

during the devastating M9.0 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster that devastated northeast Japan on March 11, 2011.

Bill became an associate member of Japan Mission in 1995, as the JM continued to sponsor him when he started to work with the New Life League. They were involved in the printing and distribution of millions of Bibles to China and many other countries.

The stories coming back of things happening in China inspired Bill to no end. He learned that, although the greatest need for Bibles was in China, the most difficult country at that time was Vietnam. There were reports of one place in Vietnam where five churches had one Bible! They would hold a service, and then someone would get on a bicycle to take the Bible to the next village, so that they could have their service. In that way, the five churches shared one Bible. With this desperate need in mind, Bill bought a one-way ticket to Vietnam in 1998 to help supply Bibles to these deprived Christians.

The Lord then opened the door for Bill to base his operations in Thailand. From there, he was able to take Bibles into Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. He led many teams, over the years, on some very dangerous missions to deliver loads of Bibles into that region.

Bill recently turned 80 and is now living in Chang Mai, Thailand. He is still very active and involved in Bible distribution, preaching and working with orphans. **Pray** for his protection and health. **Pray** that the Lord would give Bill enough wisdom and strength to bring glory to His name each day.



Bill Cook

BIBLES FOR CHINA

Japan Mission continues to be involved in various projects to print and distribute Bibles throughout Japan, China and many other countries. Recent reports indicate that China continues to experience revival. Some say that up to 10 million Chinese are being saved each year! There continues to be a great shortage and desperate need for Bibles. The Bible provides a powerful solution to ignorance and false teaching. **Pray** that God would continue to provide the necessary resources to help us meet this vital need, which brings truth, salvation and hope to so many. **Pray** for the Bible couriers and believers who risk their lives as they transport and distribute the Word of God.

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GOD'S FIGHTER PILOT

After Bill Cook joined Japan Mission in 1982, he went shopping for an oven. The manager of the store quickly befriended him. She was impressed that Bill was a former fighter pilot for the US Air Force and introduced him to a number of her friends. Bill said, "The phone was ringing daily with calls from her friends.

That is how Bill met Yasuhiko (Yasu) Hirota. He was very much into airplanes, and had been to the USA to get his pilot's license. When he heard that there was a former US Air Force pilot living in the area, he was eager to visit and talk about airplanes."



Miyuki & Yasuhiko (Yasu) Hirota

Yasu was the eldest son of a wealthy company CEO. His father had come from Taiwan as a teenager before the war. After the war, his father started making toys out of discarded Coke cans and built it up to a large company, which made electronics for Sharp. Yasu was spoiled and born with a silver spoon in his mouth. From his youth, he was lacking in discipline and had no shortage of money.

Yasu started to go regularly to Bill's house to talk about flying, so Bill invited him to church. Spending time with Yasu turned out to be quite draining because he was a night owl. He would often sleep during the day and be awake at night. Every Sunday evening, he would go over to Bill's house after church and talk for hours.

One night, Bill left church without Yasu and dashed home. He turned off all the lights and went to bed. About half an hour later, there was a knock on his door. Bill came out in his pajamas. Yasu said he wanted to come in, but Bill said, "Sorry, I am in bed." Yasu looked at him with great disappointment.

The next week he didn't come and Bill was convicted. He repented and prayed, "Lord I don't care if I sit up all night. Please send him back." The Lord heard that prayer and Yasu was back the next week, and they sat up most of that night.

Yasu was interested in airplanes, but Bill's interest was to lead him to Christ. As they talked, Yasu revealed an interest in various religious beliefs and soon took an interest in Christianity. After a number of months, he gave his heart to the Lord.

It was about this time that Yasu brought Miyuki to Bill's house. She was also friends with the store manager and in search of a reliable fortune-teller. This manager had previously suffered from a bad experience with a fortune-teller and told Miyuki that Bill Cook was the best fortune-teller she knew.

