

THE GLORY OF GOD

It was in July 25, 2004 when the doorbell rang at the crack of dawn! Neil and Peggy Verwey’s three grandchildren, Jesse, Alex and Chris, were standing at their door. “We are on our way to a youth camp,” they said. “Could you please pray for us?” “How good it was to pray with them that the glory of God would shine through their lives!” Neil shared.

Most mornings, David and Sue’s three children would *fly* down a steep mountain road to school on their bicycles, trying to beat each other. When Alex was 12, he was racing around the curves at *breakneck* speed when he lost control and slid under an on-coming car head first! The car stopped just as he slid under it. His helmet was so tightly wedged under the car that he first had to unfasten it before he could crawl out! Miraculously, Alex only sustained some scrapes and bruises! **“For he shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways”** (Psalm 91:11).

The driver’s wife, Mrs. Tanaka and their daughter arrived with a large gift in

*Alex & Eri Verwey*

Representatives in Japan: DAVID & SUE VERWEY

7-40 MONZEN CHO P O BOX 30106
 IKOMA CITY, NARA KEN WONDERBOOMPOORT 0033
 630-0266, JAPAN Tel: (012)377-1533
 Tel: 0081-743731754 083 719 0227
 Fax: 0081-743731681 Fax: (012)377-1533
 www.japanmission.org sa@japanmission.org
 www.facebook.com/japanmission.jm/

If you desire to receive reports and prayer requests from Japan by E-mail, contact jm@japanmission.org

hand to express their sincere apologies. This would be unthinkable in the West, considering that the incident was entirely Alex’s fault! After exchanging gifts and apologies, they eagerly listened as we shared about the hope that we had in our Creator God and invited them to church.

The Lord taught Alex and his brothers that life was not just about beating each other to school at all costs, but rather about being a witness to others and glorifying God.

At 16 years of age, Alex and his brothers were cutting grass when a bee stung him. He started to sweat profusely and felt so dizzy that he had to lie down.

We rushed with him to a nearby hospital and he fainted as we entered the door! His system was shutting down as he went into shock, due to a serious allergic reaction.

He floated in and out of consciousness for the next hour as they monitored his progress and administered various intravenous drugs. The doctor later told us that he could have died if he had arrived at the hospital any later!

“This is not your time to die,” Alex sensed the Lord saying to him. “I still have work for you to do on this Earth.”

The Lord allowed events to transpire in such a way that Alex became more aware than ever before that the primary purpose of his life was to glorify God.

When Alex was 18, Tom Poole, his high school principal, unexpectedly passed away. He helplessly stood by as CPR was being administered. This was traumatic and a shock to many.

At the funeral, the theme of the message given by Neil was that **God sometimes allows such unfathomable things to happen so that He may be glorified.**

The Lord clearly showed Alex that the only way he could make sense of this tragic event was to believe that “God’s ways were higher,” and that Tom’s death happened *for the glory of God.*

One day, shortly after Alex graduated from high school, while helping with the work at Japan Mission, he was taking apart and cleaning an air conditioner. It was very hot and the work was quite dirty.

As Neil walked by, he asked on the spur of the moment, “Alex, what is the purpose of your life?” Without skipping a beat Alex answered, “To glorify God!”

The Lord continued to use various events in Alex’s life to reinforce this truth in his mind. While studying at university he related the following. “Three months ago, I noticed an elderly couple in a restaurant. They stood out because when they went to refill their drinks, they started to pant to such an extent that it seemed as if they were going to faint! Seeing this, I thought that they were very near death and needed to hear about God’s love.

To my shame, I began to think of excuses for not approaching them. I thought of the loads of homework I had to do. Also, what would they say if a young boy started to preach to them about Christianity?

So, I ignored God’s voice, but after they walked out of the door, I felt convinced! I felt that God would hold me responsible for the eternal damnation of this couple!

From that day on, for three months I prayed every day that God would have mercy on them and me, and He certainly answered my prayers!

Today, three months later, I met the very same couple at the train station near my university! I immediately talked to them and gave them a Fountain of Joy gospel tract.

