

Vision of Praise

January 2025

From the editor

For this issue, we would like to share the testimony of reconciliation and the power of praise, "The Joy of Alleluia Praise Has Reached to the World" by Kazuko Komatsu, a house church leader in New York.

May our praise resound within us and reach to the place and people suffering from the war.

The Joy of Alleluia Praise Has Reached to the World

Kazuko Komatsu

Encounter with the Love of God

I was born and grew up in Shizuoka, Japan. My mother was a Christian, so I went to Sunday school as a child. I attended a mission school for middle school, high school, and junior college, and I was baptized when I was in high school. After graduating from college, I became a kindergarten teacher. After that, I got married and moved to New York in 1986. I worked as a Japanese language school teacher in New York and attended a Japanese church.

Around that time, I heard about Pastor Peter in Philadelphia from people of my church and I wanted to meet him. A few years later, I received a call from Kahoru, the mother of one of my Japanese language students. She was very happy and told me that she had attended a house church gathering of Kohitsuji no Mure and was baptized by

Pastor Peter. I wanted to meet him, too, but never had the chance.

In 1999, my husband was diagnosed with kidney cancer and had one of his kidneys removed. Around the same time, his mother also had kidney cancer and passed away. I was shocked that my mother-in-law had passed away from the same disease as my husband. After that, I began to feel distant from Christ. I tried listening to message tapes from various churches, but I still felt Christ far away. I told my mother about it, and she said, “If you don’t understand one chapter of the Bible, read two chapters.” So I read it, but I could not at all understand a word.

At such times I remembered that my friend in Shizuoka had sent me the tapes of Pastor Peter’s Inner Healing and the White Dove testimony and Kohitsuji no Mure monthly booklet, the Vine. I had put them away behind the closet. I took them out to read it and listened to the tapes and I cried throughout. I had never heard or read anything that moved me so much.

The back pages of the booklet listed the leaders’ names and house church gathering locations. To my surprise, I found Kahoru’s name on that list, so I went to her praise gathering at her home. That was in January 2000 when the Heavenly Praise came down from heaven through Mitsuko.

At the gathering, Yuki, a staff worker was sent from the main church in Japan. I told her what my mother had told me, “If you don’t understand one chapter of the Bible,

read two chapters.” After the service, Yuki prayed for me and said, “Kazuko, you don’t need to read the Bible anymore.” I was surprised. For a long time, I had been reading the Bible a lot, because I thought God was watching me and I had to do the right thing.

However, I recognized that even if I don’t do anything or change, God loves me just as I am, and that “God is here.” I remember feeling so much lighter and happy in driving home. I thought, “This is where I’m going.” And I left the Japanese church and started a Kohitsuji no Mure praise gathering at my home in December 2000.

First Participation in Alleluia Recording

Starting in June 2021, a flood of Alleluia praises from heaven was given to us through Mitsuko. And the 7th Recording of Alleluia praises was held from the end of October to the beginning of November at the Church of the Wind. It is a special time open for all leaders of Kohitsuji no Mure Church to join the recording to convey the resonance of praise together. And for the first time, I attended to the recording.

My original reason for going back to Japan this time was to visit my hometown in Shizuoka and to do a few things in Tokyo. I also wanted to attend the service at the Church of the Wind in Ashiya, and I was going to apply for the House of Life in June. Then I found out that the Alleluia recording was scheduled during my stay in Japan. So I applied for the House of Life so that I could attend at

all schedule of recording. Gradually my joy grew that God was calling me to the Alleluia recording.

On September 24, when I was preparing to go to Japan, my husband received a call from his doctor. The doctor said that the examination on that day showed a shadow on his kidney seemingly a tumor and he needed to see a specialist. As I mentioned earlier, in 1999 my husband had cancer and underwent surgery to remove one kidney. We were really shocked to hear that there was a tumor in his remaining kidney as well.

He was going to be examined, and if it was malignant, he would need surgery. At such a time I can't go to Japan. I called the main church in Japan, and Mie, a staff worker, said, "Why don't you bet on the Alleluia recording at a time like this?" At the time, I thought, "That's impossible..." But Mie said we should pray together until the 30th, which is my ticket change deadline, and then we'll decide.

The next morning, I read "The White Dove 365 Days Prayers" as usual, and strangely my mind was already made up to go to Japan. I didn't even pray seriously, but as if the answer was already given, I thought I was supposed to go there.

