

# Vision of Praise

September 2009

From the editor

For this issue let us share Mitsuko's message given at the end of the General Assembly 2009 in the *Church of the Wind*, "It is I who build the Sanctuary."

6 years ago on December 11th, 2003, when we desperately needed two hundred million yen (\$2,000,000) within two months to purchase the plot of land for the *Church of the Wind*, God spoke through Mitsuko:

*What I desire is your praise and prayer.*

*My body will be built upon your praise and prayer.*

It is our ultimate joy to worship the Lord knowing that He is always with us and never forsakes us!

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## It is I who build the Sanctuary

Message at the end of the General Assembly in the *Church of the Wind*

Mitsuko

During the Holy Communion of the first General Assembly at the *Church of the Wind*, when we were singing "Holy Alleluia," I was remembering the first leaders' meeting in 1992, now called the "General Assembly." At that time, there were only 12 people: 7 house church leaders and 5 staff workers. Today, there are 511 house churches and 107 staff workers. Realizing how grand His plan is and how much He needs our praise in this present time, I was so overwhelmed by the will of God entrusted to us that I felt like crying.

In talking with some staff workers yesterday, I remembered the most agonizing period for the *Church of the Wind* construction. Since I met God, I had never

experienced stomachaches or sleepless nights for His work. However, when it came to the construction of the new sanctuary, I agonized and was pained not knowing what to do.

When we learned that we needed two hundred million yen (approximately \$2,000,000) in two months to purchase the land from the prefectural government, we prayed together with all the staff workers and leaders worldwide.

About two months later (a little over two months to be precise) the full amount of two hundred million yen was collected from many people, including children who said, “I will give all my New Year’s monetary gifts to God,” or “I broke my piggy bank to give my money to God,” and housewives who said, “I have secretly saved money to be ready for divorce, but I will give my hard-earned money to the Lord. If the *Church of the Wind* is built, I do not care about myself,” or “I will offer the money which I have saved for my children’s future education,” and so on. I was so touched to read these letters sent with their offerings that I wept many times. Thus we could purchase a half of the plot of land we now own.

Everything went well up to that point. However, in order to buy the land we needed to present a blueprint to the prefecture, and realized that we also needed the adjacent plot for the office, which would cost another two million yen. An estimate from a top-ranking architectural firm for both the sanctuary and the office was one billion yen. A person who had opened up the once-closed path to purchase the plot of land from the prefecture insisted on the architectural firm in order to gain trust of the prefecture. He was an influential person enough to move the prefectural government for us. However, facing the need for another twelve hundred million

yen, I was at a loss what to do. Many tears were shed to collect the first two hundred million yen. I could not further burden anyone.

We had another firm's estimate below two hundred million yen with a blueprint. We should take it. However, in contemplating how to inform the person who was helping us to negotiate with the prefecture, I, normally an easygoing person, felt pain in my stomach. I prayed day after day, and then heard a voice:

*Consent to this.*

Having heard this voice, I made up my mind. And we requested the top-raking architectural firm to redo the blueprint to build only the sanctuary with a budget of three hundred million yen. Still we needed another five to six hundred million yen. My heart ached. Although I had already made up my mind, I was worried and swayed by the situation in front of me. Around that time, a joint worship service was held in Tokyo, and I took the Shinkansen to get there. When I was looking outside from a train window at the Shinagawa station, I saw the latest style of high-rise building glittering in silver. "Wow, this is great. There is a rich person who could afford such a huge building in this world, while we are worried about the money for our sanctuary," I sighed. Then I heard a voice:

*The sanctuary shall be built.*

I understood. I was happy though there was no prospect for the funds for the sanctuary. When I shared it with Pastor Peter, he took it by faith and said immediately, "I believe it."

I too believed it, but still felt uneasy, wondering what to do for the money.

After returning back, I went fishing to the South Ashiya Shore. Especially at a time like that, I often found time to go to the sea and prayed there. At the sea God would reveal to me His will in various ways such as showing me a special star. I had the fishing tool for cuttlefish then. It is a device with hooks like a tassel below, and bait is supposed to be put on its upper side. When a cuttlefish bites the bait, it gets caught in the hook. However, “Today I have only the tool but no bait. Cuttlefish is not so stupid as to be tricked and caught by this simple tool. On top of that, there are no people because they caught nothing. But why don’t I try? If I can catch a cuttlefish without bait just by pulling the rod, I will never again doubt.” Having made up my mind, I threw the fishing rod and pulled it. Then, guess what! I caught a cuttlefish!

It is now laughable, but at that time I wanted to cry. But then my heart became steadfast. Since it was the Lord who shall build the sanctuary, it did not matter whether it would cost six hundred million yen, one billion yen or two billion yen (\$20,000,000). Surely as He had promised, the *Church of the Wind* was built by Him.

“How sweet God is!” said a staff worker who heard this story yesterday. Although I made such a foolish prayer, God indeed answered my prayer. He never got angry with me but patiently taught me one by one. By using any means, He let us know His will: “It is I who build it.” He told us, “I am with you. It is not you but I who build the sanctuary.” When God says that He shall build, it will be built. What God says will be done, because it is to fulfill His will.

In the end the total sum to build the *Church of the Wind*

amounted to almost twelve hundred million yen. It was prepared fully by God before the *Church of the Wind* was completed.

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