

*From the editor*

For this issue, we would like to share the message for West America mission trip, "God Is Spirit and Power" by Seiko Takechi, a regional staff in Tokyo, together with "A Miracle During a Mission Trip in Sydney" by Eriko McLean, a house church leader in New Zealand.

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## **God Is Spirit and Power**

Seiko Takechi

Like Eagles

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for inviting me to praise You with Your loving children. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

First of all, I couldn't understand why Jesus wanted to send me here in West America. I'm over eighty years old, and there are many young staff workers. I forgot all my English, and I can't do anything!

But on the last day of the Kobe Retreat in March, I heard the voice, "You would stay young and strong like an eagle." It was a word in the Bible.

But those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; They will run and not get weary, they will walk and not grow weak.

(Isaiah 40:31 GNT)

Of course I believe that the Lord's will may be done by praise, Sanbi. But my brain and body are getting weak day by day, and I sometimes lamented to God that I could not work for Him as before. But as soon as I heard the voice, I felt so much energy of joy jumped in me, and thought the Lord was

telling me, “My child, do not be afraid, for I am with you. You are always renewed by My eternal life.”

I thought He was asking me, “Which is more important? Common sense of this world or His promise?” Wow, this is God’s promise, I thought. Then I remembered another word of the Bible.

My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. (2 Corinthians 12:9 NKJ)

We are weak, then we are strong. By His promise, I am sure that as He knows all our weaknesses, His faith will be completed by our praise.

Now, I would like to enjoy praising God with you and believe the Lord’s will be done in the worship.

### God Is Sprit and Power

Let me talk about myself. I grew up in the countryside of Northern Japan, without knowing the name of Jesus. As I failed the university entrance examinations, I happened to enter a small Christian college. At the college, we sang hymnes every day, and so naturally I came to know Jesus Christ was my Savior and I was baptized.

I hoped that Jesus would change me and give me a better life.

After I was married to a business man, we moved to Houston Texas, and then to London. My husband was always busy with his work and his social life, golfing and drinking with his colleagues. We had almost no conversation as a husband and wife. So I gave up finding love between us. On the other hand, raising three children in foreign countries were quite difficult for me. My children were bullied and stressed in overseas and also in Japan. I was completely worn out.

Then I realized that my children were not my true meaning for my life, but if I became happy, I would be able to give them happiness.

I thought I had to find happiness for myself. So I started to work. As it was a period of rapid economic expansion in Japan, I succeeded a little and I was able to start a small company.

The company's name was "Shalom," which meant Peace in Hebrew. My business went well at first. My family seemed happy by the power of money. But the more I earned money, the more all of us became selfish. We had no real peace among us.

The power of money was a big trap for us. Finally, I realized that not my husband, nor my children, nor my business, nor money could fill my empty heart. I was at a loss and I said to Jesus, "This is not the way You want me to live, is it? "

Suddenly, I heard a voice, "God is Spirit and Power." Hearing it, I understood at once that He had been waiting for me to face Him.

Soon after hearing the voice, "God is Spirit and Power," my husband was transferred to New York. As I believed that it was God's working for me, I left all my business and worries in His hand, and I decided to go to New York with him.

### Praising Jesus Christ Changed My Life

In New York, I was guided to the worship of this church, Kohitsuji no Mure. It was like a riding on the waves of the Holy Spirit.

In the worship service, the risen Lord touched me, and filled me with His joy.

I used to think that I had to make an effort by myself. But

now, He came in the center of myself to live with me. I knew Jesus died on the cross for me, and all my sins were forgiven by the cross. The joy of being freed from sins changed me completely. All my body was filled with joy of Jesus and instantly I understood that praising Jesus Christ was what I had been looking for from the bottom of my heart.

My life was completely changed to give thanks and joy from lots of complaining. I was always praising the Lord all day long like a bird.

In June 1992, the first Kohitsuji no Mure retreat was held in New York.

To my surprise, my husband said that he would come with me. He might have been suspicious about what I had been absorbed into. I just thought, “how lucky to have a driver!” so I did not pray for him at all.

At the retreat, he was prayed by Pastor Peter. Being filled with the Holy Spirit, he was healed from his backache. He believed that Jesus did it, and he was baptized.

Hearing the news, my youngest daughter said, “If Dad can be a Christian, I can be a Christian too!”

She had thought that she was not good enough for God. But she understood that she didn’t need to be a good girl, and she was baptized too. After that, the life of Christ flowed to many people around me.

I was so surprised because I did nothing but praising the Lord.

