

## STUDENT & INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OUTREACH

For many years, Japan Mission has sponsored teachers and provided Board Members to two Christian schools -- Kansai Christian School (KCS) and Kyoto International University Academy (KIUA). Opportunities to influence the students and the surrounding community for Christ are numerous. Both schools have a true burden to reach the lost for the Lord.

We were truly encouraged to see how the Lord changed the hearts of Henry, Keiko and Joshua Nelson. Their entire family was changed as a result of coming into contact with teachers sponsored by JM and the surrounding missionary community at KCS.

**Pray** that David Verwey and Renata Rossouw would have wisdom as they serve as Board Members. **Pray** for the provision of dedicated and well-qualified personnel.

### STAFF UPDATE - MARIE HONEYMAN

Marie-Louise Honeyman joined Japan Mission from Cape Town, South Africa in January 2014 to work as an English Evangelism Teacher.

Marie recently shared the following: "I am so glad to serve the Lord in Japan. I especially enjoy teaching the children. Before leaving class, they often come to me for their 'weekly hug'. In Japan, it is not customary for children to receive a lot of physical affection from their parents, so it is important that they know they are loved when they come to English class at a Christian church.



**Marie Honeyman**

"I share the love of Jesus with my students by showing an interest in their daily lives. One student recently mentioned that his relationship with his son was somewhat strained and that they did not communicate much. I told him that Jesus could repair any broken relationship and shared, Matthew 19:26 – **With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.**

A while later, this same student had laparoscopic surgery. When I asked him how he was recovering, he replied -- **With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.** I was encouraged that he had taken this Bible verse to heart and that it had been a comfort to him!

**Pray** for this man's salvation and that the Holy Spirit would help me to have true love and patience for those I come in contact with."

### INFORMATION & INQUIRIES

Website: [www.japanmission.org](http://www.japanmission.org)  
E-mail: [jm@japanmission.org](mailto:jm@japanmission.org)

#### JAPAN

Japan Mission  
7-40 Monzen Cho  
Ikoma, Nara, 630-0266  
Tel: +(81) 743-73-1754  
Fax: +(81) 743-73-1681

#### AUSTRALIA

For Gifts:  
Payable to: 'Japan Mission'  
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## A QUIET VOICE

One day, 10-year-old Keiko was on an errand for her mother when she asked a question into the dark night: "Why God, was I born into such a miserable family? What is the purpose for my existence?" She heard a quiet and gentle voice reply, "Your future will be good." For a brief moment, she had hope for the future.



**Keiko Nelson**

Keiko lived in the small town of Kikuma on Shikoku Island. Her father owned a bar and grill restaurant. He was a first rate chef before WWII, but the war destroyed his spirit. When he returned, the once clever and fun-loving man no longer spoke to customers. "He must have closed his heart to happiness," Keiko thought.

Over the next ten years, intestinal problems from heavy drinking kept Keiko's father in and out of hospital for as long as six months at a time before he died. He was unkind and resentful towards her mother, as it became necessary for her to take over his business to make ends meet. Keiko watched her mother struggle to keep the business afloat to pay the hospital bills. Her childhood was miserable and hopeless.

She decided early in life that she would never depend on anyone or suffer financially. Becoming a successful career woman became her ambition. Keiko knew that she would have to work at the family restaurant if she could not get into a public high school, because they could not afford private school. Through sheer determination, she passed the difficult entrance exams. She excelled at mathematics, but soon lost her sense of purpose and became a delinquent and almost failed her classes.

Keiko then came across a magazine article about how to change one's lifestyle and she decided right then-and-there to change. "Getting out of the habit of self-pity and rebellion was tough, but I decided to stop meeting with

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my bad friends. I simply refused to open the door. The next six months were difficult, but I was finally able to break the cycle.”

After she graduated, Keiko felt sorry for her mother and took on the task of reviving the bar and grill restaurant. With a bank loan, the two worked very hard and were able to repay the loan in 5 years; but Keiko felt that it resulted in her becoming a slave to a vicious cycle of work with no real future benefit.

