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The missionary tidings

November, 1963

Featuring Japan



Photo by A/IC Van W. Chambers

The DeShazer family witnessing for Christ in an unevangelized village of Japan

by K. Lavern Snider
president of college and seminary



Seminary Faculty and 1963 graduates

Osaka Christian College and Theological Seminary



From Japan's four thousand senior high schools, over one million graduates are poured annually into Japanese society—200,000 into schools of higher learning or specialized training, 650,000 into regular employment and the remainder into other areas of Japanese life. Osaka Christian College and Theological Seminary, one of the five hundred government-recognized schools of college and university level, endeavors to

The Missionary Tidings

mold the students she receives for Christ and His gospel.

It is the plus factors of Osaka Christian College and Theological Seminary that make it so different from the majority of colleges and universities in this educationally front-line nation. For the most part the teachers are Christian, many of them ministers. The Bible is the central text in our curriculum, and the Christian philosophy of life provides the central core of life on our campus. Students preparing for the Christian ministry are constantly reminded of the fields whitened unto harvest in this land and in every land. Christians are enabled to grow in grace; those who previous to entrance knew very little or nothing about the gospel are introduced to Christ and urged to become His disciples. In its total program our school is designed to be a tool in the hand of God for effective evangelism in Japan.

Founded as a seminary in the early stages of the Japan Free Methodist Church (1903) by the Rev. T. Kawabe, the school was first opened in the Nipponbashi Free Methodist Church, and it returned to it for a brief period following World War II when the present campus was totally destroyed by fire bombs. Soon after the close of the war with the assistance of our church in North America, new buildings were rushed to completion, an enlarged staff was engaged, new



Newly-completed classroom building

courses were offered and the government granted a Junior College charter. With this standing we are able to offer extension courses beyond junior college level. Thus our total program includes the training of Christian ministers and church lay workers as well as kindergarten, elementary, and junior high school teachers. Besides teacher training certificates the school gives three academic degrees, namely: B.A., B.Th., and B.D. The present enrollment in all departments is 455, and the teaching staff (full and part-time) numbers over forty persons. (One hundred seventy-five children are enrolled in our campus kindergarten.)

Since its founding, our college and

Osaka Christian College faculty and 1963 Day School graduates



seminary has graduated about one hundred ministers of the gospel who are now serving in many denominations in Japan and in other parts of the world, has trained scores of young people for work in the church as lay preachers, youth leaders, Sunday-school teachers, and has graduated over 1000 kindergarten, elementary, and middle school teachers.

Seminary students do not begin their ministry upon graduation. Their ministry begins upon enrollment with the large number of college students who are non-Christian. In committees, chapels, and in private conversation, the seminary students seek to introduce Christ to their fellow students in the college. In the second and each succeeding year through the sixth, each seminary student is appointed as a student assistant to a church in the Osaka area. Special evangelistic campaigns on campus, in churches and new openings serve as a vital part of the "in training" program. Beginning with an extensive tour in the summer of this year, the seminary students will visit many Free Methodist churches as a part of the church's effort to see an increase in the number of candidates for the ministry.

Bible courses and related subjects, thrice weekly chapels, required church attendance, annual spiritual retreats off campus and evangelistic services, and weekly counseling classes—all are designed to assist the Christians to grow spiritually and to help those new to the way to decide for Christ. In a recent three-day evangelistic series, ten students confessed faith in Jesus Christ. Students come to our college from seventy different churches, representing about twenty denominations, so that the influence of our college extends into other branches of the Japan Christian community. One of our greatest challenges is to bring gospel light to the seventy percent of our student body which comes to us without any previous relation to the Christian church. As our school slogan words it, our prime goal focuses on the production of good students, good disciples of Christ, and good saints.

