

## Global IOWC Team Winning Members in Japan

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God is very wise. He knows everything in advance. He knows that a certain job has to be accomplished in a certain time and with a certain number of raw materials -- namely us! Therefore He proceeds to expertly form and prepare His instruments, refining and tempering them until they become as delicately balanced as a space instrument and as resistant as the highest quality steel. In the course of fulfilling the immediate goal, on an unseen level the preparations and qualifications for the next step are acquired.

This is how I feel about the IOWC going to Japan, Korea and back to Japan again. Before Korea it would not have been possible for the IOWC to have the maturity of heart necessary to bring victory in a massive campaign to win members.

Our first mission in Japan was to make unity with our Japanese Church and to make a broad base with the Japanese people through the Day of Hope Festivals. This time, however, our work is going much deeper. We must delve into the hearts of the people. This time we are not just asking them to take a pamphlet or a ticket-we are asking them to take responsibility for God's heart.

Coming to Korea was like reaching the center of the world. From this perspective we could at last have a complete understanding of the world situation and of the significance of our mission. Through the fall of Vietnam and Cambodia to the communist forces the world has become aware of the steady advance of the Red forces upon the free world. During our entire stay in Korea the team lived under the tension of an imminent attack from North Korea.

Therefore when we were given the mission of winning 12,000 new members for Japan we understood it was not just a simple matter of increasing church membership.

If Japan were lost to Communism that would be the end of Asia and perhaps the world. We understood that our movement was the only one equipped with a strong enough truth and with enough active members to counter the Communists. We could see that Communism is in fact an atheistic religion whose followers are ardently devoted and ready to sacrifice themselves for the sake of communizing the world. Therefore, our devotion and sacrifice to establish a unified world under God must be by far the greater. This was our attitude as we left Korea for Japan to begin the mammoth task of acquiring 12,000 new members.

Many things changed in the external organization of the IOWC during this second tour. Before we had always worked together with Japanese. This time we divided into six teams -- three Japanese leaders (Mr. Onishi, Mr. Suzuki and Mr. Ueyama) and three Western leaders (Hans Streit, Henk Oyk and Kim Sutton). It was also the first time that the IOWC and local churches came into such a close relationship. We lived in their church; ate, slept and worked side by side as one family without distinction of East or West.

On the whole, success has been very good. Mr. Oyamada is now president of the IOWC instead of Col. Pak, and the vice president of our Church in Japan is the evangelist; although small in stature he is definitely not small in spirit and power.

The method employed in each city to win members was almost identical. Basically all Western members with the exception of those involved in the kitchen or laundry went out witnessing. In bringing the people

we found it most effective to take them directly from the street to the lecture.

After that the Japanese members tried to persuade the people to attend the 3-day workshop, 5 or 7-day seminars or at least 5-day special lecture.

Almost 80-90 percent of the guests who attend the 5-day special lecture join the 5-or 7-day seminar. Once they have had that experience they feel very close to the family. The only step left to take then is the 12-day seminar. During this time they actually live in the church and go either to work or school from there. Every morning and evening they have study and prayer together. It is in this time that they decide whether to become members. The key to the success of witnessing is absolute trust and cooperation between Western and Japanese members and the establishment of a strong bond between the guest and the local family. It has been very common for many guests to come because they are interested in foreigners or in learning English but they are soon found out when it comes to actually hearing the lecture and when the Western member disappears back to the street.

Another important portion of the witnessing is the follow-up. It is not enough just to keep bringing new people but the point is to deepen and extend the relationship with the old contacts. Just recently Rev. Vincenz established a special crew to travel from city to city where the IOWC has been to do follow-up work. Selected to lead this team is Odile Guillet and working with her will be the Rush River Boys, Tirza Shilgi and Bernhard Leyer. A great deal of our success will be attributed to them.

Just to give you an example of the figures involved, in the Hiroshima campaign about 100 or more guests came daily. About 50-60 would sign for workshops. Hiroshima was among the most successful cities primarily because of the strong cooperation of our local family and the IOWC and because of the thorough follow-up work. Again and again you can see it pays to give by the Principle give and take, God-centered unity, and sure enough the desired fruits come.

The members go out every day to pour out their whole hearts; not one is half-hearted or wants to shirk responsibility. For each guest there is much prayer and even when the day is over any spare minute is used to create beautifully sensitive cards for their workshop guests or to write letters to induce the guests to greater faith and commitment. I think we are coming closer and closer to the ideal of living 100 percent for the mission.

The Japanese people are very shy, especially women. Another thing is their very industrious nature; absolutely everybody is always busy. People do not really care for religion and they are very suspicious of any group that is out on the street with it. They associate that sort of thing with a very pushy, moneymaking Buddhist sect called Sokagakei. Of course the most fundamental drawback is that they do not believe in God; that's why it takes so much foundation work before you can call anyone a true member.

But actually everyone is parched dry, thirsting for true love and happiness. This is our hope -- their warm emotional nature which is just waiting to have the seed of God's love planted in it. In any case it's a race as to who can win them first, us or the other side. America, we promise you we will do our best over here. Thank you for your hard work on that side of the world.