



A FATHER TO THE FATHERLESS

Makiko was born in Osaka in August 1968. She was raised in a Christian home and remembers going to church with her parents at an early age.



Makiko Tanaka

"When I was four, my father passed away,"

she shared. "My mother worked very hard to support our family and I felt as though the burden of taking care of my younger brother and sister fell on me.

As I grew older, I remember my mother telling us not to worry because God in heaven was our Father, and that He would provide for all our needs. This was a comfort to me when I felt lonely.

I did not feel that I could talk to my mother about everything, because she was working so hard. I didn't want to burden her, so I found myself turning to God in prayer.

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When I was a teenager, my mother was very busy and quite strict. This left me feeling a lot of pressure to be a good kid and help my mother, but I found myself getting frustrated as I tried to do these things in my own strength.

Around this time, I became good friends with my Sunday School teacher. She modelled Christ and taught me about the rewards of being totally dependent on the Creator God.

At age 14, the cross of Jesus became a stark reality to me. I felt deeply convicted, as I came to realize how much He suffered to bear my many sins.

I then became more earnest about reading my Bible and started to develop a personal relationship with the Lord.

I realized that God loved and accepted me just the way I was and I was filled with a sense of peace and joy.

I was encouraged by Galatians 2:20, ***I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.***

It gave me comfort to know that God now lived within me and will give me the strength to do the right thing. I no longer worried about letting my mother down.

As I entered high school, my mother wanted me to study, but I wanted to play with my friends and listen to music. I became quite frustrated because she would insist that I get good grades and study, but I just wanted to have a good time like most of my friends.

At first, I resisted the idea of attending college, but then I realized that God was clearly leading me there. As I started my studies, I noticed that there were very few Christians, so my friend and I started a Bible Study at the college. Many students were saved and blessed as a result. God taught me through this experience that if I was obedient to Him, He could use me to do greater things.

After graduating from college, I started working for a bank. Two years later, I attended a Bible camp and felt that the Lord was calling me to become a full-time Christian worker.

God later confirmed this call a number of times, so I left the bank after 4 years of work and entered Bible School.

While attending Bible School, I was assigned to a church as a Christian worker. I was in my second year of Bible School when I met my husband at this church.

He was a Christian business man at the time. As our friendship grew, the Lord moved in his heart to become a minister, so he started to attend Bible School."

Read the next issue to learn of how the Lord saved Makiko's husband and how He led them to partner together to reach many for the Lord, as He blessed them with four children in their marriage!

PART-TIME WORKER

Makiko is currently a part-time worker of Japan Mission, who helps us a few days a week with many projects that impact our community with the Gospel.

Makiko's husband, Rev. Tanaka, is the minister of a local church. Makiko, with her Bible School training, has been a great help in this church ministry. Over the past 5 years, a missionary from Japan Mission has been going weekly to their church to hold English Evangelism classes, in order to help them reach those in their surrounding community for the Lord. Makiko is always on hand to welcome students of all ages and share a word of Scripture or a testimony with them.

It was during May 2019 that Japan Mission was in search of a part-time worker. The Lord led Makiko to apply for the job and she has been a wonderful help ever since.

Makiko's Japan Mission responsibilities include office work, the literature ministry and help with the English Evangelism program by

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:- 7/6, 2/7, 10/7, 31/7, 1/9, 6/9, 5/10/2021.

ABSA BANK:- 2/6/2021 NLM, 4/6 Strand, 4/6, 14/6 Tygervallei, 28/6 Bibles, 29/6, 2/7 NLM, 5/7 Helderberg, 14/7 Bibles for China, 28/7 Bibles, 1/8, 2/8 NLM, 5/8 Lyttelton, 5/8 Strand, 1/9 New Market, 1/10, 2/10 NLM, 4/10, 12/10, 16/10 North Ridge, 21/10 Jeffreysbaai, 28/10 Bibles.

- A deposit can be made directly into the Mission's banking account at any branch of 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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giving the Bible lessons to the parents and children who attend Kids Club. Many have been blessed through her Bible talks and the Lord continues to use Makiko to help us make wonderful connections in the community.

It was during August, when four members of Japan Mission came down with COVID-19 and needed to self-isolate, that Makiko came to the mission with her children to get about 500 boxes and packets of tracts ready to mail out. We were so grateful for her sacrifice and dedication!

Pray for wisdom and strength for Makiko as she continues to help with many aspects of the work at Japan Mission. **Pray** also for blessing and protection for both Rev. Tanaka and Makiko, as they seek to minister to the Christians and reach the unsaved in their community.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Most of us have been personally affected by the pandemic. We at Japan Mission have received news of dear friends and faithful supporters who have gone to be with the Lord. A number of our missionaries have received news that close friends and family members have suddenly passed on.

Our hearts go out to each of you as we are sure that you have also been affected by the pandemic. It is reassuring to know that God is in control and He will always be by our side when we face difficulties in life. **God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear** (Psalm 46:1-2). He promises to strengthen and uphold us during trying times. **So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand** (Isaiah 41:10). It is wonderful to know that the Lord will sustain us in the face of adversity.

The work of Japan Mission was also affected by the pandemic. Four Japan Mission workers

contracted COVID-19 during August and needed to self-isolate. Although activities slowly resumed in September, the planned camp activities had to be cancelled -- since the region was still under a state of emergency.

As case numbers decreased and more people were vaccinated in October, Japan lifted the state of emergency in all prefectures. Most of our activities have now resumed and we are able to reach out to the communities with the Gospel in various ways again.

Our missionaries have once again been able to travel throughout the region to reach the unsaved English students who frequent the local churches. We have again been able to go the schools, hospitals and retirement homes to share God's love. The Lord also continues to bless the literature ministry, as many Bibles are being distributed and about 20 000 evangelistic tracts continue to be published and distributed each month.

Pray that the Lord would continue to bless and protect as we seek to reach the lost for Christ.

SPECIAL THANKS

We want to thank each person who faithfully prayed and supported the work of Japan Mission during 2021. You have played an important role in helping us further the Lord's work. We praise the Lord for the many seeds 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. We have been greatly encouraged!

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 2022.

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