This nation is rapidly changing. Small one-story homes are being replaced by two-story dwellings and multi-story apartments; huge buildings for office and industry line avenues filled with vehicles. Japan knows no unemployment problem; indeed, the university graduate is now in the position where he can carefully choose his place of employment, and the employer is forced to compete for hands in the labor market. New distinctively Japanese religions are increasing in numbers and strength. Soka Gakkai, a religious-political movement is fanatically active in appealing to youth, the heart of the nation. Already this sect has gained fifteen seats in Japan's upper house of government and many seats in local municipal councils. It is into this rapidly developing and spiritually needy society that our graduates enter, as salt and light, to influence and to change.

Whether it be in the training of Christian ministers, Christian laymen, Christian teachers . . . our college and seminary is dedicated to the task of making Christ known in this nation and in the regions beyond.



A Christian Baptism—Superintendent Tsukamoto officiating, Pastor Hattori assisting.

Thirty-four Free Methodist ministers held their annual retreat at Shirakawa Inn in Kyoto from June 10 to 12. The beautiful surroundings were conducive to a time of spiritual blessing. There were refreshing seasons of prayer and fellowship as well as lectures and panel discussions. Each pastor and worker was inspired to strive to follow more closely the pattern of Jesus in both their lives and ministry.—M. Uezumi



Ministers' Retreat, 1963—Theme: "Jesus, our pattern"

Sakurai Church

Shortly after the close of World War II, Mrs. H. Okada came to Japan with her son, who was with the Fourth Army. They made their home at Sakurai. Mrs. Okada began Christian services in her home and soon had gathered together a small group which eventually became the nucleus for Sei-Ai (Holy Love) Church.

In 1952, the Rev. Kaneo Oda became the pastor, and Sakurai became a full-fledged church. This year the group was able to build a new church building to care for their rapidly increasing attendance. The present pastor, the Rev. Junichiro Takamatsu reports a membership of eighty-seven. About sixty attend the morning worship services on Sunday and 150 the Sunday school. However the real secret of success is the fact that every morning a group of thirty-five believers gather at the church for early morning prayer meetings.



Rev. Junichiro Takamatsu, pastor of Sakurai Church, stands in the doorway of the church with his family.



Bishop Takesaburo Uzaki

MEET FOR FELLOWSHIP TRAVEL TO SERVE

Japan's General Superintendent, Bishop Takesaburo Uzaki, and the Rev. Kaneo Oda were delegates to the Free Methodist World Fellowship conference held in Egypt. "How thankful we are, not only to attend the conference, but to visit Jerusalem and other places of Biblical and historic interest," writes Bishop Uzaki.

Since his return from the conference, Mr. Oda has shown his many slides and lectured on his trip thus inspiring the church as a whole to press forward in building the Free Methodist World Church.

Bishop Uzaki traveled extensively in Brazil and Paraguay, encouraging our Free Methodist workers and Christians, and traveled even into the mountainous, almost unreachable, areas with the gospel. It was a joy for him to see the growth of missionary work in those areas since it was begun more than forty years ago by Japanese pioneers.



Reverend
and Mrs.
Kaneo Oda

S. Iwase (treas.) K. Miura (v. pres.) T. Tomita (v. pres.) K. Hino (president) K. Matsuyama (sec.) S. Shinhamma (treas.)



Laymen's Association plays active role in Evangelism of Japan

by K. Matsuyama, secretary

One of the most active groups in the Japan church is the Laymen's Association which numbers about eight hundred members. Along with the Japan Conference and Mission group they have set up the following objectives for helping in the building of Free Methodist Churches in new areas and for the strengthening of the existing churches:

1. To purchase the land and build a church in a new area every third year. For this purpose they must raise at least \$6,000.

2. To support a pastor in each new area for a period of five years (approximately \$560 per pastor each year). At the end of a five-year period the church is expected to be self-supporting.

3. Staff members from the Laymen's group will visit each of the three districts some time during the year to present their program and to encourage and promote evangelism. This plan includes visits to more than twenty churches.

