

OUR TESTIMONY CONCERNING JAPAN:

March 1951

The Lord willing, we will leave for Japan late this summer; many ask why we are going, and we take this means to briefly testify of the call which God gave us twenty years ago; praying that some reader will take courage, and also follow the Lord wheresoever He might lead:

It was in 1930 that one night while in prayer, the Lord visited us with an overwhelming burden for souls; and as we prayed showed to us by vision the heart hunger of the Japanese people for forgiveness from sin. Space does not permit the detail of this vision, but so deeply were we impressed, that we thought in ourselves to go at once to Japan. However the Lord restrained us, and showed us the need for experience and a knowledge of His Word before going; for we can do nothing in ourselves.

In the years that have followed that call, the Lord has worked many miracles in our lives, to show to us His Love and Power. He has led us so faithfully and patiently by His Spirit, and has healed us so many times when death seemed certain. Bless His Name! In 1932 our son Donald was born - this was a happy event in our lives, for the physicians had said we could not have children; again in 1941 the Lord gave us a child, this time our daughter Ruth Naomi. We feel that in their youth they can do much in Japan, that we will not be able to do.

From 1933 - 36 we attended Bethel Temple Bible School in Seattle, and graduated; in 1937 we again prepared to go to Japan, but the passports were refused because of the Chino--Japanese War. Our hearts were nearly broken, but God was leading - so we started out to prove the Word of God in the homeland; from Washington east to Iowa, then south to Texas and back - we held simple gospel meetings, learning the life of faith. We saw the great hunger of men for the truth, and had the joy of feeding their souls. These years were priceless - and no matter what the trial, Jesus was ever present to help according to His word:

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:19,20.

In the years immediately following the call to Japan, we found great joy working among the Japanese in the home-land; learning to love them. For seven years we had a Sunday School for Japanese children, and the seed sown in their hearts is still bearing fruit - all of them are grown and married now. In 1946 we went to Alaska for two years, and added more experience under different circumstance -returning home hoping to soon be sent to the land of our calling; our health was far from good, and in these intervening years we have had the sweet privilege once again of hearing the Word of God in the Bible School at Bethel Temple, and we feel refreshed in the Lord this hour. A few months ago we felt it was time to "Get ready to go"; you may be sure after waiting so long, it seems nearly too good to be true, but it is true. The passports, permits, certificates etc etc. are in the mill, as it were, and all seems to be going smoothly thus far. WE COVET YOUR SINCERE PRAYERS, that the Word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified.

At this time, before starting out to hold meetings, we are trying to bring our mailing list up to date, also adding the names and addresses of new friends, who would like to hear from Japan from time to time. Will you send or give us your name and address, if you are interested.

Sincerely -
The Askew family
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