

From the editor

January 17th, 2011 was the 16th memorial of Great Hanshin Earthquake, which took more than six thousand of lives. But on the very same day in 2000, the fifth memorial of the Earthquake, the heavenly praises started flooding upon us. The very first praise was "Holy, Alleluia" from the book of the Revelation 4:8. Through them, we believe that God revealed us the depth of the worship and "God's project, 'to the end of the earth,'" has begun. We started praying for the earth, believing that God will heal the earth because it is also His creation. It is also our deepest worship in spirit and truth.

This time, we'd like to share "God's project, 'to the end of the earth,'" written by Pastor Peter in 2002.

God's Project, "To the End of the Earth"

Peter

Mitsuko and I visited Chicago and New York together with our staffs in the beginning of June. Before our departure, we had a hunch this trip might be a warfare with darkness. We prayed hard. There happened nothing on the surface and we came back in safe. However, we were all exhausted. After we returned, Mitsuko said, "I thought I might die during this trip. I was scared to death that I prayed for God's mercy. Then I heard a gentle voice saying, 'You have not gone to the end of the earth.'"

In these days, Japan has been in the midst of excitement with the World Cup soccer games. Did you know that the planet earth was in the real trouble? NASA announced while we were in the States, "A meteorite sized a soccer stadium approached to the earth much closer than the moon, and passed by without collision." If the meteorite were collided

with the earth, the world would have been in a greater chaos than the terrorists' simultaneous attacks in the U.S. last fall, and there would have been no way for soccer excitement now. It would have the power equals to the super mega sized nuclear explosion. If the collision were near Japan, most cities and towns would have been annihilated by the great tidal waves. Why did nobody realize the approach of such a huge meteorite? Yes, of course, I think specialists should have known it. I suspect that they made a decision that they should keep silent rather than speaking the truth that would cause a great panic in the world.

It might have been this possibility of a meteorite collision that we had a hunch something would happen. Or, perhaps it might have been another new terrorists' attack. This extraordinary time, or the dangerous time has not been over yet.

When we stood at Ground Zero in New York, we were astonished at the great sorrow arising from the ground. We were familiar with this kind of sorrow. The sorrow of Ground Zero was limited in a part of Manhattan. However, when we had the Great Hanshin Earthquakes, the more we went by, the greater the sorrow of the ground increased and it never disappeared. This sorrow at Ground Zero was the same as the Great Hanshin Earthquakes.

In these days there are earthquakes in various places, lawlessness prevails all over the world, and fears of economy collapse increase more and more. Thus we are now living in the extraordinary days.

That is the reason why we have to stand still by "faith in praise for redeeming Love," only that can save us as well as the earth. I strongly believe that the Lord saved the planet earth from the nearing meteorite through praises of His

people.

If we stand still by faith in praise for Christ, the Lord God will save not only ourselves but also our family, our friends, our community, our country, and our planet earth. Nothing but the faith in Christ's praise can redeem our present time. What Paul says, "Make good use of every opportunity you have..." (Ephesians 5:16 TEV) does not mean just not to waste time. Literally it should read, "Redeem the time." As Christ Jesus our Lord redeemed us, we are responsible to redeem thousands and thousands of lost souls for God. Of course, only Christ can redeem a soul. But when God commands us to redeem our own time, it means that the Lord God entrusts us the most important work on the earth. He commissions us to save this dangerous generation through the work of divine praising.

We do not conduct a crusade with a lot of fanfare, nor do we get into a showy TV ministry. But as each of us is filled with the Holy Spirit, the flow of the Spirit, the streams of praises are always there with us. These streams of praises become a current of life, which sanctify the very air we breath in, and it flows out of us to our town, our school, and to the mountains and the sea.

Redeem the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:16-19 NKJ)

There is such a thing as divine praise: that is, the praise filled in the Holy Spirit. Anyone who is filled in the Holy

Spirit will surely sing praises unto the Lord. Oh, you may be in silence, but your heart will sing divine praise and His mighty power and love will overflow you. And the heavenly praises will heal your beloved ones and your planet earth. No wonder the Lord God has commissioned us to carry this praise to the end of the earth.

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Sama'ria and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

The Holy Spirit empowers us to become the witnesses of Christ to the end of the earth. Our task is to convey the heavenly praises to every corner of the world. I think that we, *Kohitsuji no Mure*, are surely set into God's project, "To the End of the Earth."

NHK program "Project X" describes the pioneers of the Japanese companies who overcame difficulties with their courage. This popular TV program is quite moving. However, much more important tasks are waiting for the ones who are called for God's Project, "To the End of the Earth." Nobody will give you applause and admiration. Even you may die in a ditch. Yet, you have to go to the end of the earth to convey the praise of the Lord. It is not only one company's destiny, but the destiny of a planet earth depends upon your praises. "Be a witness of the Lord to the end of the earth!"

I will tell you, all workers, all leaders, and all people of *Kohitsuji no Mure*, "Be filled with the Holy Spirit, conveying the *heavenly praises*. It depends upon your worship and praise the Lord in spirit and truth to redeem this time. Be a witness of the Lord Jesus Christ to the end of the earth."

“Witness” in Greek is derived from the etymology of “martyr.” “Martyrdom” sounds scary for everybody. A martyr may come out among us in future. But through the *Revelation praises*, we have come to realize that the scary things in the Revelation point out one direction, and that is love of God in heavenly dimension. Therefore I feel a fresh breath in ‘witness,’ which may mean even to be a martyr.

In order to contend with Satan, the Revelation says “And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.” (Revelation 12:11)

Yes, it is scary, but I take liberty in the Spirit and understand it that I should be aware of my real status in Christ. My real status in Christ is that I have been crucified together with the Lord on the cross. When I stand on this fact, I really mean to stand on God’s fact; I know what it means “not to love their lives to the death.” It is not a halfway life but truly a committed life. It is to know the mystery of Christ’s cross in a deeper dimension. A devoted soul to the will of God, like the completely burnt offering, is the one who died self completely. The old self died in the cross of Jesus. It is no longer I to live but the Lord Jesus Christ lives in me.

The new self in me lives in new praises. As a member of God’s Project “To the End of the Earth,” My heart is steadfast. I will wake up in the dawn and sing praises of the Lord to the whole earth.

July 7, 2002

Kohitsuji no Mure Christian Church