The Bible says:

The joy of the Lord is your strength. (Nehemiah 8:10)

I couldn’t stop telling people about His love, and I decided to work for Jesus. I believed that He is the only love for every one and He will save this earth too.

## My Brother Is Alive with Christ

As I praised in worship, I was able to understand the mystery of “Cosmic Worship.” It is the place and time where those in heaven and those on earth become one to worship the Lord Jesus Christ together. His love was not only for the living people, but for those who left the earth without knowing Christ. I found out that when we who are on the earth realize this, the power of praise work more powerfully.

One day, when I was in a daze after worship, suddenly I heard a voice, “Oneechan, remember me!” “Oneechan” means “Big sister,” I knew the voice was of my little brother who died at the age of one year old. I saw my little brother being so happy in Jesus’ arms, though I don’t know if it was in my imagination or vision of God.

To tell the truth, my parents and I had been trying hard not to remember about the miserable memories of the past war.

My brother was born in August 15 1945, which was the day Japan lost the war. As my father became a prisoner of Russia, my mother and the new born baby brother and I had to evacuate from China to Japan. It was a battle of hunger and danger. He died from the lack of nutrition. My parents and I had tried to forget about his death and the painful past.

But he came to tell me that he was alive in eternal life and he was also in the heavenly praises.

I found out that death was not the end of life and the Jesus’ Cross won the victory over even death. It was a big healing and a great joy for me.

God said to us through Mitsuko:

*I have been waiting  
for the time and the place  
for those in heaven to worship  
together with those on the earth.* (August 10, 2008)

The place is “Church of the Wind.” It is not a building, but our Cosmic Worship.

So we can invite heavenly people to our worship where heaven and earth become one.

*The Church of the Wind is My joy.*

*The White Dove is My love.*

*She signifies My love.*

*You think that worship is for you to adore God  
and prostrate before Him.*

*That is not so.*

*Worship is where love overflows;*

*My love and your love for Me  
are being united,*

*Thus fulfilling all My promises.*

*Everything is completed in this love.*

(December 14, 2011)

We give thanks to the cross of Jesus who died for all of us, even people who died without knowing Him. What an amazing secret He showed us! His cross is our true love and true hope in this hopeless world.

I believe that His promises will be completed in our praise.

I am so glad to be called to do His work with Him and with the body of Christ.

September 7, 2025

# A Miracle During a Mission Trip in Sydney

Eriko McLean (New Zealand)

Last night, I returned home to New Zealand from Sydney. I sincerely thank the Lord from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to participate in the mission trip in Sydney with my daughter, Atsuko.

When this mission trip was announced, my daughter invited her friend Esme, who was her university classmate and now lives in Melbourne. We were delighted when Esme responded that she would come. On the day of praise practice, she was supposed to join us, so my daughter waited for her in front of the church at that time.

When my daughter and Esme entered the church, I was truly shocked when I saw her. Her expression had completely changed. She was nothing like the lively person we used to know. Even when I waved at her, she barely responded. Even so, as the heavenly praise began to flow, she seemed to gradually calm down. Then, to our surprise, she filled out a form indicating her desire to be baptized.

That evening, we had a long talk with Esme. She told us that she was currently unemployed, her health had declined. It was a shocking transformation.

That night, while lying next to my daughter, Esme confessed that she couldn't sleep well and that every night when she lay in bed, she felt as though her spirit was leaving her body and she was surrounded by darkness. The next morning, Esme went out for an early morning run, and we stayed in the room, praying and listening to the praise music as we waited.

That afternoon, we attended the worship service. I was sitting separately from them because I was in charge of the

offering, but Esme smiled and waved at me—her expression was already different from the day before. During the service, she listened calmly and even recorded the praise songs.

After the service, as Esme had a domestic flight back to Melbourne in three hours, we immediately took her to Mitsuko. Esme sincerely repeated, “I believe in Jesus Christ,” and was baptized. Mitsuko prayed for her deeply. After the baptism, Esme’s expression changed to one of joy. She said she felt her late mother was present at the baptism. My daughter also said she felt the same—that Esme’s mother was there and had even attended the worship.

Afterward, we accompanied Esme to Sydney’s Central Station. She said, “Thank you so much for inviting me to this worship service,” and we parted with joyful smiles.

Later, while returning to Melbourne, Esme sent two messages to my daughter. She had read the “Vision” booklet given to her by the staff after her baptism on the plane.

“Thanks again. I do feel more loved and protected.”  
“Landed. I have read half of the book. Now I understand the importance of the baptism by Mitsuko.”

Lord, I give heartfelt thanks for this miracle!

July 15, 2025