

From the editor

For this issue, we would like to share “My Earth, Your Sins Are Forgiven” written by Mitsuko in 2007. May all the earth, all nations receive love and forgiveness of the Lord, and be healed!

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## **My Earth, Your Sins Are Forgiven**

Mitsuko

One of our new praise songs is “My Son, Your Sins Are Forgiven.” It is the praise born from the word of the Lord spoken to a paralytic in Mark chapter two.

About two months ago, I received a fax from a young girl, which was a request for a new praise. Having discussed this scripture with some young people at the Bible Study for the Youth, she wanted to know how Jesus said it and hear how it resounded.

While I was reading her fax message, the word of Jesus already began to resonate as a tune. I thought that the Lord immediately answered her wish to hear His voice. Or rather I felt He had been responding to her since long time before. It seemed that the Lord was speaking this word not only to the young people but also to all of us now.

Isn't it mysterious? When the Bible verse becomes a melody and is sung as a new praise song, the verse starts speaking to us as a totally new word. Moreover, it directly touches our hearts, and we realize that it is the Lord's word we most need at the moment.

New praises are born through various incidents – for

example, this time a request from a girl. I believe that a new praise is given not by mere chance but the time is set by the Lord. I often think that our faith is led by the praises given at the time by the Lord.

“My Son, Your Sins Are Forgiven” is a simple melody with a deep resounding sound. In order to transcribe it into the music notes from my IC recorder, Yuki (a staff worker) sings to the IC recorder. When I happened to sing together with her, three voices, my voice in the IC recorder, my live voice and Yuki’s voice resounded together so deep that we were amazed. We did not sing loud, but it reverberated as if it went out to the end of the earth.

And when he returned to Caper’na-um after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “My son, your sins are forgiven.”  
(Mark 2:1-5 RSV)

There were so many people that they could not bring the paralytic near to the Lord. Those who cared for this paralytic were convinced that he would be surely healed if they could just bring him before the Lord. They wished to take the paralytic to the Lord by all means.

So, they removed the roof above Jesus and let down the paralytic on a pallet to bring him to the Lord. Probably it was in the middle of the Lord’s speaking to the crowd. They

heard the roof being removed, and a lot of dust and dirt were falling down from the roof on them. More than anything else, they must have been surprised to see the paralytic on a pallet come down. The Lord did not care about such a happening, but He looked at their hearts, their faith to do it, and said to the paralytic, “My son, your sins are forgiven.”

The Lord only sees “faith.” At that time what He saw was not the faith of the sick person but that of those who brought the sick before Him.

One staff worker, Toshinao Mabuchi wrote on a weekly bulletin dated August 5, 2007, “Praise will remove the roof.” It made me recognize the power of praise once again. “Praise will remove the roof,” which means that praise will bring the sick directly to the Lord. All we have to do is just to bring the sick to the Lord. It was not by the will of a sick person himself but by the faith of those who wish to bring him to the Lord. Their faith brings him before the Lord. Then, the Lord says, “My son, your sins are forgiven,” and healing and forgiveness is done.

So, I further think:

We believe in the healing of the Lord, and pray and give praise to the Lord for the peace of the earth. Our praise will remove the roof and bring the earth before the Lord. Then, the Lord looks at the faith of those who praise and says,

My earth, your sins are forgiven.

The earth is like a seriously sick person who cannot move. Just like a paralytic, she is in such pain and sorrow that she wishes to be healed. However, people do not know how to bring her to the Lord. The earth has countless problems, but we can remove the roof, because we have praise.

I believe that the Lord will heal the earth, seeing our faith, just as He declared the forgiveness of sins, deeply moved to see the faith of those who had removed the roof. I believe that the Lord will never ignore us.

By the way, when the word, “My earth, your sins are forgiven,” touched my heart, I wanted to see the bulletin written by Toshi again. Unfortunately I did not have it at hand because I was away from the office for the translation work of “The White Dove II.” When I was about to call the office and ask the staff to fax the bulletin to me, I found it right on my desk. Perhaps someone brought it for me. I was surprised and stared at the bulletin. Then, one verse quoted in it stood out clearly. It was the word of Jesus.

My sons, your sins are forgiven.

What?! In spite of myself, I looked at the verse again. Then I could read it as “My son, your sins are forgiven.” Certainly the correct form is singular, “son.” According to Pastor Peter, there is a clear difference between the singular and the plural in original Greek.

I think I saw it in the plural, “My sons” (even if it was my mistake) because the Lord forgave and healed both the paralytic and those who brought him to the Lord.

At the same time, however, we are always alone before the Lord. Even if all the people’s sins are forgiven, the Lord forgives every one of us.

The Lord wants us to praise and worship Him in spirit and truth even alone.

The will of God who has given and entrusted His praise to us overwhelms me anew.

August 8, 2007