When I told them that I had been praying for them for three months, they were all smiles and said “Ureshi!” (“We are so glad!”)

I am so thankful that my God is the God of second chances! Hallelujah!” Alex shared.

We live in a time when people are intensely independent and selfish. If we are not careful, we can easily be swept away by the temptation to live life in such a way that it only brings glory to ourselves.

“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31).

THE NEXT GENERATION

After being married in July 2008, Alex and Eri went to the USA to further their education. Upon their return, Eri started to work part-time with Japan Mission, while Alex worked for a shipping company in Osaka.

When their first child, William, was born in July 2012, Neil’s heart was filled with joy as he became a great-grandfather for the first time. Alex and Eri were a great encouragement to him as he suffered from cancer and passed away during August 2013.

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:- 21/11/2019, 30/11, 2/12, 3/12, 17/12, 18/12, 20/12, 21/12, 24/12, 31/12, 2/1/2020, 3/1, 13/1 South East Asia, 14/1, 16/1, 20/1, 21/1, 28/1, 30/1, 31/1.

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

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JAPAN MISSION, P O BOX 30106, WONDERBOOMPOORT, 0033
Tel/Fax (012)377-1533 E-mail: sa@japanmission.org

(Art 21) Reg No 2006 /019264 /08

Neil often prayed for the third and fourth generation, "Lord please ensure that there will always be a generation of Verweys doing missionary work in Japan!" The same month that Neil was promoted to glory, the Lord answered this prayer by guiding Alex and Eri to join Japan Mission as full-time workers.

Alex has a true desire to carry on in his grandfather's footsteps. David and Sue now work together with Alex and his wife Eri, who are part of a younger generation of missionaries that are full of enthusiasm and new ideas.

Their heart's desire is to continue the work that was started by Neil and Peggy - to see souls saved!



The 4 generations - Dawid, Neil, Alex & Will Verwey

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

The motto of Japan Mission is "Called to Serve." We have been called to serve the Japanese in various ways, so that some may be saved.

Alex Verwey is committed to sharing the Gospel and doing whatever he can to help people come one step closer to putting their trust in the Lord. He has played a vital role in spearheading the Café and Kids Club ministries, which have reached many who have never attended church.

Alex also has a burden to help the struggling churches of Japan become spiritually-thriving centers of hope. He has helped to provide such churches with workers and resources, which has served to build up and empower them, so that they can grow as the body of Christ and reach the unsaved.

As the Lord provided dedicated English teachers, Alex has been coordinating the English Evangelism

Program to help churches reach their communities with the Gospel. About 300 students now frequent these churches and hear a Bible talk each week.

As we assessed the needs of the Japanese church, we have found that they are in great need of assistance with social media and the development of media content, which would help them to be more effective in reaching out beyond their communities. Alex has coordinated the efforts of a talented team to develop such content and create new websites.

There are very few churches in rural Japan. As Christian workers have shared their vision to establish churches in such areas, Alex has mobilized teams of workers and volunteers to help with this church planting effort. Such efforts have included holding evangelistic events, distributing tracts, developing advertizing, creating media content and launching websites.

Whenever natural disasters struck, Alex led many teams to affected areas to help with the disaster relief efforts. Tracts have been distributed and media content was created to raise awareness and mobilize Christian volunteers. As a result many unbelievers have found a connection with their local church for the first time.

As we carry on this work, we are encouraged to know that many Christians have been called to partner with us. Their faithful prayers and support have continued to help us make a difference in the lives of many.

Pray that the Lord will continue to clearly lead, and give us wisdom and discernment as we are presented with many opportunities to serve – so that some may be saved (1 Cor. 9:22).

After a two month visit to the Cape areas, David and Sue arrived safely back in Japan. The Lord blessed them as they drove 8,000 km and took about 60 meetings and personal visits. They were greatly encouraged by many who assured them of their prayers and gave generously towards the work. Thank you for your faithful prayers!

The Lord willing, **David and Sue plan to return to SA during October and November 2020** to visit parts of the Free State, Gauteng, Limpopo, Natal and the northern Cape. **Please contact our office if you would like to schedule a meeting or a personal visit.**