Once I decided to go to Japan, my husband was able to make an appointment for a CT scan right away which is usually hard to get. The doctor wanted to have surgery soon to remove his remaining kidney, so I desperately explained in English that I would return to New York from Japan on November 4th and asked to have surgery after that. Then the doctor said, "Okay," and scheduled it for

November 6th.

On the first day of the Alleluia recording, I was very nervous about not making any noise as it was my first time participating. However I was surrounded by the beautiful sounds of praise.

On the second day, I was surprised at the change in sound when the choir's standing position has changed. I gazed at the choir's movements and synchronized with their breath. Then, I felt entering a flow of the breath of praise, becoming one with everyone, as if being in another dimension. But I was so sleepy. Probably, I was in a deep healing.

On the third day, rather than thinking about what to do on my own, I felt I was in the joy of the entire sanctuary and was one with everyone. I believe it was the Lord's guidance that I, who take notes on everything, did not take notes during the Alleluia recording. In taking notes, I try to understand intellectually. But the Heavenly Praise requires only faith. I was so happy to find it out.

When recording Alleluia praise, before we sing, Mitsuko talks about how each praise was given to us and then we sing. There were times when Mitsuko raised her hand to stop our singing. And she would say to us, "I feel your overwhelming desire to sing, but I think if you start singing gently while having the desire to praise, it should sound even more beautiful." And when we tried again, it sounded so beautiful. I felt comfortable listening to her praise directions and explanations. I must have been feeling the great love of God entrusted in the Heavenly

Praise.

On the final day, when it was announced that the Alleluia recording would be over, I thought, “Ah, it’s already over... I want to be in the praise more.” There we sang many praises, and they were all so beautiful that I couldn’t choose which was the best, that’s how much I was moved.

Reconciliation with My Husband

After the Alleluia recording, I returned to New York. My husband had surgery on November 6th. The doctor said, “We would like to remove his entire kidney because the tumor is large, but since he already had one removed, we will only remove the tumor part and leave the top half of the kidney. If the remaining kidney does not function, he will need dialysis three times a week.” We were hoping to avoid dialysis.

After the surgery, the doctor told me that the entire tumor had been removed and said happily, “Good, good!” I was also relieved to hear that the surgery was successful. The doctor who came around told us, “If his kidney continues to function, he probably won’t need dialysis,” and he was able to be discharged from the hospital 4 days after the surgery.

It is a miracle that his kidney less than one-quarter of that of a normal person is functioning. I am grateful that the resonance of Alleluia praise reached my husband and that the Lord has healed his remaining kidney, so it can

function again. And I am grateful to be praying with the Body of Christ in great joy in the sound of Alleluia praise.

After returning to New York, I noticed that my husband had a gentle tone of voice. For me, the greatest healing of the Alleluia recording was that his angry verbal abuse was gone. In the past, whenever I tried to explain something to him, he would get angry and end the conversation by saying, “If you’re angry, that’s enough.” Now, if I start talking too fast, he tells me, “Calm down, calm down.”

Recently, I remembered what someone at church I used to attend when I was 25 years old told me. “Kazuko, you may not be aware, but sometimes you speak too directly being a teacher and having faith as a Christian, but be careful because sometimes the listener may feel like being looked down.”

Remembering that, I wonder if my husband felt that I was angry from the way I spoke. I was just explaining to him what I wanted to say, so I didn't understand why he stopped our conversation. I remembered what the church member had said to me more than 30 years ago and realized that I had unconsciously spoken to him condescendingly, and I decided to speak gently.

It is difficult to admit one’s faults, but I am grateful that I have been healed from things I didn’t want to realize in the resonance of Alleluia. It is a miracle that my husband’s small kidney is still functioning, and I am happy no matter what happens to be able to praise and worship the Lord with joy.

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Oh, give thanks to the God of gods! For His mercy endures forever. Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy endures forever. (Psalm136:1-3 NKJ)

I have recently come to believe that clapping my hands and praising the Lord with joy like a little child is the joy of God. I am grateful to the Lord for telling me, who cannot surrender everything to God, “It’s Okay if you are full of flaws. No need to change. Be just as you are.” I believe that the joy of the Alleluia praises has reached all of America and to the whole world.

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