

**WELCOME! ARI Supporters!**

**2008 10 19**

**Shonai Church-United Church of Christ in Japan  
(UCCJ) Pastor Rev. Tosh Yazawa**

**1 Protestant mission in Japan began in 1859**

**2 Story of our evangelism (by my book & photos)**

**★ Look! Japanese people 100 years ago**

**★ First generation leaders of Japanese church were mostly ex-samurais**

**★ Our mission began by the efforts of American churches(German Reformed Church in USA)**

**★ One example Rev. Cook's street evangelism**

**3 The image of "dangerous foreign religion"**

**★ Japan closed the door to foreign countries for 250 years because of the successful mission of Catholics**

**★ Catholics were very heavily persecuted here, too**

**★ Still looked as a religion of foreigners**

**4 Why still only 1% Christian?**

**★ The difficulty of getting rid of bad image**

**★ Various pressure from abroad People's main concern was nation-building and economic recovery**

**★ The time was a secularistic and materialistic age**

**★ Busy life Lack of time to meditate and repent**

**★ Existence of Emperor and its system. He was regarded as a living God**

**★ Under traditionalism, men dislike radical change and new way of life.**

**★ Confucianism and Buddhist teachings still have profound influence**

**★ All family belongs to some temples and has family tombs there. Have strong ties with practice of ancestor worship**

★ Strong fear of being considered 'different', particularly in rural areas

★ Restricted freedom of thought, speech and action

## 5 Rural evangelism

★ Until around 1888 we have a period of successful rural mission to a certain extent (See 80% were farmers in those days!)

★ Then came the age of nationalism & capitalism industrial revolution

★ Target of mission were city people & upper middle class, educated elites

★ Evangelists were ex-samurai & educated class people, so there were difficulties to reach out to rural farmers as well as laborers

## 6 Successful example of rural evangelism

★ "Farmers' Gospel School" of Kagawa(1920- )

★ Instead of just preaching, taught how to live out Christian farm life

★ In those days farmers were only growing rice, so he introduced animals, fruits and organic fertilizers in lands (ARI style farming?)

★ Kagawa's disciples opened school for farmers to teach Denmark styled farming

## 7 Why we support ARI?

★ As our expression of thanks for overseas help toward Japanese churches

★ As means to express our forgiveness and compensation to Asian people

★ ARI students help us to internationalize our minds

★ Makino, Nagashima & Miura all happened to study here became Christian in this town of Tsuruoka