4. Beginning in December, two laymen will go twice monthly to Amagasaki (Japan Conference's evangelistic project)

to help the work there.

5. Within the next five years they hope to begin pioneer work in the following places: Amagasaki, Hammamatsu, Okayama, and the Osaka area.

6. Every spring sponsor a bus trip for fellowship and witnessing.

7. Hold a special meeting at New Year's to stir interest in Evangelism.

8. Hold a retreat in the autumn for prayer, Bible study, and Christian growth.

Membership in the Laymen's Association has grown over the past years from 480 members in 1957 to 800 in 1962. It is their hope to reach over the 1000 mark this year.

The laymen's giving has increased from \$694 in 1957 to \$1,161 in 1962. This money has been used in the following way:

Church Buildings—62%
Evangelism—15%
Education*—12%
Running Expense—6%
Office—5%

* Scholarships and other help for seminary students

Step by Step

by Norman Overland
missionary to Japan since 1952

"Step by step
He'll guide thee," was
the quotation added to
an already interesting and
newsy letter from a
Canadian friend of
many (writing) years."

We have never met him, but again and again these wonderful letters, birthday notes and promises have come from him.

The way had not been open for Ed to begin work in a new location, but now that it was, where should he begin?

In our Eastern district (now conference) there were Free Methodist Churches at Tokyo, then 140 miles east at Taira, and 100 miles still further at Sendai. Any place in the 240 miles between Sendai and Tokyo was wide open, as was the area beyond Sendai clear up to the tip of Honshu.

Brother Skudler travelled north and east of Taira, made inquiries of missionaries in the area concerning open doors and opportunities, and kept asking, "Lord, is this the way?"

Then one weekend God seemed to be saying, "Come ye apart . . ." Ed appointed a time, and he and I met at his little home and prayed together, "Which way, Lord?" No particular place seemed clear, but two directions were in our minds. We didn't seem to find our answer as we prayed together so we got a little farther "apart." We prayed separately with the understanding that we would come together and share with each other what we separately felt was the leading of the Lord.

No audible voice said "Go to Mito," but we were both encouraged when we compared notes, and each felt that the guidance given was in that direction. Mito is the capital of Ibaraki Ken and was then its largest city.

Helpers from the Osaka college were anticipated, but other points were calling also, and so Brother Skudler had to start the work alone. An over-night stop in a Hitachi suburb by chance? No, "step by step," put Ed in contact with a Seventh Day Adventist lady who knew some folks who had somewhere been in a holiness church of some kind. These were Mr. and Mrs. Wada who had been praying for years for a church in their town, and immediately they began to attend and support and give advice and assistance as the cottage meeting was begun.

Locating a church site is no indifferent

matter. City office charts and plans were studied. Hitachi was a city on the move. According to the blue prints, gutters, sewers, roads, residential areas were being planned extensively. Various areas were considered and dismissed. Then two sites became available, and both were within the financial range and seemed to have the appropriate size. When the choice was made, it was the one that "felt" good to every one involved. And now with the city developing beyond what anyone imagined at the time of the purchase, the corner location of the church one block from the national highway, affording excellent bus communication, and two blocks from the city's main street, seven minutes on foot from the rail station, is one of the best church locations the Free Methodist Church has in Japan.

When this city was chosen for an evangelistic outreach, it was not the largest city in the the prefecture. Now a city of 170,000, it has Japan's second largest money-earning company and has been chosen as one of two cities in the pre-

fecture that will be especially beautified in preparation for the coming Olympics. It is now Ibaraki Ken's largest city.

Six years after the church was begun, Christmas 1962 saw the completion of a lovely addition. This addition that cost more than the combined cost of the original building and land is being carried by the local congregation along with the pastor's salary and other expenses of the church.

This year's report to conference by pastor Hattori of a 40 percent increase in morning worship attendance is indicative of the many other advances this church is making. New folks are in the services nearly every week. The believers are inviting friends or acquaintances.

