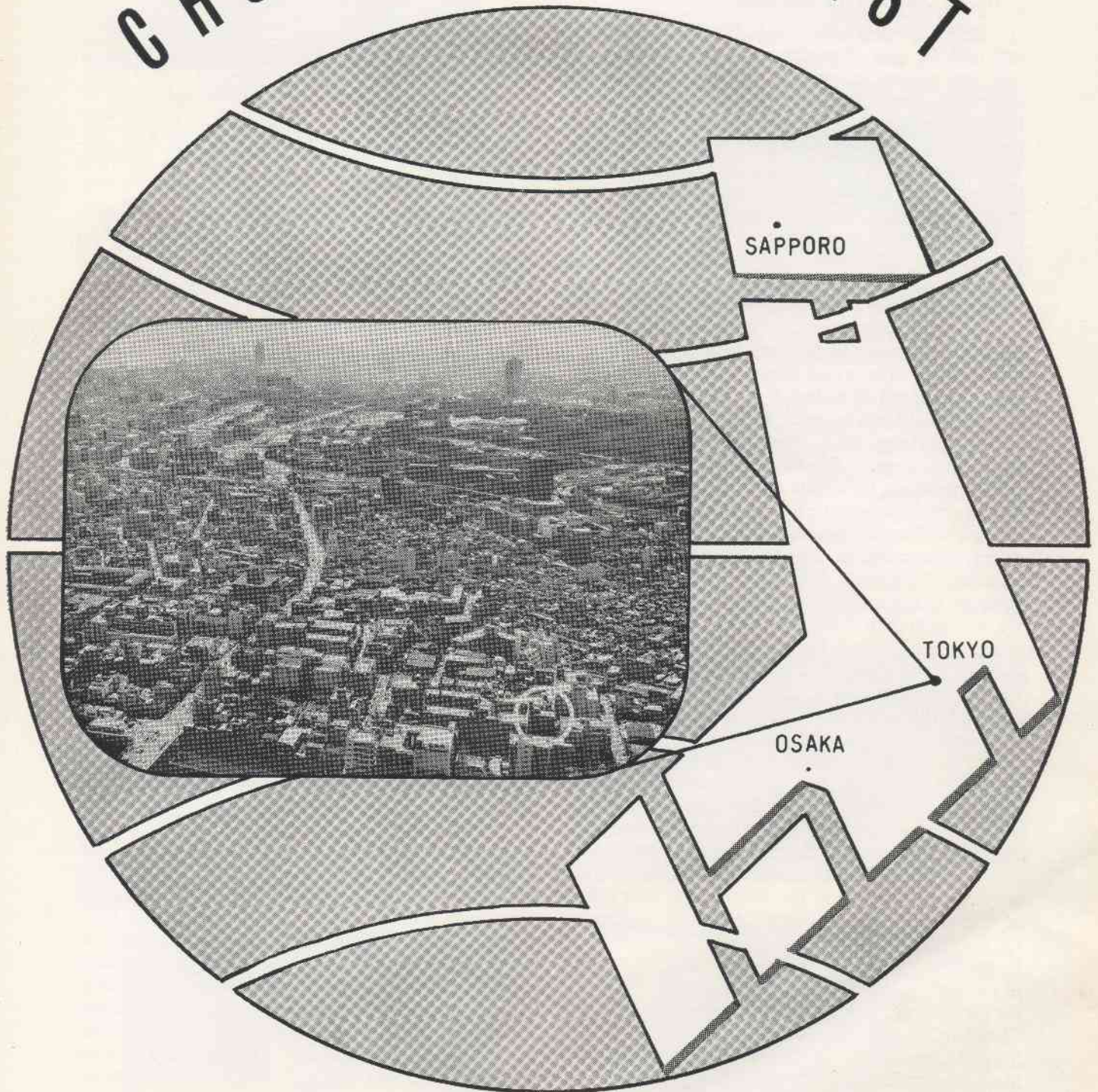


*Ochanomizu*

CHURCH OF CHRIST



TOKYO , JAPAN

Cover by Miss Sindo

# THE CHURCH IN THE PAST

BY DEAN BIXLER

## *When Failure is Success*

In Brother McCaleb's book, ONCE TRAVELED ROADS, he tells of getting ready to sail for Japan. "By five o'clock, a volume of thick, black smoke was pouring out of the great smokestack; the engines began to work... and, though every anchor was hoisted and every rope released, the vessel did not move forward. What could be the matter? Nothing the matter, only she was getting up momentum; and though no results could be seen, energy was being instilled into this great floating mass that must tell by and by. My brother, maybe you have become discouraged. You have been laboring on and on, and yet you are inclined to ask yourself: 'What have I done in all these years?' Don't give up. Sometimes it is necessary to put forth much effort with but little results. The world is not to be converted nor even evangelized in a day; it is a lifetime task, and then there still will be work to do."

