

JAPAN MISSION

Called to Serve

GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION

Yoriko Tamai was born in December 1953 in a small town near Osaka. She and her older sister grew up in a home that was staunchly Buddhist. Her first contact with Christianity was when she attended Sunday School and was enrolled in a local Christian kindergarten.

"My story of how I came to know God through studying English started over 50 years ago when I knocked on the door of some kind missionaries," Yoriko recently shared.

I went all the way to the next town to join a High School English class and this missionary couple kindly welcomed me into their home, which also served as a church. I still remember their friendly smiles. I was enamoured of the ornaments, pictures, furniture and even the fragrance of their home. I remember being so nervous as I sank into their deep sofa, because I could not speak any English.



Yoriko Tamai

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It took me about 20 minutes by bicycle to get to their home, and on rainy days it took about 40 minutes on foot. I continued to attend this English class without fail for three years and started to read the Bible. I did not attend their church, but remember going to their Christmas meetings.

The home-made cakes and cookies with coffee and cookies were so delicious. Sometimes we learned how to bake cakes and make sweets. I thoroughly enjoyed the time I spent in their home.

They encouraged me not to be shy, but to freely speak English – even if I made mistakes. I enjoyed it so much that I decided to study English at university to become proficient enough to go overseas.

When I was 22 years old, this couple finished their term as missionaries and returned to the USA.

Every time I read Matthew 7:7-8, I reflect on how these kind missionaries welcomed me into their home and showered me with God's love: **Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For every one who asks receives; and he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks it shall be opened.**

As a university student, I remember being required to read the Bible in one of my classes because it was an assigned textbook. I now realize that the professor must have been a Christian and that God used him in this way to teach me more about Himself.

I later moved to Osaka and forgot about my dreams of living overseas. Before I knew it, I was married and a busy home-maker with a 6-year-old son and a 3-year-old daughter.

It was about this time that the missionary couple I had previously known, wrote to me from the USA to let me know of a nearby church where I could study English.

I took my children and attended an English class at this church. I found it refreshing to once again speak English at this church. I found it refreshing to once again speak English and make friends with a foreigner. Many teachers came to teach at this church over the years. One teacher made a special impression on me was Ginnie. She was our English teacher from 1986 to 1991. In her last year, she found out that she had cancer and was hospitalized.

The pastor, members of the church and English students took turns to visit Ginnie in the hospital. I visited her every Friday afternoon. It was during one

of these visits that she spoke to me about Jesus and I promised her that I would do what I could to see her in heaven. She then passed away a short while later.

After making that promise, I started to seriously think about becoming a Christian. It was just at that time that my neighbour, who was one of my best friends, also started to think about becoming a Christian.

We both decided to attend a Bible study at the church. As I studied the Bible, I reflected on my life and began to realize that I was a sinner and needed God's forgiveness. Pastor Sakurai soon led us both to the Lord.

Pastor Sakurai later led both my mother and father to the Lord as well. My 84-year-old mother received the Lord while in hospital. My father could no longer speak, but he could hear. He also accepted Jesus while in hospital. I now look forward to also being reunited with them when I go to heaven!

My sister, niece and a number of my friends have also become Christians. My husband and two children are open to Christianity, but do not know the Lord. **Please pray** that they will become intensely aware of their need for the Saviour.

As I reflect on my past, I can say with certainty that dedicated English teachers, who sacrificed their lives for the sake of missions in Japan, have made a deep impact on my life. Seeing their love in action helped to convince me of the existence of God and His love for me.

Japan Mission has been sending English teachers to our church since 1997. These teachers have been from the USA, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Northern Ireland, India and the Philippines. The friendships I developed with these teachers have been very special. The one thing that they all had in common was a true dedication to share God's love and the Gospel with the students. I learned so much about the Christian walk from these teachers.

English classes present a wonderful opportunity to help students become aware of their need for a Saviour – as in my case. The messages from the Bible, shared by these teachers, have been well-received and have touched the lives of many."

Pray for Yoriko as she now works closely with the pastor and English teacher to help others who attend the English classes at her church to come to know Jesus.

THE MISSION'S OUTREACH - "PRAY FOR US"

- Bibles and Literature
- Audio-Visual Outreach
- Student Outreach
- Hospital Evangelism
- English Evangelism
- Outreach to the Elderly
- Evangelistic Meetings & Counseling

OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION to friends who have made bank deposits and notified us, and especially also to those friends whose donations we were unable to acknowledge. We endeavour to acknowledge all donations where possible, but often the information on the bank statements is insufficient.

