



Evangelism
Explosion
Japan

General Incorporated Association
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8

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Go and Tell

Recruiting, Equipping and Multiplying Lay Witnesses

This edition is an AI-assisted translation of the Japanese original. We ask for your understanding if any part reads unnaturally.



Why I Love Evangelism Explosion

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1. Because we need to be ready for revival

One day I learned that Pastor Masakazu Fukuno of Minami-Osaka Gospel Church, my home church, believes with real passion and conviction that revival will come in his lifetime. My reaction was, “Wait, that means I’ll still be alive then too! What? Whoa!” (Please pardon my Kansai dialect.) I had been praying all along, “Lord, send revival.” Somewhere in my heart, though, I think my attitude was closer to “Well, maybe it will come someday.” From the moment I heard his words, my lukewarm heart snapped to attention.

My next thought was this: “If revival really comes, people will pour into our churches. And that means we will have a lot of baby Christians to raise!” Christians are said to make up less than one percent of Japan’s population. Even if every believer we have now were mobilized, each one might have to disciple close to a hundred people. That would be an enormous task! I am truly convinced that EE is what we need to meet that challenge. That is why I can’t help telling every Christian I meet how wonderful EE is.

2. Because I fell in love with the EE program

I took the EE course in June 2015 and the teacher training class that September, and I began teaching EE right away. It all started when I ran into M-san, an older sister in Christ whom I deeply trust, at an international gathering after a long time apart. She told me, “A class on personal evangelism is

about to start. I really recommend it.” I had always loved evangelism and enjoyed it, yet somewhere inside I felt that something was missing. On top of that, S-san, a friend and fellow mom, had already shared with me wonderful testimonies about EE’s OJT (on-the-job training), so I signed up without hesitation. Soon God also gave me a study partner, I-san, and I gladly made the trip of an hour and a half each way, three hours round trip, previewing and reviewing the lessons as I traveled. I remember going every week with such excitement that I could hardly wait for the next lecture. Today most classes are held on Zoom, so people can take the course without traveling long distances as I did. I am thankful that this has connected us with people all across Japan.

I understand that EE is a program that has been refined in America over many years. It is remarkably well thought out and designed to reach even people who know nothing of the Bible. The order in which the gospel is presented is also very clear and easy to follow. What is more, because Pastor Tomoyoshi Yamanaka, the director of EE Japan, translated the material himself, it communicates naturally to Japanese people. My sense is that many Japanese want to receive the gospel not only with their emotions but also with a clear understanding in their minds. That is why I believe EE is a perfect fit for Japan. In fact, people who have listened to the EE gospel presentation have told me, “I have heard the gospel from many people, but

this was the easiest to understand!” and “Now that I really understand the gospel, I want to be baptized!” One trainee, while studying the basics of the gospel in the EE materials, honestly confessed, “I don’t think I was ever truly saved. Please pray with me!”

EE also has a truly wonderful built-in mechanism called “multiplication.” One Christmas, M-san came to our church and was saved that very day through the EE gospel presentation I shared, and was baptized soon afterward. With a heart on fire and a desire to share the gospel too, M-san took the EE course. The one who trained M-san was not me but H-san, whom I had trained earlier and who had earned a teacher’s license. Later M-san earned a teacher’s license as well. In this way my trainees teach, and their trainees teach in turn, so that people who share and teach the gospel keep increasing even where my own hands no longer reach. EE’s stated goal is to “make disciples who make disciples.” This is exactly what EE means by multiplication. God is now doing this wonderful work all across Japan.

So far I have taught EE to about 70 people and have taken part in many OJT outings as a coach. I never graduated from seminary. Even so, the Lord has given me the opportunity to train about 20 pastors, evangelists and seminary graduates. First Corinthians 8:1 says, **“This ‘knowledge’ puffs up, but love builds up”** (ESV). God allows us to build others up through the love of the Lord, and He uses the weak to accomplish His plans by His power. EE is designed so that anyone who has the EE textbook can teach it. So if the Lord is prompting you, entrust everything to Him, take courage and step out: first into EE training, and then into the teacher’s license class so that you can teach it yourself in your own church.

