masterful performance. God decides to conclude a new covenant with mankind after the calamities that culminate in the folly at Babel. Abraham is chosen to become the "Father of Nations". The story of redemption has begun. Although Abraham does not know the way, he believes in God and obeys when he is told to head into a future full of uncertainty and hardship give up his and his people's security. Abraham's God is not distant and fearsome; this is a God in whom Abraham can confide, with whom he can converse and even bargain. Abraham trusts, and doubts very humanly, but the ultimate result is he trust and becomes the "Father of Nations" Faithful to scripture. Highly recommended. The points at which the movie differs from the Bible are good for discussion. One of the truest-to-the-Bible videos to come out of Hollywood. Since John Huston's "The Bible" no one in the secular movie world really attempted to film this magnificent story from the greatest bestseller of all times. This movie does a masterful job of it, much better than its predecessors. An excellent Bible study tool. This film makes the Bible and its culture come alive.

Vol. 1-48 Min. The Call of Abram Genesis 11:27-12:9

Vol. 2-46 Min. Abram in Egypt, Abram & Lot Separate, Abram rescues Lot Genesis 12:10-14:12

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Vol. 4-52 Min. Covenant of Circumcision, Three Visitors, Abraham Pleads for Sodom, Sodom & Gomorrah Destroyed, Birth of Isaac, Abraham Tested Genesis 17-19:29, 21, 22

Total 188 Minutes

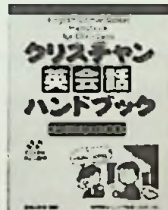
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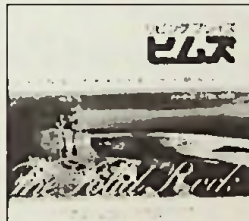
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POTPOURRI & PROMISES

by Janice A. Kropp



PICKING COTTON & THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

What in the world does picking cotton have to do with the Ten Commandments? Nothing really, except if you are a little girl who has been promised by your father that Sunday morning is the day he will take you and your mother to the movie house! Forty years ago, when foreign films first came into Japan, movie going was expensive and special. Father had promised, and what better day for going than his day off? He was a very busy veterinarian. But, it was harvest time in the cotton fields. Plant pods were exploding, begging to be picked. Sunday morning was a perfect day for picking! Grandfather had readied the baskets. Even little Junko was expected to put on a basket and pick.

Facing the forced change in plans made Saturday evening a tearful one for Junko and a sad one for her parents. No chance of getting out of it.

Awakening the following morning, who would have believed it? It looked like rain! Junko, mustering up enough courage, went to Grandfather. If it rains, do we have to pick cotton? she questioned. No, if it does, we will have to wait a week for the cotton to dry, Grandfather

replied. Oh, Junko begged, Will you please give us a time to go to Saga? His positive reply filled Junko's heart with a special twinkling! The three quickly readied themselves. Junko, dressed in the skirt and coat she loved, felt very special, and Mother looked so lovely in her dark blue overcoat. Then there was Father, who loved western style clothes, handsome in his jean colored shirt tucked into his trousers. The three hopped the bus and were off to see The Ten Commandments!

Junko's memory of the movie is as vivid today as the day she sat enthralled in the Saga, Kyushu movie house. Now forty some years later, Junko is a very special friend of mine. Recently, as we sat together in a restaurant in Ochanomizu, we meet half way, she from Kawasaki and me from Yachiyo, she told me in detail her wonderful viewing of the Ten Commandments.

All of it was God's first ray



of light reaching down to touch, then pull her soul Godward. Today Junko loves Jesus!

S-T-O-P, L-O-O-K & L-I-S-T-E-N

The MOUNTAIN was ablaze with flames leaping upward and outward like arms grasping for the heavens. Smoke billowed from the mountain, as from a roaring furnace. The mountain, enveloped in black clouds and deep darkness, trembled violently. Tremendous claps of thunder broke the desert silence as the heavens blinked with streaks of lightening zigzagging across the sky. A trumpet blasted piercing notes growing louder and louder! Spellbound, there stood well over a million men, women and children. This was God. This was Mount Sinai.