"Step by step"—to those who've labored through the years, they perhaps seemed slow steps and small.

But "step by step" the pledge God gave Brother Ed Skudler for Hitachi years ago, "I have much people in this city . . ." is coming to fulfillment.

Free Methodist missionaries and their families in Japan, June 1963



New Five Year Evangelism Program

In a recent survey of unreached areas in Japan we can read some very startling facts which should challenge every Christian.

by T. Takano

Evangelism Committee Chairman

The Rev. T. Takano, chairman of the Japan Conference Evangelism Committee, and his fellow workers have developed a new plan for evangelism and have set definite goals for which to strive during the next five years. These goals are in two specific areas:

1. **Expanding the present church.**—It is our hope to double the present church membership during the next five years, to encourage every member not only to attend church but to become an active worker for Christ within the church body. It is also hoped that within the next five years, every member will become a tither.

2. **Advancing evangelism in new areas.**—Realizing that it is our responsibility and joy to aid in the outreach of the gospel into new areas, the Japan Conference along with the Laymen's Association and the Mission seek to cooperate in planting a new church in a new area every three years. Our specific prayers and efforts for the year 1963 will be for our conference project at Amagasaki and for the work in Nagoya. We also plan to hold special tent meetings in the Osaka suburb of Mito with the thought of perhaps starting a work there in the future.



Japan's Youth Sponsor Evangelism Caravan

Beautiful Awaji Island where the Japan Free Methodist Church was born is to be the site again for the annual Youth Camp. For several days preceding the camp three youth teams, each composed of one pastor and three young people plan to tour the island passing out literature, holding children's meetings and street meetings, and giving forth the gospel message. As Jesus often min-

istered to the fisherman, so in a very real way these young disciples follow their theme "Jesus, Our Pattern" as they minister in the fishing villages of Awaji Island.

Youth camps are also being planned for the Northern Area and for some individual churches. Pray for these Spirit-filled young people—The Church of Tomorrow!



Mrs. Teikichi Kawabe

Mrs. Kinko Tsuchiyama (deceased)

Mrs. Seichi Hirotani

Select Ladies of Japan

by Pearl M. Reid

*missionary to China 1934-49;
Japan since 1950*

Mrs. Teikichi Kawabe was converted while in America in 1887 and immediately became a soul winner. On the Island of Awaji in Japan she helped to put a portion of Scripture in 40,000 homes. In order to continue spreading the good news about Jesus who came to seek and to save the lost of this world, she sewed and did some knitting at night. Once it was necessary for the Kawabes to sell some of their meager possessions to pay the bills.

Freely Mrs. Kawabe gave of her time, talent and strength. No sacrifice was too great and she had the joy of winning many precious souls for her Master. Now over ninety years of age, she sits in her son's home, praying and witnessing for Christ to many callers.



Mrs. Kinko Tsuchiyama left her position as an instructor in the Imperial household to become a Free Methodist pastor's wife. Graciousness and sincerity soon endeared her to many in Osaka. When I went to Japan in 1950 she was teaching the Japanese language to our missionaries and also was conference president of the woman's organization. Wisely and prayerfully she guided the group and was respected as a spiritual leader. With all her capabilities, she was humble enough to perform lowly tasks!

Later on as Dean of the girls in the dormitory at Osaka Christian College, she had opportunities to lead many to Christ.

Today, Christian kindergarten teachers in all parts of Japan date their conversion to a quiet session with this kind sympathetic witness of the Lord Jesus Christ. She suffered much at the close of her career but those of us who had the privilege of visiting her as life ebbed away knew that she was ready to enter into her reward.



Mrs. Hirotani is a good cook, a kind mother and an efficient pastor's wife. Under all kinds of situations she has also been a faithful witness for Christ. Her mother heart reaches out to the missionaries for whom she always has a good word and in many ways she has tried to smooth out the rough places in the path.

