

From the Editor

This issue Elaine Kitamura shares a struggle yet wonderful opportunity God has given her and her pastor-husband Shuichi, since they moved to a 'discriminated' area. The full article is on our website (www.wec-japan.org) and an edited version here. As always, thank you for your prayers which mix with our labour, enabling us together to see seeds of God's grace among the Japanese.

Henrietta Cozens

News and Prayer Points

Our field leaders have returned from a two month sabbatical in New Zealand, where they also met with many past Kiwi missionaries to Japan. Ron and Yoshimi Caseley return from New Zealand to Japan early October.

This week we've held a churches youth camp. Praise God for these young people, and pray they'd remain firmly in Him.

The Kitamuras intend to advertise Yokota Sakie's Christian TV interviews on Sept 19th and 26th. In their conservative area where it takes courage to publicly show an interest in Christianity, we pray that people will make the decision to watch in the relative privacy of their homes.

Nick Mason is now a full member of WEC Japan. He has recently been given the chance to reopen contact with the English club at Kyoto Pharmacy University. Please pray for chances to share the good news with them.

Reaching the Discriminated



"My parents have forced me to break our engagement. What can I do?" This, with tears from the young lady sitting in front of Shuichi. Beside her was a fine young man whom Shuichi had taught in high school. What was the problem? He had been born in one of the discriminated areas.

This discrimination started 1500 years ago, but was enforced by the Samurai rules 400 years ago. Then, 'higher' society wanted meat and leather goods. As killing animals was frowned on by Buddhism, and blood was ceremonially unclean in Shinto, certain villages were commanded to do this unacceptable work. These were then considered unfit to mix with others socially. In the "special" area here in Kinomoto it is possible see those who struggle with the chip on their shoulder that this history has burdened them with. But on the other hand, most rise above it. With the couple mentioned above, Shuichi spoke to the young lady of the fine qualities in the young man, and encouraged them both not to give way to her parents' prejudice. The marriage went ahead. Today they have a happy family of four growing boys.

The above is the background to something we want to share with

you. Five years ago when the Lord so amazingly guided us to this house/church, we were aware that it was situated right on the border of the "special" area. The down-payment had been made and the day came for Shuichi to sign the deed of purchase. Right there in the agent's office, he felt that he should check on the situation of the house, and rang one of the neighbours. Then he learnt that although the address itself was outside, historical tradition placed it inside the "special" area! Suddenly he was faced with a momentous decision. Should he go ahead or withdraw? How would evangelism be affected? Would all our non-Christian contacts, English class members, and so on continue to associate with us there? Two Scriptures came into Shuichi's mind. "Moses chose to be mistreated along with the people of God"; and "Jesus had to pass through Samaria" (identifying with the discriminated).

Now we are here, expecting that God will fulfil His purposes. Children outside this area have stopped coming to the Christmas activities. But, adult events are better attended, and our previous neighbours been more friendly than ever. We have been greeted with warm words from total strangers.

It is our prayer that God will show us how to reach hearts here, and that somehow we can be a small catalyst towards social harmony and goodwill through the gospel. Please join us in prayer for these things.

Elaine Kitamura