Exodus records Moses, the most humble man on earth, going up and down the rugged mountain three times before his awesome God gave the Ten Commandments. For a man his age, this was not an easy feat! But, you see, God took special effort in preparing His people for His great instruction. Having traveled for three months, God's vast company of travelers were to S-T-O-P! And as frightening as it all was, everyone stopped for a L-O-O-K. What they saw was

evidence of God's presence at Sinai. They looked and saw their condition, as wanderers. To be sure, God had marvelously provided during the last three months, but let's remember this was a desert journey. There had been sand storms, dust, heat, sun and stifling dry air. They must have looked to notice how dirty, haggard, windblown they were. In such condition they were unfit for any meeting with this awesome God. Stop and consecrate the people, Moses, was God's command. So Moses did. Have the people wash their clothes and abstain from sexual relations, was God's command. So they did. It was on the THIRD DAY God spoke! Now, L-I-S-T-E-N,... and GOD spoke all these words.

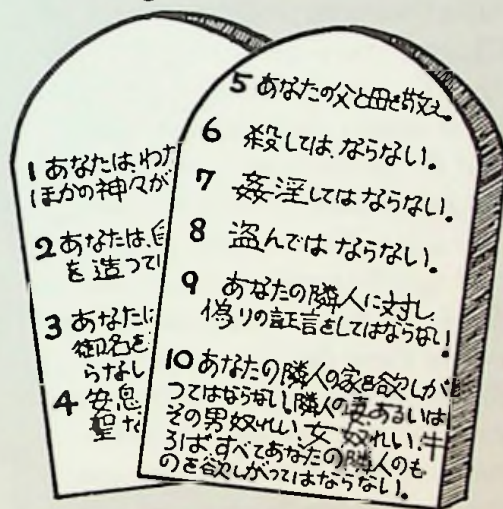
I have at times had the tendency to keep these Old Testament commands right where they are, hidden in Exodus and Deuteronomy. I have failed to keep them ever before me thus bringing me to repentance and change of action. These commands are as important today as they were the day they were given. Pause with me and STOP what you are doing. LOOK with me at God and at yourself. LISTEN again with me to the old commands.

The Ten Commandments

1. GOD WATCH ~~~ No other gods We are made for God and into each soul of ours nothing but the presence of God will satisfy Him or us! If He is not filling our souls, we are filling them with something else, be it something good or bad. God says, missionary / believer, the

word is NO other gods! Let us quickly repent of our other gods (II Chronicles 7:14).

2. PASSION WATCH ~~~ No idols Idols are real things, things we see, handle, buy and hold. In this age of things let us keep guard over our hearts love. And, let us teach this command faithfully to our brethren. God says no idols. Who shapes a god and casts an idol, which can profit him nothing? He and his kind will be put to shame, craftsmen are nothing but men. Let them all come together and take their



stand, they will be brought down to terror and infamy (Isaiah 44:10,11).

3. WORD WATCH ~~~ No misuse of My name.

To be sure, the Word speaks to our keeping our promises, furthermore, we are not to swear falsely (Matthew 5:33-37). Then, too, the careless use of God's name is to be avoided. Why is the precious name, Jesus, and the awesome name, God, used so excessively and without honor?

I have three returnees, one from Cairo and the other two from New Zealand, who come for

weekly lessons. During our very first class the little guys casually said, Oh, my God. Surprised was I, but quick to explain that we do not use God's name in such a way. Then my mind went way back years ago when a well known comedian said the same words on his nationally televised program. I felt shame at the thought I had failed to let him know that casual and careless use of God's name was an offense. These days it's like a cute thing to do. Shame on me. I, also, find that many of my Christian Japanese friends don't understand the meaning of this third Command. No misuse because Our God is an awesome God, He reigns in heaven above, with wisdom, power and love, our God is an awesome God.

4. STRENGTH WATCH ~~~ Rest! Isn't it great that God does what He asks us to do? He rested and so should we! Our human bodies are not made for constant high gear performance. God says remember to rest. Nature also benefits from rest. God gave specific instruction to His people. The LORD said to Moses on Mount Sinai...When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the Lord (Leviticus 25:1,2).

