



Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

"....the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

THE SILVER LINING

A LIGHT for BELIEVERS

The Apostolic Christian Church In Japan

By Bro. Leon Graf, submitted by Elder Bro. Rudolph Graf

God had put into the heart of Bro. Willis Ehnle the conviction that the Gospel of Jesus Christ should be shared with other peoples . . . "For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). If it is really the power of God unto salvation, then Bro. Willis reasoned that it is worth telling to everyone. Likewise, the Gospel and its work should logically take the preeminence over everything else, including marriage, vocation and pleasure.

Bro. Willis was in Alabama teaching Bible classes in homes in the evenings when the Korean War began in June, 1950. He was called into the United States Army and was sent to Tokyo, Japan, where he worked at St. Luke's Hospital, which was then a U.S. Army hospital.

He was soon moved to distribute Gospels to the Japanese getting off and on the trains. He had a sign made, about 1 meter in height and 80 centimeters wide, which read, "Christ gives Peace in your Heart". This sign was taken to Shinjuku Station in Tokyo, where the people were very eager to receive a Gospel, as there was comparatively little reading material in Japan in these days.

One day a young man came up to him on the platform and said, "I want to help you work for God." He spoke in English, as Willis could not speak Japanese. This young man helped, and invited Willis to visit his home in Ichinomiya, Yamanashi-Ken, where his parents lived. The invitation was accepted, and thus started the Sunday School meetings in rural Japan in Yamanashi. This young man's name is Toshiaki Asakawa, and his mother is a member of our church, although she now lives in Chiba-Ken with Toshiaki and his family.

One day while unloading wounded U.S. soldiers at the hospital, Bro. Willis noticed that the Japanese guard at the entrance to the hospital was very friendly, so after work was finished, Willis stopped to visit him. This young man spoke English fairly well, and Wil-

lis told him that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for our sins, that He arose again, and that His disciples last saw Him ascending into the clouds and into the heavens. This young man replied, "I don't believe it". Bro. Willis told him it makes no difference whether he believes it or not, it is true. This young man was Hajime Utsuki, who helped a great deal during the first years in Japan.

After two years in Japan, Willis returned to the States, during which time Sis. Lois Beer and he were married. He was accepted as a student at the International Christian University at Mitaka, so Lois and Willis went to Japan on a student visa in April 1954, with Willis going to school under the GI Bill of Rights. The U.S. Government paid \$135 per month (48,600 yen a year) to help cover costs. Tuition at school was only about 40,000 yen a year, so they managed to live on that and did receive some free-will offerings from the States. Willis kept up a close and friendly correspondence with Bro. Schrock, and tried to follow his instructions.

The Utsuki family helped them a great deal in those early years. When Willis and Lois came to Japan in April, 1954, they lived for a few weeks near the Utsuki home, and then purchased their own home in Chofushi for 300,000 yen (about \$833). One day when Willis came home from studying Japanese at ICU, he saw that Lois had hired a carpenter to put up some bookshelves, and felt like he was living in a palace.

Every other Sunday, they had church services in their home, and every other Sunday would travel in their automobile to Yamanashi-Ken, camping in the mountains near Hajikano on Saturday night, and having Sunday School in various homes on Sunday. There were about 200 children attending the Sunday Schools.

Sometimes they stayed overnight at the Saegusa home in Shioda. On the Sundays in Tokyo, they went to an orphanage at Akabane and had Sunday School for the orphans. They also took gifts for the children, especially at Christmas.

In August, 1955, Elder Bros. Schrock and David Mangold visited Japan. It was then that Bro. Willis was asked to be a minister, the first office he had ever held in our church. During their visit, Bros. Schrock and Mangold held special meetings at an elementary school in Yamanashi-Ken. Their interpreter was Miss Enomoto of Eiwa Gakuen in Kofu.

The brothers who had come from America to visit Japan were very impressed with all the children in the Sunday Schools, and decided to help purchase land and build a church at Shioda, Ichinomiya-Cho, Yamanashi-Ken. Takeshita, in whom the brothers had much confidence, assisted in finding and purchasing the land. Akira Utsuki assisted in supervising the construction of the church and a small house. The church was dedicated in July, 1956, with Yamamura translating the message into Japanese as Bro. Willis spoke in English. The message was on a farmer sowing seed, some of which landed on the rocks and some of which landed on good soil and produced fruit.

The superintendent of schools for Ichinomiya attended the dedication service and spoke a few words. He said the hospital across the street was for mending the body and the church was for mending the soul. Takeshita then spoke a few words and told the audience they should be forgiving if things were not done properly in the Japanese sense, that there was some American influence involved.

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741

Editor: Henry Souder Jr.

Published Monthly By the Apostolic Christian Church of America

Counselors: Theo. Beer, Loren Stoller, David Bertsch.

News Correspondent: Ed Souder

Send correspondence to The Silver Lining, Grabill, Ind. 46741

Second class postage paid at Grabill, Indiana 46741

Amount per year, \$2.00.

Send zip No. with address. Remember to send change of address.