In the same book there is a chapter, "When Failure is Success." Brother McCaleb tells of Brother Azbill giving up his efforts in Japan and there was a feeling of disappointment and failure... but because of Brother Azbill's labors thirty-nine missionaries have come to Japan. To mention another instance of 'failures' I baptized a man. Later he came to Tokyo and opened a night school and asked me to teach in it. He fell away. But during my teaching in his school I met a man named Hiratsuka... later he was baptized. He baptized his mother and some forty people in his community.

In like manner the Kanda Charity School was a disappointment in that, so far as we knew, only one of the little girls turned to the Lord, but not one of the boys; but through the school I became acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. Yokow... during this time I baptized both of them, and both have been faithful members... Brother Yokow is still (1934) one of the elders of the church... and lately... has started a new church at his own charges in a neighboring town. (Bro. Yokow's son now teaches at I.C.C., D.B.)

In the morning sow thy seed, and  
in the evening withhold not thy hand:  
for thou knowest not which shall prosper..."

The New Missionaries

Sister Andrews (1916)    The H. R. Foxes (1919)  
Sister Cypert (1917)    The Herman (Foxs 1919)  
The O. D. Bixlers (1919)    The E. A. Rhodes (1919)

Sister Kennedy (1924)    Sister Ewing (1926)  
Sister Langford (1925)    The Eppers (1928)  
The B. D. Moreheads (1925)    Brother Winnett (1929)

God has used each of the above and others to add a chapter in His book of life. The new missionaries built on the foundation of the first missionaries and also began new work. From 1892 to 1934 there had been a total of 24 churches established and more than 2,000 baptisms. These missionaries were telling the Land of the Rising Sun about the RISEN SON and God was blessing their efforts as well as the faith of those who were supporting them.

In the ORIENTAL CHRISTIAN of March, 1934, O. D. Bixler wrote: "Fifteen years ago last night (Jan. 16, 1919) we steamed up Tokyo Bay, passing majestic Mount Fuji... It isn't so long ago and yet so many and varied have been our experiences that the scene of that morning, as Bro. McCaleb met us at the wharf, seems like a dream. We are thankful and I hope in a measure are appreciative because of how gracious our Father has been through the years. Just a very few days before we sailed my father bade us good-bye for the last time on this earth. His parting blessing was, 'I hope you keep your health and like your work.' By His grace and only by His grace has the heavenly Father fulfilled this parting desire of my father."

Don Carlos Janes in his book, OUR WORLD TOUR, tells of a trip into the country to help O. D. Bixler find a location on which to build a house. Here is an account taken from his book. "Beyond the peculiar rock-cut tunnels 100 miles north of Tokyo, we left the train and entered a Ford bus which ran... like a serpent, winding through village traffic and around curves of the mountain roads... At Nagasawa, we met Bixler and Hiratsuka who had baptized two persons at different places. The retaining wall at the side of the lot we had bargained for was examined and the site for the house location... staked off. After further business considerations and supper we laid down to rest, but there were mosquitoes in the air and fleas in the matting. Poor McCaleb who had left his pillow at home was having a hard experience with the bag of chaff intended for a pillow. There was a sound like a woman slicing cabbage, but McCaleb said it was the chickens stamping their feet on account of the mosquitoes."

NOTE: The cover design is by Sister Shindo who was baptized in an evangelistic meeting held at Ochanomizu by Bro. Yamaguchi. The church building can be seen circled, lower right hand corner, cover picture.

## PREACHER-LEADERSHIP TRAINING



reason the preacher-leadership training program was begun in April 1971.

In a nation which is preoccupied with the idea of personal prestige we were concerned about the response to a program which offered only a spiritual reward.

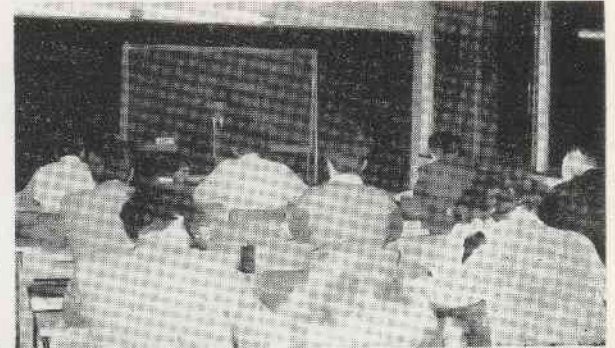
The picture above shows the staff and part of the twenty five students who responded to the program. "Kind of a miracle from God," was the feeling of Dr. Kuroiwa when he was told of the number enrolled from six different congregations. All of us agree with Dr. Kuroiwa's conclusion.



but there is such a lack of good Bible material in their own language that they need to be able to read English in order to supplement their knowledge of God's word.