Now she is confined to a little room in her parsonage home upstairs above the church auditorium. Just before I left Japan, I visited with her and we had prayer together. She said, "now my work is to intercede." Her Bible lay beside her on the tatami (straw mat) floor. She will continue to instruct the children and young people in the Word of God.

Pray for this your sister who is laid aside but who still is a faithful witness for the true and the living God.

From Generation to Generation

by Jacob DeShazer

When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." (II Timothy 1:5)

Paul was able to see three generations of Christians from one family. Paul was used by God. He desired to see Timothy so that he might be filled with joy.

Recently in Nagoya we have seen a family receive the unfeigned faith of which Paul spoke. The mother and father came to a Christian service for the first time about fourteen years ago. The Reverend Kaneo Oda and I had been asked to speak at a hall in Nagoya. One of the newspapers of Nagoya, *Asahi Shimbun*, sponsored the service. It was seven years after I had flown over Nagoya and dropped bombs.

On the front page of the morning newspaper was a picture of our airplane flying over the gas tank that was bombed. My signature was on each picture. I had signed my name the day before on the picture that was used to make the print.

Now with Mr. Oda's kindly interpretation of my gospel message and the Holy Spirit doing his mysterious work of grace, Mr. and Mrs. Takeya made a decision to receive Christ as their Saviour. It was not long after this that their oldest boy was born. Last spring it was twenty-one years after the bombing raid. Toshiro Takeya was fourteen years of age.

The Takeya family opened their home and we have held many services in their house. When Rev. V. R. Dunckel held special services in Nagoya last winter the oldest boy, Toshiro Takeya, accepted Jesus as Saviour. Recently my heart was flooded with joy when this clean, beautiful, fourteen-year old boy gave himself to Jesus and hoped to become a minister of the gospel of Christ.

This seems to me to be the answer to this atomic Age. There is no "other name under heaven" or any other way, truth or life. Born-again mothers and fathers and born-again children was the answer in Paul's time and is the answer today.

■ ■ ■

Evangelism

by Florence DeShazer

The amazing fact is, that after one hundred years of Protestant mission work sixty percent of Japan's cities, towns, and villages are still without a church, or even a Christian worker. A breakdown reveals that of the total 1,090 villages, 992 of them have absolutely no witness. Of the 1,898 towns, only 759 have any kind of witness in them. Even though many of the 555 cities are only partially covered, there are still twenty-four without any witness of any kind. (*Japan Harvest*, 1960)

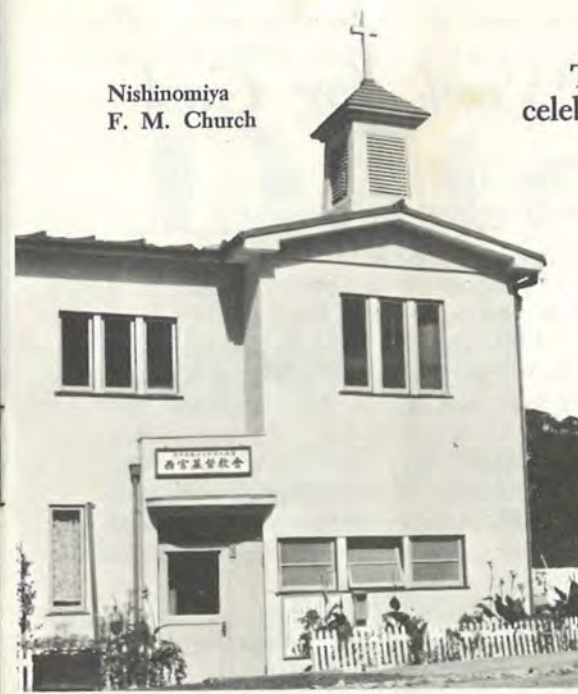
It was to one of these unreached villages that we went to take the gospel and to invite the people to attend services at our church (about fifteen minutes away by bus). Jacob, with the use of the public

address system gave his testimony of conversion in a Japanese prison camp. Though only a few stop to listen to the message, it reaches into every home in the little farming village.

