

Newsletter



AGAPE WORLD
Working for Reconciliation

Agape World is a charitable organisation that helps former POWs, internees held by the Japanese and victims of the Pacific War and their families. We aim to facilitate healing and reconciliation.

Chairman: Dr Paul Dakin
138 Tolmers Road, Cuffley, Herts EN6 4JR UK
Email: pkdakin@aol.com
www.agapeworldreconciliation.org
Please see the new webpage

Founder-Director: Keiko C Holmes OBE
35 Leyburn Gardens CR0 5NL UK
Email: agape.kingdom@gmail.com
The Japanese webpage can be seen via
English webpage



Merry Christmas and A Happy and Healthy New Year

Red represents
Jesus' Blood shed
for mankind.

Green represents
the Resurrection
Life of Christ and
His followers.

Dear Friends

This year has been disappointing. The planned Pilgrimage had to be cancelled and we could not meet as usual. But we are thankful that Keiko was able to visit Japan and had lots of very encouraging presentations and meetings. She has also been very busy contacting friends and supporters in the UK.

We know that many of us will have mixed feelings as we approach Christmas this year. We may have lost loved ones and friends and the current restrictions will stop some from enjoying the company of family during the festive period. Please remember that the coming of Christ into the world signals hope and reconciliation, and all of us at Agape World wish you well during this celebration. As we enter a longed for New Year, let's look forward to a more normal way of life.

Hoping to see you all in 2021

Paul Dakin (Chairman)

Dear Precious Friends

Looking out of my (Keiko's) dining room window, I see a score of trees with leaves shining in the gentle sunlight amongst a few barren trees. The lawn is vivid green. Nature goes on as usual and keeps on encouraging us. Let us not be discouraged whatever goes on, our hope in the Creator God will be rewarded.

I would like to share with you about my experiences of this autumn in Japan. There is not enough room to write about all of them so I will share what I am unable to write here next time.

I have been to Japan for just over two months and came back last month. On arrival at Haneda airport, every passenger was given a Covid-19 test. After the negative result, I was picked up by Keiko Kosuge's car and she took me to her holiday home in Hakone, in the peaceful countryside. I self-isolated there for 14 days receiving a telephone check up from the local health Centre each morning.



After completing my self-isolation I went to see the family of Chris (my younger son who lives in Hokkaido) They had a new baby boy in June. He is a real delight!

In his town, Niseko, there was only one person who had Covid-19. They were wearing masks but leading quite a normal life. This was the same throughout Japan.

After spending a few days with my family, I flew to Osaka and stayed in 'The Lord Jesus Christ Church' for a week. Pastor Midori asked me to speak at the morning and afternoon services for 15 minutes. This church is one of the largest in Japan. Though they had to limit the numbers to attend the services and wear masks, they were on fire for the Lord with fervent worship and prayer. Pastor Midori's messages were powerful.

I think it was Pastor Midori who was the most touched by my Power Point about Agape World's reconciliation story. She spent five minutes talking about our work, saying that this work was one of paramount importance and encouraged the congregation to support us with prayer and finance. Pastor Midori's church would willingly host a reconciliation service and look for



reasonable and clean accommodation for us. The church gave an exceptionally generous donation to bless the pilgrims with substantial meals. She took me to an exquisite Japanese restaurant owned by a member of her church. They serve Kobe Beef and some other meat with vegetables to cook on the table. Pastor Midori and I would like to take the future pilgrims to this elegant first-class restaurant.



Pastor Midori

In Tokyo and Yokohama, I was invited to speak to a number of churches and universities. Keio University invited me, as usual, and some students attended physically, others did via Zoom. They listened and watched my Power Point presentation intently and had interesting and pertinent questions and comments. Professor Ogaki will welcome pilgrims next year.

Keiko Kosuge and I were also invited to Kanto Gakuin University. I always use Power Point. I spoke to two classes of Professor Toyokawa's. This Modern Technology professor also lectures on the Second World War. He is particularly concerned about FEPOWs, internees, their families and about Japan's treatment of any victims. All the students attended physically. The lecture room seats 100 and both classes were full.