- Please notify us if you did not receive an acknowledgement and also if your address has changed.

It will be a great help if the NAME as well as the TELEPHONE NUMBER is clearly written on the Bank Deposit slip or Debit order or Internet Transfer.

- We gratefully acknowledge the following deposits and transfers for which unfortunately insufficient information appears on our bank statements:

STANDARD BANK:- 27/8/2018, 31/8, 3/9, 7/9, 17/9, 20/9, 21/9, 1/10, 3/10, 10/10, 16/10, 20/10, 22/10.

ABSA BANK:- 26/8, 28/8 Bibles, 1/9, 2/9 NLM, 3/9, 5/9 Santyger, 5/9, 8/9, 13/9, 13/9 Tzaneen, 14/9 Still bay, 17/9, 18/9, 19/9, 24/9, 26/9, 28/9 Bibles, 1/10, 2/10 NLM, 8/10, 15/10, 16/10, 18/10, 25/10 Jeffreys bay, 25/10, 26/10, 26/10 Durbanville, 27/10, 29/10/2018 Bibles.

- Cheques can be made payable to JAPAN MISSION and crossed. It is however not safe to send cash by post. A deposit can be made directly into the Mission's banking account at any branch of the STANDARD BANK or ABSA BANK, or a debit order may be used.

MANY THANKS once again dear friends. May God bless you.

Name of account: JAPAN MISSION

STANDARD BANK, Acc No 010 333 126, Branch No 014-845

ABSA BANK, Acc No 090 161 334, Branch No 334-645

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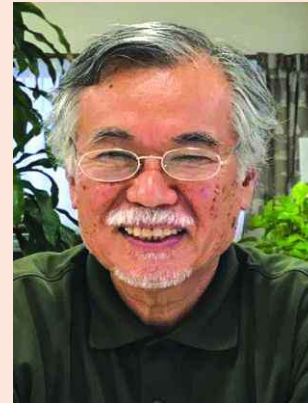
MINISTRY UPDATE - PASTOR SAKURAI

Takayasu Sakurai was the pastor who led Yoriko to the Lord. He was saved in 1971 through the ministry of a Hospital Evangelist who worked with Japan Mission. After his release from hospital, the Lord led Takayasu to join Japan Mission, attend Bible School and became a Hospital Evangelist.

Years later, the Lord opened the door for Takayasu to become a minister. Japan Mission continues to work closely with Pastor Sakurai to reach the people in his community – by sending an English teacher to his church each week. Every English class ends with a word of testimony or a Bible Time.

Japan Mission recently made a promotional video for his church – so that more people in his community could learn about the work they are doing.

Pray for Pastor Sakurai and the team of workers involved in his ministry. **Pray** that many in their community will come to the church and learn about our precious Saviour.



Pastor Sakurai

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Christmas is a special time of the year when Japanese people are particularly open to Christianity. Japan Mission workers become very busy with evangelistic meetings, concerts and parties. Workers will be involved in over 100 such gatherings to help churches reach those in their community to learn about the **true** meaning of Christmas. **Pray** that the Lord will transform the hearts of many.

- Japan Mission recently held a two-day English Camp in the mountains. Many of the campers had never attended church or heard the Gospel.

Evangelists shared from the Word and friendships were cultivated. **Pray** for the seeds that were sown in their hearts.

STAFF UPDATE - LINDIE KLEINHANS

Lindie Kleinhans is from South Africa and joined Japan Mission in September 2018. She now travels to many churches to teach English and reach out to her students.

"As I made friends with my students, I have found that many of them do not believe in God," Lindie shared. "Some say that they want to see Him before they believe. **Please pray** that God will reveal Himself to them. **Please pray** also for me as I teach English – that God's light and love will shine through me."



Lindie Kleinhans

SPECIAL THANKS

We want to thank each person who has faithfully prayed and supported the work of Japan Mission during 2018. You have played an important role in helping us further the Lord's work. We praise the Lord for the many seeds that have been sown, the changed lives and His faithful provision. Thank you for the way you continue to partner with us as we reach out to the lost.

- **May you experience the presence of the Living Christ and His blessing and protection throughout the year ahead. As a token of our sincere appreciation it is a privilege to send you a calendar for 2019.**

If any alteration should be made to your address on the envelope in which you have received this letter, kindly let us know.