Rest is part of our inheritance (Hebrews 4, Psalm 16:8,9). Rest is ours at life's crossroads (Jeremiah 6:16). Our position and His provision bring rest (Psalm 91:1). Rest cushions burden & worry (Matthew 11:28,29). Rest is to be taken from work (Exodus

-continued on page 18

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20:8-11). Rest is promised to those who lead (Exodus 33:14). How blessed!

Think of all the ways Japan has changed since the coming of Christianity! Rest has certainly become a part!

5. ELDER WATCH ~~~ Giving honor Our parents, no matter their status or their effectiveness or ineffectiveness in bringing us up, must be given honor. Then turn it around to yourself. Some of you are still in the child rearing stage. Has this command come to your attention lately? Are your children showing you honor? Scripture is clear describing terrible times in the last days...people will be lovers of themselves...disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy... (II Timothy 3). Don't let your children be a part of that scene. And does not Japan need this message more than ever?

6. EMOTION WATCH ~~~ No murder We turn to Matthew 5 for the additional teaching point given by Jesus. We must watch anger toward our brothers and sisters in Christ. Jesus tells us how to settle our differences.

I teach new lady believers, one on one, trying to established them after baptism. Recently, my new believer expressed a problem with another person. She asked if she should try to solve the problem by approaching the individual. Yes, I enthusiastically agreed! It's Biblical! How often do we, I mean me, stew and brew when I know I should brace and face, in love, of course. Jesus tells us how to do it.

7. SEXUALITY WATCH ~~~

No adultery Need we mention what Jesus said? Matthew 5:27-30 is warning enough.

When my sons were still at home they used to throw up that good old phrase, Oh, mom, trust me! Well, the truth is, I wanted to, but knowing the total depravity of my own heart, how could I? Enough said!

8. HAND WATCH ~~~ No stealing Our honesty in our private world needs to be just as demanding as our public world. Are we robbing God, or any other?

9. TONGUE WATCH ~~~ No false testimony about anyone. Charles Spurgeon writes, "*Tale-bearing emits a threefold poison; for it injures the teller, the hearer, and the person concerning whom the tale is told...Noah's wise sons cast a mantle over their father, and he who exposed him earned a fearful curse. We may ourselves one of these dark days need forbearance and silence from our brethren, let us render it cheerfully to those who require it now. Be this our family rule, and our personal bond — SPEAK EVIL OF NO MAN*" (November 29th reading).

How lightly and casually we Christians tend to treat this basic command.

10. EYE WATCH ~~~ No coveting Jesus made it clear in the Sermon on the Mount that things of the heart are just as wicked as the act (Matthew 5:21-30) and in the same book chapter 15 verse 19 Jesus reminds us of what makes us unclean.

Plant pods were exploding, begging to be picked! Have you ever seen cotton fields? In the

Carolinas, in the United States where we return for home assignment, there are such, stretching as far as the eye can see. Big job, that picking! Our lives can be like that, too, can't they? So much to do, and limited time to do it. Brother James beckons us to holy writ! Turn to James 1:19-25 and 2:8-11. And I close these pages with a promise--

But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.



THE WAY TO A HAPPY NEW YEAR

To leave the old with a burst of song; To recall the right and forgive the wrong; To forget the things that bind you fast to the vain regrets of the year that's past; To have the strength to let go your hold of the not worth while of the days grown old; To dare go forth with a purpose true, To the unknown task of the year that's NEW; To help your brother along the road, To do his work and lift his load; To add your gift to the world's good cheer; Is to have and to give a Happy New Year. (author unknown)

J.P.H.

What Difference Does Your Worship Make?

By Gary Bauman

Maybe you've heard the story of the young boy who was having a hard time paying attention during the morning worship service. When his eyes caught sight of a large plaque with a long list of names on a side wall of the sanctuary, he asked his mother in a loud whisper, "Mom, what's that thing over there?" She quietly whispered back, "That's a plaque in memory of those who died in the service."* After a long pause, the little boy, wide-eyed and anxious, nudged his mother again and asked in a solemn tone of voice, "Mom, just tell me one thing—did they die in the morning or the evening service?" (story from *The Worship Maze* by Paul Basden, 1999, p. 15)

I like that story, because it reminds me of what worship leader Howie Stevenson used to say, "It's a sin to bore people in our worship services!" German author Christian Schwarz, in his book *Natural Church Development* asserts that inspiring worship is one of the eight essential characteristics of healthy churches.

