

## **CHRISTIANITY: In Japanese Literature**

**Ayako Miura - Shiokari Pass** (1968) From the day they first met as children, Nobuo Nagano and Fujiko fell for each other. With unusual skill, Ayako Miura follows them through life. Her understanding of adolescents and her ability to carry her reader into a close affinity with the characters, accounts for the popularity of this book. In Japan, this book is acclaimed for dispelling prejudice against Christianity. It gives a rare insight into Japanese life and thought. The unfolding flower of love opens to full bloom in the snows of Shiokari Pass. This book is translated by Bill and Sheila Fearnough and has been made into a film. The story is Ayako Miura's own creation based on the true story of a certain Masao Nagano.

**Ayako Miura - The Wind Is Howling** (1970) Translated by Valerie Griffiths, this is the autobiography of a Japanese novelist. Ayako Miura wrote her first novel for a Japanese national competition in 1964. It received first prize. Through this, subsequent books and articles, and the televising of some of her novels, she has become widely known throughout Japan and the Western world. Her Christian beliefs, as expressed for instance in 'Shiokari Pass' have aroused intense curiosity. In this moving account of her own life in Japan's turbulent post-war period, she explains her pathway to Christianity. This book reveals to Western readers the Japanese attitude to life and helps an understanding of their poetic imagination and their courtesy in personal relationships. But the deepest and most lasting impression is that of Christ himself, patiently leading, prompting, pursuing: in the deepest and starkest crises of life, of human love and relationships, in serious illness and suffering and loss.

**David C. Lewis - The Unseen Face Of Japan** (1993) Japanese money and Japanese practices dominate the business world. Japanese tastes in cars, technology and leisure profoundly affect how we think and what we buy. But who are the Japanese? To the outsider Japan has made the switch to a Western lifestyle - to Western materialism - in the space of a few generations. But in fact Japan remains profoundly alien, a culture where ritual holds sway. Anthropologist Dr. David Lewis has lived in Japan for extended periods. He has carried out a number of surveys and in-depth interviews on attitudes and practices in Japan, within the manufacturing sector and on a personal level. This book covers the influence of Buddhism and Shinto; the cult of the dead; the search for security; the problems of purity and pollution, sin and shame; and the ways in which the Japanese deal with birth, illness, marriage and death. Written from a Christian perspective, this book also considers the most effective approaches to evangelism in the Japanese context.

**Dorothy Pape - Walls Are For Leaping** (1983) This is a true story as retold by Dorothy Pape. 'By my God I can leap over a wall.' Michiko couldn't help laughing at that. The contrast between her limp, useless legs and leaping over a wall was too ludicrous, too impossible. All her life, since she was crippled by polio at the age of three, Michiko Tamura had faced impossible situations.

the adversities suffered by the whole family on one of the world's remotest islands, her long struggle for education and independence, the extraordinary circumstances of her marriage - all had been insurmountable walls in front of her. But...walls are for leaping.

**Doug Abrahams - Doug : Man & Missionary** (1983) This is the autobiography of Doug Abrahams. With cheerful London humour and warm commitment, he tells his life story from early struggles and rebellions through thirty years of missionary service in Japan. Do such sophisticated, courteous people as the Japanese really need the Gospels? Doug has no doubts about that. This book will bring home to you the continuing need for missionaries in Japan and

**Edward Brzostowski - Inside Japan : A Missionary's Experience** (1984) The author was born in 1932, in France, from Polish parents. He was ordained priest in 1955 and obtained his doctorate in Theology at Gregorianum (Roma) in 1962. He has been a missionary to Japan for over 20 years where he also obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Japanese Literature at Keio University, Tokyo in 1970. This book is a commentary on the Lord's Prayer through his experiences as a missionary in Japan. It is translated by Miss Margaret Peate from the original title 'Chiisaki Mono Kara Mananba Sakebi'.

**Esther Ahn Kim - If I Perish** (1977) Ahn Ei Sook stood alone among thousands of kneeling people - in bold defiance of the tyrannical command to bow to the pagan Japanese shrines. For this she was condemned to a living death in the filth and degradation of a Japanese prison. Although she was imprisoned and tormented for many years, her determination and fortitude never diminished. In spite of the brutality, oppression and ruthlessness of her captors, Miss Ahn remained true to Christ and won many of her fellow prisoners to Him by her example. This is a remarkable true story of the savage persecution of Christians in Korea during World War II and it has been made into a film of the same name.

**Hugh Trevor - Multi-Channel Japan** (1970) Television, video and computers alongside raw fish and chopsticks - that is the contrast of life in Japan today. Are such a highly-technical people just like us in the West - or are they still bound by the ancient religions of Buddhism and Shinto? What are their spiritual needs? Do we have any responsibility to share Christ with them? This booklet portrays a need for missionaries to go to Japan.

**Joshua K. Ogawa - Unlimited Purpose** (1986) In this unusual and thought-provoking book, Joshua K. Ogawa shares his experiences as a Japanese missionary in Indonesia, from the traumas of losing a child and living through a riot to the day-by-day labour of building up a church. His perspectives on church history and growth, on missionary life and work, are refreshingly different. Through this book, we can understand more of the unity of east and west in working together to fulfil the purpose for which we are called: God's unlimited purpose.

**Kokichi Kurosaki - Let's Return To Christian Unity**

(1986) This is the first in a two-part series. The second book is entitled 'Church Unity, How To Get There'. Both books call for Christians to forever lay aside the barriers which separate the redeemed. In this book a Japanese Christian named Kokichi Kurosaki declares that we can be one. First Kurosaki presents the problems which cause division, defines the present need, and points you, the believer, to the path of oneness in the body of Christ. The original title is 'Hitotsu No Kyokai'.