While Florence tells the story of "The Prodigal Son" by means of Japanese Kami-Shibaie (Flash Pictures), Jacob witnesses to an old grandmother, and the children pass out tracts on which is written the way of salvation and the address of our church as well as the time of the different services. Japanese young people sometimes assist us in bringing the message in song.

Won't you help too, by praying that the seed sown in these unreached areas will reach hungry hearts?

Nishinomiya
F. M. Church



This year two of our Japanese churches celebrated their fifth birthdays.

by Florence DeShazer
missionary to Japan since 1948

church. The Rev. Norman Overland served as pastor of the church for three years and was instrumental in getting some used lumber from an army camp which greatly aided in the building of a beautiful little church.

Japanese pastors Iwamoto and the present pastor Shosuke Tsukamoto have both capably worked to see the church group outgrow the building built five years ago. At the five-year memorial service held recently, eighty-five people attended. A spirit of sacrificial giving and cooperation among the believers was evident. Mr. Overland spoke on "Rebuilding the Wall," and colored slides of the complete history of the church were shown.

Nishinomiya Church boasts the only church-owned automobile. This greatly aids the pastor and workers as they reach out into the surrounding areas to make Christ known.

Nishinomiya Church began as a Bible class in 1950. The Rev. and Mrs. Jake DeShazer held the class in a former dance hall in the upstairs of the building where they lived. Twenty-two young people were converted and some of them became the nucleus of the present



Shimizu Central Free Methodist Church was also built five years ago. It was started as a preaching point by Mr. Kaneda aided by missionaries DeShazer, Overland, and others. Mr. Oda and teams of students from Osaka Christian Col-

lege also helped in evangelistic services. The present pastor, Mr. Tanaka, is active not only in ministering to those who attend church, but he participates also in youth activities and city-sponsored services.

Shimizu Free Methodist Church Five-year anniversary



Japanese WMS Work for God

by Sadie Oda

Japan Conference WMS president

At this year's Annual Conference the Japan Fujin-Kai (W.M.S.) adopted the following plans for the year:

1. We want to continue to give a yen-a-day (about $\frac{1}{3}$ cent), this money to be used to aid seminary students and for other worthy projects.

2. We want to make every member a visiting member to increase our membership and acquaint our neighbors with the church and the Lord Jesus.

3. We want to aid in the building of churches in new areas. Money for this purpose to be raised by selling old newspapers, cans, bottles, etc.

Highlights of this year include a farewell meeting for Miss Pearl Reid on June 7. Fifty-four attended this meeting at which time a progress report of the last six years was given. Mrs. Shimada and Mrs. Oda were speakers at a convention on August 24. The topic was "The Homemaker's Responsibility." On October 10, members of the W.M.S. plan to visit the seminary department of Osaka Christian College to get better acquainted with the students and to encourage those who are preparing to go out as Free Methodist pastors. ■ ■ ■

Japan Conference WMS holds farewell meeting for furloughing missionary Pearl Reid



SUCCESSFUL TENT MEETING AT AMAGASAKI

We rejoice in the successes of the Amagasaki Summer Tent Meeting. Amagasaki is an industrial city adjacent to Osaka with a population of a half a million people and with only one Free Methodist church—as yet only an evangelistic hall. In the seven-day crusade in which several ministers and a large number of laymen participated, sixty-seven new persons attended the meetings; twenty-three persons expressed a real interest in the

Christian way; four persons found Christ as Saviour; twelve persons have come to one or more meetings at the evangelistic hall where regular meetings are held since the tent meeting closed.

The band of Christian believers at Amagasaki and the entire Free Methodist Church (for this is a church-sponsored evangelistic project) are praying for the Lord to give land for a church building and money to purchase the same.