

July 2018



Dear Friends:

I've just returned from Japan, where during the month of May, we had 161 evangelistic meetings all across the country! This was a first for Japan, and God blessed far beyond our expectations. In a country where less than one percent of the population is Christian, God is doing something remarkable to awaken this island nation to the knowledge of His soon return.

Adventist World Radio prepared the way for the meetings with radio broadcasts focusing on health and Bible teachings and invited people to attend one of the evangelistic events in their city.

I had the privilege of preaching one of those series in Okinawa, and I was reminded that evangelism not only changes people's lives and revitalizes the churches participating, but it changes the preacher's life as well! What a privilege to be able to share God's end-time message with these precious people!

"Something is happening in Japan," I heard our Japanese brethren say over and over again. "People are coming, searching for truth, and God's Spirit is leading them!"

Let me share with you just a few of the amazing stories that show how God is blessing AWR and the work in Japan, leading people—often in miraculous ways—to the knowledge of His truth.

PASTOR OBARA'S STORY

Last year I shared with you the experience of 50 Japanese pastors who went with us to Mindoro, Philippines, to preach their first-ever evangelistic series. Mindoro was to be their "practice ground" in preparation for this year's event in Japan. I shared with you how the pastors were transformed by the experience, and excited at the prospect of holding an evangelistic series in their home country of Japan.

One of those pastors was Nosumu Obara, who is now conference president in Tokyo.

He told us that preaching in Mindoro was the first time he had ever preached an evangelistic series. We were very surprised, but then he added something astounding, "Actually, I have never attended an evangelistic series before except when I was 13 years old."

He then shared his father's conversion story. When his father was a young man, he left his family's farming



Kathy and I enjoyed meeting Pastor and Mrs. Obara and listening to his amazing story.

community and went to Tokyo in search of excitement and a better life. He spent his whole first paycheck on alcohol and soon became a hardened drunk and heavy smoker.

Not surprisingly, soon after, when he was just 25 years old, he became very ill from drinking and had to be hospitalized. Long days followed in the hospital, and to pass the time he listened to the radio. One day, while surfing the stations, he heard strange music. It was very different from the music he was used to, so he stopped to listen. It was Adventist World Radio, and the presenter spoke about the evils of alcohol and tobacco. Right then and there, Obara's father decided to quit both bad habits, and from that day forward, never smoked or drank again!

He enjoyed the radio presentations so much that he continued listening to AWR even after he was discharged from the hospital. Then he heard an announcement for an evangelistic meeting in a local church, and even though he wasn't sure what that was all about, he decided to attend. He heard things he had never heard before, and when he was confronted with the Sabbath truth, he didn't hesitate and quit his job rather than work on God's day. His faith was soon rewarded, and he found a job at an Adventist hospital, where he worked for many years until his death. Over the years, he led more than 30 patients to Christ, and inspired his son to become a pastor.

Pastor Obara said, "I wouldn't be preaching here today, and I wouldn't be conference president if not for Adventist World Radio." When I saw him in Tokyo this past May, he said, "Duane, now I'm going to preach my second evangelistic series in my own home country of Japan."

And he did! By God's grace he presented our full prophetic message, touching many hearts for Jesus.

STEPHEN AND AYA

Before going to Japan, I spoke with Mark Fox, our AWR360° Broadcast to Baptism YouTuber Partner. He shared with me a recent story about a former Marine in Japan who was watching his YouTube broadcast. I asked him, "Where in Japan?" He wasn't sure but promised to send me a picture of him with the pastor in front of the church.

When I saw the picture, I was amazed because that was the Okinawa International Church where I was going to be holding evangelistic meetings in just two weeks!

The very first night of my meetings, I met Stephen. He was busy helping with preparations for opening night. I said, "Stephen, I know you because you've been watching my friend Mark Fox on YouTube."

He was surprised and said, "I love that man. His sermons have changed my life. I've given up alcohol, cigarettes and I've become a vegetarian, and now I want to be baptized!"

I later learned that Stephen had become a heavy drinker trying to drown out the horrific memories of serving in Afghanistan as a Marine frontline combatant. He had actually been forced to leave the Marines because of his heavy drinking problem. But now, thanks to our partner Mark Fox and his AWR YouTube sermons, Stephen has found a friend in Jesus who has given him the strength to deal with the terrible memories of the war. He actually told me that he would never touch another gun for the rest of his life.