When Miyuki came, Bill asked her, "What do you want?" She replied, "I want someone to give me advice about what road to take in life." Bill told her, "You have come to the right place. I know the best One to guide you!" He then explained to her about sin, judgment and the provision Jesus made for man through His shed blood on the cross.

She was on her way to New York to run a Japanese restaurant for six months, so he told her to come see

him every day before she left. Bill planned to lead Miyuki to the Lord the next day.

When he asked her if she was ready to accept Jesus, she said that she had already done so. "When?" asked Bill. "Last night, I did all that you told me to do." "Did any change take place?" Bill asked. "I don't know, but my heart feels much lighter," she answered. As he spoke to her, he realized that she had truly received Jesus into her heart.

Miyuki then went to New York as planned. Yasu had a great burden for her and wrote her quite often. He frequently traveled to the USA for work. On one such trip, when he finished with his business, he was torn between returning or visiting Miyuki. His heart won out, and he cancelled his flight back to Japan to see Miyuki for a few days.

The airline ticket he cancelled was for the famous Korean Airline flight that was shot down by Russia, off the coast of Japan on Sept 1, 1983, killing all passengers! Yasu flew safely back to Japan a week later, with a fresh realization that God had an important purpose for his life.

When Miyuki finished her contract in New York, she returned to Japan and eventually married Yasu. His father had warned him, "If you marry that girl, I will cut you out of this family!" His father was a frightening man that terrified everyone, including Miyuki. He did not want his son to marry an ordinary girl like her, but Miyuki was determined to honor and obey Jesus and be a good wife.

Shortly after they were married, Yasu's mother was diagnosed with cancer. They were able to lead his

mother to the Lord on her death bed. She had a clear and joyous testimony of how the Lord had saved her and given her a new hope.

Miyuki's mother was an ardent idolater. She and her eldest son would often go early in the morning to the mountains to worship idols. When Yasu's mother died, Miyuki's mother had to travel quite a distance to attend the funeral. That was the first time she had met with her daughter since she was married.

After the funeral, Miyuki learned that her mother had given her heart to the Lord. Miyuki often wrote to her mother, and it was through these letters that she was able to convey enough about Jesus to help her receive Him into her heart. Her mother had never been to church or met a Christian, but she had given her life to Jesus, stopped worshiping idols and was reading her Bible regularly!

One of their greatest triumphs was when Yasu's fearsome father yielded his heart to the Lord. He was a tough business man, but years later the situation had changed when Yasu and Miyuki were involved in caring for him, as his health was failing. He was extremely hard-headed and very resistant to the Gospel, but found himself being led along like a little lamb by his daughter-in-law, as she took good care of him.

Their father was eventually hospitalized and he realized that he was dying. One day, one of the nurses asked Miyuki, "Does your father practice religion?" When Miyuki asked why, the nurse replied, "Your father refuses to eat any food until he prays to Jesus." This was the first indication that his heart had changed.

Shortly after, some relatives heard that he was on his death bed and brought some idols from Taiwan. He threw them out, saying that he would only worship Jesus.

It was a tremendous occasion when they laid his body to rest, knowing that they had seen both Yasu's father and mother safely off to heaven!

Both Yasu and Miyuki are now in their 70s. Miyuki is showing the same loving care for Yasu as she did for his father; and Yasu is a loving and faithful provider. Together, they have proven the grace of God, as they have overcome so many struggles.

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 15:57).

Pray for Yasu and Miyuki as they continue to seek to influence their extended family and those they come in contact with for Christ.

Pray for protection, wisdom and strength. □

(Contributor - Bill Cook)

STAFF UPDATE - BILL COOK

Bill Cook joined Japan Mission as a full-time missionary from the USA in 1982. He was involved in many aspects of the ministry including evangelism, counseling and church-planting. Bill has always been available to serve the Lord, wherever the need may arise. He was involved in providing disaster relief to the victims of the Great Hanshin Earthquake of 1995, and then again