

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Mr. Nishiyama is already in heaven, but please pray for his family members who are carrying on his work to evangelize their neighborhoods.
2. Please pray that many will continue to be saved through the work of Rev. Caballes and for the provision of a motorcycle.
3. One of our key office workers, Mrs. Takemori, was successfully treated for stomach cancer in 2002. Recently, she was again diagnosed with the early stages of cancer in a different part of her body. Due to early detection, the doctor says that the treatment is likely to be successful. Please pray for her treatment and recovery.
4. Please pray for wisdom and protection for David and Sue Verwey, as they take many meetings in the UK during May and June.
5. Please pray for the provision of well-qualified teachers who have a heart to see souls saved.

JAPANORAMA - A GOD FOR EVERY OCCASION

The Japanese say they have 8 million gods and goddesses. Some of the gods are for toothache, catching fish, longevity, old age, prosperity, beauty, fertility and good vision. They have special gods for every walk of life: fishermen, metal workers, wrestlers, prostitutes, landlords, musicians, weavers and artisans. They also have many gods for places: the kitchen, the toilet, highways, footpaths, mountains, rice fields and hot springs. Special rituals are performed to drive away the god of poverty. Devout believers turn to the god of death at the moment of their demise.

One lady we lead to the Lord in hospital said that she tried to worship a different God every day for twenty years, in order to make sure she worshipped the real God at least once in her life time! Her search was over when she found the Creator of the universe! Please pray for true conversions among those who sincerely seek to find the true "God of all gods."

THE GOD OF ALL GODS

As long as Hideki could remember, his mother had taught him to pray to as many gods as possible. The Nishiyama family was very religious, and twice a day Hideki had to join them as they knelt before the god-shelf in their home to burn incense and pay homage to the ancestral spirits.

His mother also took him to nearby temples and taught him to respect all deities and clap his hands in reverence! As a teenager, engulfed in the somber atmosphere of the temples, he often sneaked a look at other worshippers to see if they were as sincere as his mother.

At school he was bombarded with religion. Every morning the students gathered in a hall and bowed in deep reverence in the direction of Tokyo where the Emperor, who was believed to be 'the god of all gods', lived.

When the war broke out, Hideki's mother assured him that he needed the help of the gods more than ever! She introduced him to *futsu-nushi-no-kami*, the god of war, who was said to protect anything from harm - even a cup from breaking! To make extra sure, she bought him an expensive *omamori*, a good-luck charm, to wear for protection on the battlefield.

Many of his friends, faithful bearers of the *omamori*, were killed. He was tempted to throw his away because he saw that it brought no protection against bullets. Gradually, Hideki became very skeptical and would have nothing to do with any religion.



Hideki Nishiyama

When the war came to an end, the Nishiyamas lived in abject poverty. To make ends meet, during the night Hideki's wife made rice dumplings. Their oldest son, Hideharu, had to get up early and sell them to passersby before he went to school. Hideki was shocked when he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. He was in the depths of despair and was soon a patient in a far-off infirmary.

The boredom in Habikino Sanatorium made Hideki feel like he was going crazy! One day on his way to a bookstall, he passed a hall where patients were singing. He wondered how they could sing under such miserable circumstances! Utterly bored and curious to find out more, he slipped into the meeting and sat at the back of the hall. Little did he realize that this would be the turning point of his life.

Hideki was convinced that truth could not be found in any god or religion. With entirely the wrong motive, he obtained a New Testament. He read it daily, with the firm intention of convincing his fellow patients that the message of the Bible was senseless.

As he made headway in the New Testament, the Spirit of God was at work. One day, in July 1959, he was struck by the words of John 15:5,

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Suddenly, by divine revelation, Hideki realized that this was not a religion but a union with Christ! He needed to be joined to Christ as a branch is inseparably part of the vine. Without such a relationship he could not be one with Christ, just like the vine and its branches. The understanding of this truth brought him to a turning-point in his life. He had found the true God of all gods!

From that day on Hideki became a fruit-bearing Christian and in his passion for Christ, he could not keep quiet, but talked to patients, nurses and doctors alike of his new-found faith. He regarded the thousand-bed-hospital as his mission field, and went from room to room to witness and distribute literature.

The Christian group in the hospital, 'The Holy Heart Society' very soon chose Hideki as their leader, and under his leadership quite a number of patients found Christ and strived to live according to their name and motto!

(Please be sure to read the next bulletin for the thrilling account of how Hideki led his entire family to the Lord, and how many others also found the true God of all gods).□

STAFF UPDATE - REV. CABALLES

Japan Mission has sponsored Rev. Caballes for the past 25 years. He has been doing hospital evangelism in the southern part of the Philippines near Butan city.

He has recently had numerous opportunities to minister to many of the unlearned tribes people in the area. Many are very poor and living conditions are harsh. In a recent letter Rev. Caballes talks of Hanalyn, who was struck with tuberculosis. She responded to the Gospel and dedicated her life to the Lord. Francis was sick and witchcraft could not help him. He found the Lord in hospital and is now serving Him in a local church.

Rev. Caballes says, "We find that hospital work is very fruitful. There are two government hospitals and three private hospitals in our area. We visit many patients and share the Gospel with them. We would appreciate your prayers for the provision of a motorcycle as we carry on this work."

Working in this area has been quite difficult at times. There is a strong Muslim presence here and there have been times where Rev. Caballes has faced persecution and feared for the safety of his family. Thank you for your faithful prayers and support!



Rev Caballes