**Mabel Francis - One Shall Chase A Thousand (1993)** The autobiography of Miss Mabel Francis who came to Japan with few worldly goods and left with the eternal wealth of hundreds of Japanese won to Christ. She received the highest honor the government ever bestowed on a foreigner. But beyond the praise of men, Miss Francis won the hearts of the Japanese people. A local pastor declared, "Mabel Francis was one of us!" That is the greatest compliment a missionary can receive. Her preaching of Christ, her message of the Spirit-filled life, her deep love for the Japanese people and her sacrificial lifestyle still speak, though her lips are now silent.

**Mikio Toyoshima - Saved! (1987)** Mikio Toyoshima is President of the Toyoshima Group of Companies. He was born on August 29, 1933, and graduated from Musashi University with a degree in Economics. He became deeply involved in real estate speculation, but found himself facing bankruptcy, due to the oil crisis of the early 1970's. Out of this trying experience, through a miracle of God's grace, he found Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. From this time of his new birth, he has exercised a 'faith-first' life. This is his story.

**Olga Abrahams- Seiko : The Story Of A Japanese Girl (1973)** This is a true story of Seiko who became a Christian after she left school and despite facing lots of persecution from her family remained true to her new faith.

**Patsy Oda - Heart's Desire (1987)** The true love story of how Patsy Oda put her faith and trust in God to provide her with a God fearing Christian husband.

**Shusaku Endo - Silence (1969)**  
*Translated by William Johnston, this book is the story of foreign missionaries attempting to convert seventeenth-century Japan to Christianity in the face of relentless persecution by the authorities. Under torture the missionaries give in - they are defeated not only by men, but also by Japan itself. Endo's story has a universal significance; the Christianity which he shows to be so unsuitable for Japan is, for many people, equally unsuitable for the modern West; and if the concepts of God, sin and death need to be reconsidered for one country, they must need reconsideration in all. Indeed, the very popularity*

*of Endo's novel would seem to proclaim a Japan not indifferent to Christianity but looking for that form of Christianity that will suit its national character.*

Shusaku Endo was born in Tokyo in 1923. After his parents divorced, he and his mother converted to Roman Catholicism. He graduated in French literature from Keio University, then studied for several years in Lyons on a scholarship from the French government. Shusaku Endo has won many major literary awards : the Akutagawa Prize, the Mainichi Cultural Prize, the Shincho Prize, the Tanizaki Prize and the Noma Prize.

Shusaku Endo - **The Samurai (1982)** In 1613 Father Pedro Velasco's dream came true. He set sail with a small group of Japanese Samurai for Mexico, Spain and Rome. Velasco knew Japanese, and his zealous hope was to become primate over a converted, Catholic Japan. His mission, with the Samurai, was to bargain for a Catholic crusade through Japan in exchange for Japanese trading rights with the West. It was a journey of incredible danger and hardship, underwritten solely by faith. Translated by Van C. Gessel, this novel is part historical fact and part fiction. Hasekura Rokuemon (1571 - 1622), a Samurai actually did set sail on the twenty-eighth day of October 1613 and he kept a journal account of his experiences abroad. He died for his Christian faith. Father Velasco was modeled after a Father Luis Sotelo (1574 - 1624) and died a martyr in Japan. The deaths of these two men, like their lives, affirm Endo's fundamental thesis that the essence of Christianity is determined not by bureaucratic fiat, but by the private yearnings of each and every believer.

**Shusaku Endo - Scandal (1986)** One man's apparently successful attempt to live a good life is extinguished by evil. Conscience, prayer and social mores are as ineffectual as lit matches thrown into a muddy lake. This book, translated by Van C. Gessel, addresses the great questions of our age. How can we straddle the gulf between faith and modernity? How can humankind be so tender, and yet so cruel? Endo's superb novel offers only an unforgettable bafflement for an answer.

**Yoneko Tahara - Daughter Of Happiness (1981)** The Japanese name Yoneko means daughter of happiness. And Yoneko was the happy, favourite daughter of her mother until the day her mother died. The beliefs of Tenrikyo, an oriental wisdom religion, had cost Yoneko's mother her life. After her mother's death, Yoneko hated life. She hated life so much, she tried to commit suicide twice. Her first attempt failed, leaving her a helpless cripple. Her second attempt ended in the beginning of a new life. This exciting story of Yoneko has been produced in film also. God's great power to change hearts and lives to make the impossible come true is evident in Yoneko.

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**Shusaku Endo** , 1923-1996, one of the finest 20th-century Japanese novelists, b. Tokyo. Baptized a Roman Catholic at 11, he is often compared to Graham Greene for his deep concern with religion and moral behavior. Endo studied French literature at the Univ. of Lyon from 1950 to 1953, when he returned to Japan and began publishing novels and stories. Sometimes dealing with the historical past and sometimes with the modern world, his complex fiction usually revolves about a series of contrasts: East and West, faith and faithlessness, tradition and modernity. *Silence* (1966, tr. 1969), which concerns the 17th-century martyrdom of a young Portuguese missionary in Japan, is among his best-known novels and is perhaps his most outstanding one. Among the prolific author's other novels are *The Sea and Poison* (1958, tr. 1972), *Wonderful Fool* (1959, tr. 1974), *The Samurai* (1980, tr. 1982), *Scandal* (1986, tr. 1988), and *Deep River* (1993, tr. 1994). Endo's translated short-story collections include *Stained Glass Elegies* (1985) and the posthumously published *Five* by Endo (2000). He also wrote studies of Jesus, essays, plays, and screenplays. A museum devoted to Endo's life and work, which was established in 1999, is located in Sotome, Japan.

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