Brother Elmer Prout taught a course on the Book of Acts (right) and Brother Joe Betts teaches Bible Survey (below, left) on Friday night while Brother Howard Horton teaches a class on Church History each second and fourth Saturday afternoon. His class is pictured below, right.

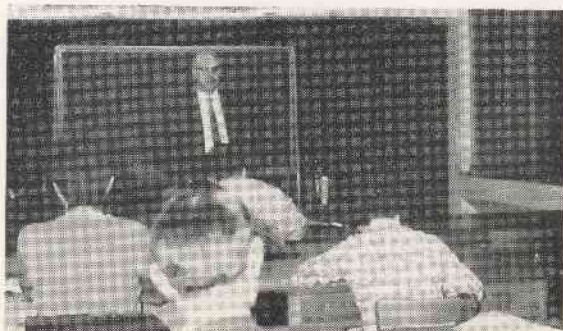
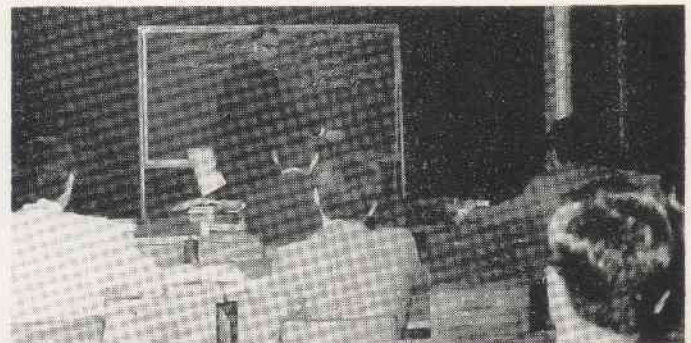
My personal feeling is that the church in Japan will not grow in the truth if we do not produce trained leaders; train or perish is our challenge.



Beginner's Greek, taught by Brother Nakahara, pictured above, is a popular class and an important part of the program.

Students in this church program hold full time jobs or are full time students in some university or college in the Tokyo area yet they find time to study hard for the Lord. The Greek class is taught on Monday nights from 7-9 P.M. and after class many of the students will have to travel by train for an hour to reach their house.

Pictured left, Brother Billy Smith teaches Beginner's English each Tuesday night. Not only do the Japanese want to study English language



# PERSONNEL

BY JOE BETTS



The missionary responsible for the church at Ochanomizu was O. D. Bixler. Bro Bixler passed away in 1968 but not before he saw his son, Dean, take his place. Dean is a real "Japanese" as he was born in Yokohama, Japan (March 26, 1931) while his parents were missionaries in this country. His father later baptized him into Christ. Because his parents went back to America before the war, he was educated in America, attending high school at Wheaton College Academy, and receiving a B. B. A. degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. While in Dallas he worked as the office manager for Bill Bell,

Inc. and for Bill Bell Marine Sales. Moving to California he worked in the accounting department for General Motors, Chevrolet Division.

While he was employed by General Motors Dean worked with the young people at the church in San Fernando. Later that church needed a preacher for Newhall, a mission point under the guidance of the San Fernando elders. In 1958 Dean began preaching under the oversight of those elders.

In San Fernando Dean met The Girl, Barbara Long, daughter of Other Long, an elder/preacher of that congregation. After that she was not Barbara Long, long. Barbara was born in Oklahoma, December 3rd, 1938. Her family moved to California soon after that. Her father baptized her into Christ and later performed her wedding ceremony (June 27, 1959). She went to high school at the Columbia Christian College Academy and attended college classes at Pepperdine College. Dean and Barbara have a son, John Dean, who was born July 22nd, 1960 and is now a 6th grader at Christian Academy in Japan, a school for missionary children.

While Dean was attending S. M. U. he was a member of the Walnut Hill church in Dallas. Later, when he expressed his desire to do mission in Japan, the elders of that congregation agreed to sponsor him. They are still working in that relationship.

The Bixlers live in an apartment on the 6th floor of the Ochanomizu church building. This proximity to the church office keeps him handy for the leadership he offers for this church.—It also keeps him very busy. He preaches regularly on Sundays, leads the Wednesday night worship, teaches English Bible on Sunday morning, and heads the program for the special Bible Training classes held nightly at the church building. Besides this he makes many decisions concerning the day-to-day working of such a complicated building and program. Barbara is also quite busy in helping out, too. These are very busy and trying times for the Bixlers and could lead to discouragement, exhaustion, and frustration, but their faith in God's power, His love and guidance, sustain them, encouraging them to greater service.

In our first publication we mention Elmer Prout on the Personnel page. Unfortunately, due to circumstances over which he had no control, the Prouts had to return to America in July, but he expressed his strong desire to return to Japan and work with the Ochanomizu church. May God speed the arrangements that will bring him back.