3. Because I have seen so many people saved through OJT (on-the-job training)

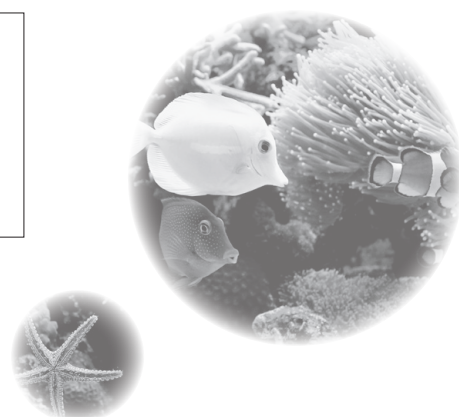
OJT stands for on-the-job training: hands-on training in which you learn how to share the gospel in real evangelism settings. To graduate from EE, you need to go out on OJT at least five times in addition to the textbook study. In other words, you learn in the classroom and practice in the field at the same time. It is a lot like learning to ride a bicycle. No one learns to ride just by hearing, “Hold the handlebars, push the pedals, and here are the brakes.” You get on, someone holds the back of the seat, and little by little they let go, until at last you are

riding on your own. OJT works the same way. At first an OJT coach always goes with you and helps you gradually stand on your own. As these experiences add up, trainees grow into “warriors” who can share the gospel boldly.

People who struggle with memorization, people from overseas who find Japanese difficult, and even people over 80 have all graduated. So please sign up with confidence. It is only five OJT outings, but in the course of them you may see someone saved right before your eyes. That is a deeply moving experience. Whenever someone close to a trainee is saved, a father, mother, brother or sister, grandfather, grandmother or best friend they have prayed for over many years, and I see the trainee weeping for joy, my heart overflows with gratitude to God.

So far I have personally shared the gospel with 159 people through the EE gospel presentation, and 128 of them have received Jesus as their own Savior. I loved evangelism even before I learned EE, but very few people actually opened their hearts to Jesus. Looking back, I think I was simply not well enough prepared to share the gospel. Once I was prepared, I believe God began sending me one person after another who needed the gospel.

Ezekiel 2:1 says, **“Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you”** (ESV). Like Ezekiel, there are times when we feel the Lord is asking us to do something we could never accomplish on our own. Yet the Lord speaks to us clearly. Why not begin by standing up, receiving His word and responding to it? I am sure there is someone you long to share the gospel with. Let us become people who share the gospel and, beyond that, people who raise up others to share it. May the decision you make today lead to a real first step. I pray with all my heart that this QR code will be used and that you will rise up as one who shares the gospel.



Testimony



Living Testimonies from Our Graduates and Current Trainees

Nobuaki Nagata (Pastor in charge, Toke Chapel, Oyumino Christ Church, Presbyterian Church in Japan)

Through the EE course I learned how to share the gospel with people who are not yet Christians. Studying it with its many illustrations became an opportunity for me to receive the gospel afresh myself. It also became a time to take a fresh look at my own relationship with God. I am grateful.

At our church we regularly hold English conversation classes and other programs for people in the community, so every week we have many opportunities to talk about the Bible.

Those talks, however, tend to be one-way, and we had almost no opportunity to ask each person individually how they were responding. Through EE, I was able to approach people one by one and ask about their personal response, and that proved extremely valuable. As a result, one person has begun an ongoing Bible study with me, and another has believed in Jesus and joined our baptism preparation class.

Of course, some told me they did not feel the need right now, and there were a few awkward moments. Even so, it was a blessing to be able to ask people personally about Jesus.

There are still many not-yet-believers who come to our church, and I hope to invite them as opportunities arise. I expect this will also bring new vitality to the church.