Kosuge K and I drove to the New Life Church in Nagoya. I gave three presentations at the each service. Pastor Mizuno and Pastor Marjorie Mizuno have been supportive to Agape World for many years. Some people belong to the congregation hosted

FEPOWs decades ago and I have spoken at the church twice before. They have a few young pastors. They are all very helpful. After the afternoon service, a lady was baptised. It was a most beautiful moment.



Mr Soma, an entrepreneur who has achieved a number of significant successes and wears many hats, is a Christian and also runs the N.P.O Kobe Peace Research Institute. He had attended my presentation the previous year in Tokyo and asked me to be his guest speaker at this year's conference for the 'Sunrise Prayer for World Peace' where a score of religious leaders gather, pray, dance, sing or worship one by one on the stage at Kobe Port Island Hotel. Keiko and I were given an executive twin room with a fabulous view of the port city, and use of the executive lounge.



By coincidence, the conference started in the 11th month, 11th day and 11th hour, and I was the second speaker. I was dumbfounded when I learned that I had only 10 minutes instead of the agreed 15 minutes. 'How can I talk about our 33 years' ministry in 10 minutes!' I murmured to myself. In addition to that I was told that they were not able to operate an Apple computer, although Mr

Soma had assured me that they were able to use any computer and that my Apple computer would function perfectly well at their conference.

Fortunately, Keiko Kosuge had her Windows computer, so she operated the Power Point as I spoke, but could not get any photos up. I had to speak without Power Point until the last three minutes when finally the photos were on the screen. Yet, I knew I was doing fine because the audience of 300 were listening attentively having their eyes fixed on me. I thanked God as I spoke.

At lunch, many different religious people came to my table and introduced themselves saying, 'I was moved by your talk. Please speak at my organisation next year.' A gentleman invited Keiko K and I to join an annual National Prayer Breakfast held in Keio Plaza hotel in Tokyo two weeks later.

There is the 'Good Samaritan Church School', in the outskirts of Kobe, which has fifty pupils with different ages. The headmaster, Pastor Kaneko, used to work in the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs in Tokyo in the 1990s and knew of me. Pastor Kaneko invited me to give a presentation to his pupils in November. I spoke for 40 minutes before and another 40 minutes including questions and comments after lunch. The children were very good; they had listened enthusiastically, and no-one nodded off even though it was right after lunch. The questions and comments session was very lively. We enjoyed the session thoroughly. They were amazingly sweet and friendly children

That night we stayed at Mariko's (the Kyoto Agape leader), for the second night in Kyoto and left for Yokohama the following afternoon. On the motorway, the car suddenly rattled with huge noises. It was a puncture due to a large nail in one of the



tyres. The car must have run over it on the motorway in Kobe when the truck in front of us had shed some of its load. We were unharmed then but had hoped that no nails had fallen.

Since the incident in Kobe till the puncture, we had driven approximately 224 miles; the Lord had sent His Angels

to watch over us and enable us to finish all our speaking engagements in the Kansai area (Osaka, Kobe, etc.). It happened on the way home in the early afternoon; He had kept us safe! Thank God for friends' prayers!

After being back in Yokohama, We visited some churches for our presentation. We also visited Mr Ogawa, who is ninety years old, running a school for mentally handicapped children and is quite an authority on Christian community and special schools. He had been the principal of a Christian University and earned an excellent reputation. After retiring from the university he had been asked to manage the school. He had lived in England when he was young. We showed him our presentation. He was not quite sure if his school children could understand it. He is pondering about it but could introduce us to some universities and mainstream

schools - please pray. We encouraged him by saying that Moses had served God until he was 120. Mr Ogawa said, 'Oh well, I thought I'd be retiring soon ...'



I am grateful to Keiko Kosuge who had driven to Nagoya, Ninja village, Kobe, Kyoto, Tohoku area and many other places.

We are grateful to the churches, schools and universities for their generous donations.

We have many more stories of joy, suspense and miracles as I mentioned before. They are for the next newsletter. We pray that you may be able to come to our 'Paradise Lunch', the Japanese Embassy get together and our 'Pilgrimage' next year.



With much love from us all

Keiko and Trustees