Her new dream was to attend college in the USA to study Business, so she started to save money and studied English every night between midnight and 2 am. She was finally accepted by a junior college in California at age 25.

After graduating, she took an exciting job in Tokyo as a Study Abroad Consultant. Being determined to be successful, she also started to study at a university. Even though she worked part-time, she was an honor roll student.

Keiko married Henry Nelson at age 33. She met him while at junior college in California and they courted for seven years. When Henry moved to Okayama in Japan, they decided to have a wedding ceremony at a Zen Temple. Henry was a practicing student of Buddhism and at the time it suited Keiko because she felt it helped to calm her restless spirit.

Soon after, their son Joshua was born and Henry accepted a teaching position at Kinki University in Nara. The Study Abroad Company in

Tokyo offered Keiko a position in nearby Osaka.

Even with all of these advantages, Keiko experienced a new longing in her heart. She had a thirst for love, peace and truth. “I wanted to raise my son with some kind of truth that was not simply based on my own values and experiences. Even though I had a good job, a wonderful home-life with a kind husband -- I still yearned for something else.”

“One day I was looking at Mount Ikoma from my living room as I pondered my family life. I was overcome by a deep desire to love my family and have peace in my heart. I then realized that I needed to seek truth rather than pursue a successful career. From that day, I sensed that something changed. I started to seek God.” **And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart** (Jer. 29:13, NIV).

“I heard a quiet voice whispering, ‘I love you’ repeatedly. God began to deliver me from the darkness that filled my heart. When we decided to put Joshua in Kansai Christian School (KCS), we also became involved with the missionary community.”

Tom Poole, sponsored by Japan Mission, was Principal of KCS at the time. His wife Barbara led a weekly Bible study where Keiko learned how she could have a relationship with Jesus, who died for her sins because of His profound love. The Poole family greatly influenced the Nelson family, as they often had dinner together. Keiko and Barbara

spent precious times walking and exercising together around Mount Ikoma. “It was a golden time for me,” Keiko reflected.

“I became aware of God through the missionaries who served selflessly and prayed for others. I wanted to pray in this sincere manner. Henry started to attend church, so I also went along. My old and selfish ways often bothered me, and then I heard a gentle voice say, ‘Surrender’. Little-by-little, my heart softened and the Lord changed my heart.”

“I was particularly drawn to the story of the Prodigal Son, who lived a self-centered life and tried to control his own destiny. In the same way, I knew that God was watching over me in all my difficulties. I could cry out, ‘Help me!’ and I was aware that He heard and answered my cry. I confessed my pride and I cried to God, ‘I have nothing and am nobody without you!’”

When Keiko was 10 years old, she sensed God’s presence and would pray to Him, but did not accept Jesus as Savior until many years later. “In the summer of 2006, we -- Henry,

Joshua and I were baptized. My heart overflowed with gratitude and joy. Ever since I surrendered my life to the Lord, I felt at peace. My favorite verse has been: **Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your path** (Prov. 3:5-6, NIV).

Keiko became involved at KCS and later served as PTA president. Joshua graduated from KCS and is presently studying Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary in the USA. Keiko is busy with many things that God sends her way, including a weaving group for the physically disabled.

She recently volunteered to translate **The Lame Take the Prey**, which is a daily devotional book written by the late Peggy Verwey. Many have been inspired by reading the English version of this book, which is full of testimonies and spiritual insights. **Pray** for Keiko as she translates this book into Japanese -- that many would be blessed by reading this book.

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## God’s Footprint In The Media by Neil Verwey

Neil Verwey had a passion to be a blessing to people. He saw a Scriptural application in many things he came across in life. You can read Neil’s new daily devotional book online, free of charge at the following webpage:

<http://www.japanmission.org/books/>

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## ENGLISH EVANGELISM CAMP

Japan Mission plans to hold a two-day camp in the countryside for English students on Oct. 12 - 13. This will give our workers an opportunity to cultivate friendships and share the Gospel with many. **Pray** that the students would be moved to respond as testimonies are shared and a Gospel message is given. **Pray** also for the Lord’s protection and wisdom for the workers.