Stephen attended my series in Okinawa along with his Japanese wife, Aya. He had some knowledge of the Christian Adventist message, but for Aya, who had a Buddhist background, it was all new to her.

At the end of the series I had the privilege of baptizing Stephen, and he hugged and hugged me with tears in his eyes. This is what AWR360° Broadcast to Baptism is all about!

The night before Stephen was baptized, we met at the front of the church with all of those who had made their decision to follow Jesus in baptism. Aya was standing by Stephen, and my wife Kathy felt impressed to put her arm around her and ask if she would like to be baptized. Aya said with tears in her eyes, “I’m not quite ready.”

Please keep Aya in your prayers. I know God’s Spirit is working on her heart.

BRANDON

Brandon is currently a Marine in Okinawa, and he also attended my series. After Stephen’s baptism, I made a call for those present to accept Jesus and be baptized. I continued to call for some time, and the last one to come forward was Brandon. He later told me, “I’m so glad you didn’t stop appealing because God spoke to me saying, “Go forward!”

He then shared with me that one morning a few days into the series, he woke up and felt God was speaking to him, saying, “Brandon you need to be a preacher!” He told me, “That’s why I went forward during the call.”

His wife is having a hard time with the Adventist message, but he is firm in his decision. Please also keep Brandon and his wife in your prayers, along with many others who have made decisions for Jesus and were baptized all across Japan.

SUSUMU’S DREAM

Susumu showed up unannounced at one of our Adventist churches in Osaka where our President, Elder Ted Wilson, was going to speak. He recounted the most amazing story.

For several months, Susumu had been having a recurring dream where he saw a shining bearded being with arms outstretched. There were different versions and variations of the dream, but the theme was the same—a shining being was standing before him. He didn’t know who this being could be. In one dream, he saw him wearing a white priestly robe and some kind of “apron.” Only later, when he began receiving Bible studies, did Susumu recognize a painting of Jesus dressed as High Priest.

One night he had a vision and saw the words “Gospel of Matthew.” He didn’t know what the words meant, so he looked them up online and discovered it was a book of the Bible, so he downloaded an audio version and began listening to the gospel story for the very first time.

Susumu finally asked his landlady—whom he knew to be a Christian—where she worshipped, and she directed him to the Osaka Seventh-day Adventist Church. He visited the church and began receiving Bible studies. When the evangelistic meetings began, he attended every meeting!



God is calling sincere people all around the world. Even in Japan—where until recently there was a marked indifference toward Christianity—remarkable things are happening! Now, our churches are on fire, already planning the next evangelistic event in 2019. This was unheard of just a few years ago!



Baptismal Candidates at the evangelistic meetings in Okinawa, Japan.

But we haven't stopped with Japan, because as you receive this letter, we are beginning evangelistic meetings in Zambia, with 1,000 in the capital city of Lusaka alone. This is the most that has ever been done before in one city! God wants not only Japan, but Africa—the once-dark continent—to be lighted with the glory of His truth. It was the promise Jesus made to His disciples and future generations: that His truth would reach every corner of the globe until the whole world had a chance to choose Him and accept Jesus as their Savior. This is AWR360° Broadcast to Baptism at its BEST!

We know we are not doing this work alone. God's Spirit is using every person and all means available—even dreams and visions like he did for Susumu. And He is also using you to encourage us with your prayers and financial support. Because even as we begin this next evangelistic event in Africa, we have agreed to continue broadcasting the gospel message in Japan for another year—and beyond, if possible—to cement the truth, encourage our churches, and reach sincere people with the greatest story ever told—the story of Jesus.

Jesus is coming soon! Thank you for being part of this wonderful movement that goes to every kindred, tongue and people, even as we await His return. When we work together, miracles happen for the kingdom of heaven!

Yours in the blessed hope,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Duane McKey'.

Duane McKey
President



P.S. There is an awakening in Japan—a new interest in knowing more about Jesus and the story of redemption. Stories like that of Susumu who had a vision of Jesus, is just another indication that Jesus is coming soon! What an opportunity to share the gospel message with the world. Thank you for supporting the work of Adventist World Radio. You are making a difference for eternity.