

From the editor

Merry Christmas! For the 23rd anniversary of the *White Dove* incident, we'd like to share Mitsuko's testimony, "I Am the LORD" written in 2006.

May the love of God who sent His only Son, Jesus Christ into the world overflow to all the people who are in pain, and all the earth!

I Am the LORD

Mitsuko

It was nineteen years ago when I met God. I was in the States then. The way I met the Lord was so mysterious that I named it the *White Dove* incident.

Before the incident I was a kind of person who did not want to believe anything unscientific, irrational or unreasonable for me. I used to believe that man's intelligence was the most important in life. If I was smart enough, I could have an enriched life both materially and spiritually. I wished I would be a person of wisdom, and if it would be unattainable, I wholeheartedly wished to meet a wise person who could lead me to the truth.

One day, nineteen years ago, I happened to read a book telling about the Holy Spirit. It said if I was filled with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit would work through me and I would see nothing is impossible with God. The sick people would be healed, the most difficult problems would be solved . . . and so on. I was surprised to know that the Holy Spirit could do anything that human intelligence could not do.

So I prayed to God (although at that time I did not know God) to fill me with the Holy Spirit. Then I had little anticipation that this prayer would eventually change my life so radically and completely. On the third day after the prayer, a white light suddenly hit me as I was leaving the house. I fell down to the porch. Instantly, I was filled with the Holy Spirit.

As soon as the Holy Spirit came to me, I just knew that Jesus Christ is God, my God, and He is love itself. No one had to teach me, but I knew it. It was my encounter with Jesus Christ, the Lord God.

After I came to know God, miraculous things started happening one after another. My daughter's toothache was healed almost instantly when I put my hand on her cheek. My son's high fever went back to normal dramatically when I put my hand on his forehead. A girl who had a problem and could not go to school for half a year started going to school again. I was so happy to see how God was working for them.

However, three months later, when I returned to Japan, I heard very very sad news about a boy who lived next door. He had a cancer in the brainstem. If he got surgery, he would be bedridden throughout his life, but if he did not, he would die within a year. He was thirteen years old then. He was a smart and really good boy.

It was such painful news. I suffered, crying, "Why? Why does the innocent boy have to suffer like that?" I was in pain and angry at God.

I had seen many people being healed since the *White Dove*.

I asked the Lord about the reason, but no answer came. At that time I already knew the Lord answers any of our prayers, but He did not in that case.

The word, however, came to me instead: “I am the Lord, and there is no other (Isaiah 45:5 RSV).”

Nineteen years ago, I did not understand why that scripture was given to me, and at that time I did not know it was in the Bible, either, so I ignored it.

Now, when the antiphony of the above scripture was given, I remembered how the word came to me clearly.

The scripture says:

I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I gird you, though you do not know me, that men may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe, I am the Lord, who do all these things. (Isaiah 45:5-7 RSV)

God created light and darkness, prosperity and disaster. But why?

Because He is the Lord, and there is no other. I now know this is the answer, because I have realized that at the time of creation of light and darkness, God planned and prepared His Son’s cross, His death and His redemption. We cannot tell why woe, calamity or disaster takes place, but can tell that the redemption in the cross has been already accomplished.

Since we live in our physical body, we have emotions and we are never free from them. When we live, we have various problems and pains. Our life is full of sad facts, but the Bible says there is something more, because the Lord died on the cross for us all, bearing the darkness and our pains. The cross was completed once for all. Nothing to add,

and nothing to subtract. This is the reality.

It depends on us whether we see the daily fact in front of us or we see the reality of the redemption. To see the reality means to trust in the Lord. This is faith. We may lose sight of God, and that is the reason why we have to make a decision by faith to believe and trust in the Lord.

At times, we may become weak even though we are firm in our decision. So I believe God has given us praise. Praise is the faith, and the decision as well, because we cannot praise God if we do not believe in Jesus Christ and His redemption for us. I know I am forgiven. I know His love, so I praise Him. I believe we are made to see and seek the truth of God. I believe praise is to see the truth.

May His praise fill the earth, and may the joy of praise fill us all.

May the will of the Lord who has given us praise be done in us.

June 14, 2006

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