If that is true, how does one actually achieve that kind of worship on a week to week basis in Japan? In fact, what exactly is "inspiring worship" in the Japanese context? And what bearing does worship style have in this whole discussion?

Traditional versus contemporary, formal versus informal, structured versus unstructured—this is a hot topic in churches around the world today. In some quarters the discussion has gotten so intense that Elmer Towns has written a book entitled *Putting an End to the Worship Wars*.

There is no simple answer. The one thing we can be sure of is that any search for the "one right way" to structure a corporate worship time is fruitless. The possibilities are just as varied as our congregations. However, there are "more right" and "less right" ways depending upon the people in attendance any given week.

One of the key goals of our public worship services (whether they consist of 5 people or 50) should be the facilitation of meaningful two-way conversations between God and His

people—conversations that result in positive life transformations during the following week. Do you have any practical examples of seeing inspiring worship take place in your Japanese church?

Drop me an email at:

gbauman@lifejapan.org

and perhaps others can benefit from your experience in a future article.

**Note - In many English-speaking countries, "died in the service" refers to having died while serving in the military.*

Gary Bauman was a minister of music and worship for eight years before coming to Japan as a missionary in 1988. He serves as a worship development consultant with LIFE Ministries.

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Japan Campus Crusade for Christ: On The Move

By Steve Clark

Christmas Jesus Video

As of December 14th, 1999 all 85000 Christmas "Jesus" videos were sold out. Praise God for a great response by the whole body of Christ in Japan! Churches or missions of nearly every denomination in Japan ordered some of these videos, showing a very broad interest in using the film, which is, of course, a dramatization of the Gospel of Luke.

We are eager to hear your stories of how God has worked using these Christmas videos - fax your story to us at 042-926-0895 (FAX)

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New Life Okinawa

During the last three weeks of January, 300 to 400 Korean students are expected to work with at least 21 different local churches for New Life Okinawa 2000. Together they plan many evangelistic events and saturation distribution of Jesus audio cassettes and special New Life Okinawa tracts. The group will offer free Jesus videos to interested non-Christians who respond by postcard.

The Okinawan pastors are looking for a major saturation of their island this January! Your prayers are very much appreciated.

Love Japan 2000 Projects

Campus Crusade for Christ is planning on up to 1000 other workers to come to Japan during the year 2000 for various short term projects, especially in Nagano, Chiba, Gunma, Ibaraki, Yamanashi, Niigata, Gifu and Tochigi prefectures. A 1-year-team has already been travelling in other West Japan prefectures doing distribution work and evangelistic meetings in local churches. That team began in September 1999 and has already distributed over 37,000 cassettes

in 4 prefectures.

JESUS Film Project Plans

As part of our Love Japan 2000 plans, we are going to produce the Japanese version of the Millenium Tribute to Jesus. This will be the same 84-minute version of the Jesus film as the recent Christmas version, but will include various tributes to Jesus from famous celebrities, politicians, religious leaders, sports figures, etc., (whether they are Christian or not). These will be spliced into the film to encourage people to watch the film.

This version should be available by next summer, at the usual price for Jesus videos. Also, the Jesus DVD is now available through the website, www.jesusfilm.org. It includes 8 languages, among them English, Japanese and Chinese, on the same disk.

For those who are involved in coverage distribution for evangelism during the year 2000 we are planning to provide box lots of Jesus audio cassettes and some other resources AT COST, to encourage all those working in this land towards a special evangelistic thrust for the year 2000.

For further information about these or other JCCC programs
contact their office at - 042-926-0868
e-mail japanccc@aol.com

JEMA



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Helping to Equip, Encourage and Enhance Women In Ministry in Japan

Spring 2000

Ladies' Retreat

Bouncing Back

When the Bottom Falls Out!

~ Studies in Ruth ~

Speaker - Dr. Jean Barsness



Dr. Barsness has extensive experience in missions as a single woman, as a wife and mother, as a young widow following her husband's martyrdom, as a college faculty member, and as a mission administrator.

We can all learn much from this godly woman as she shares from the book of Ruth and her own experience.

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For More Information:

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