If you learn EE, you will be able to offer the gospel both to those who do not yet believe and to believers who are struggling in their faith. Christians in Japan are in contact with many people who do not believe. I find EE an extremely helpful course for equipping Christians to bear witness to Jesus. For the salvation of your family, friends, coworkers and neighbors, I recommend that you take it.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38 ESV)

Chikayo Tahara (Member, Suzuka Christ Church, Presbyterian Church in Japan)

Receiving the Love of a Faithful God

In the last year of my teens, when I was gasping through life without hope, I was brought face to face with the Bible. Twenty years later, 34 years ago now, I received the grace of baptism. By God's grace I have been able to walk in obedience to His Word, and I have received countless blessings in answer to prayer. My heart has burned with the conviction that I cannot keep God's love and faithfulness to myself, and I have told hundreds of people I have met how faithful God is and how much good He has done for me. Because I run a franchise tutoring school, I have also had opportunities to speak of Jesus to more than 5,000 students and parents through lessons, nativity plays and the like. Yet that passion for evangelism bore little visible fruit. Only two people went on to the blessing of baptism (although, just as the Lord promised, everyone in my family except my husband has been saved). Through those years I came to feel keenly how hard it is to convey the truth of Jesus.

As I entered my seventies and the final chapter of my life, I felt my desire to share the gospel, whatever it took, growing stronger and stronger. I read Christian books, began auditing classes at a seminary and tried everything I could think of. But with my work at the school, caring for my 96-year-old father and supporting my family, my daily routine was so complicated and busy that the road to focused study was steep, and I felt I had reached my limits both mentally and physically. It was just then that Pastor and Mrs. Yamanaka happened to visit Suzuka Christ Church, and through them I had the chance to learn about EE. How thoughtfully God arranges things! Through this course I realized how lopsided my idea of evangelism had been,

speaking of only one side of who God is. I felt that God had pierced me from the crown of my head down to the deepest place in my heart, where He dwells, and had given me a profound lesson. I learned that evangelism, conveying the faithfulness of God, is not just a matter of speaking the Word with passion or telling of my own joy. It requires a structured explanation, together with the work of the Holy Spirit, who day by day sanctifies us into the likeness of Jesus.

One day during the course, I had a chance to talk with a woman who had attended church for more than 20 years while also continuing to study with Seicho-no-Ie, a new religious movement. The Holy Spirit told me, "Share what you are learning in EE." I hesitated, wondering whether it was too soon, but then she herself began talking about who God was to her. She was, in effect, volunteering her own answers to EE's diagnostic questions. I was certain the Holy Spirit was giving me an opening to speak. As I went through Grace, Man, God and Christ, I sensed, "These are not my words. God is speaking through me." With that in my heart I finished, and I prayed, thanking God that I had been able to tell her about Jesus. I am told that the next day she hurried to our pastor and said, "I have wanted to become a Christian for a long time. Mrs. Tahara gave me a push yesterday, and I believe the time has come!" After studying with the pastor, she was baptized in December, just before Christmas. Since then God has kept bringing me people who say they want to hear about the Bible. What grace! What a blessing! I offer my heartfelt respect and thanks to God, who led me to EE Japan's training, and to Pastor and Mrs. Yamanaka and the staff, who launched this ministry. I pray that this work will be used more and more and that God's glory will shine forth. (December 2025)

Column



A Life That Delights God: How to Live at the Center of God's Will

Founder of EE **Dr. D. James Kennedy**

Christianity is both a faith to be believed and a life to be lived. As Christians, what do we believe? We believe the gospel of free grace. It is not merely good advice; it is the good news of the free grace of God. Without money or price, God invites us to come to Him and freely receive that which we in no way deserve—without character, morality, piety, position, work, or merit. We are saved by faith alone, but the faith by which we are saved is the faith that inevitably produces good works; good works are not the root of salvation, but its fruit. As Scripture says, “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us” (Titus 3:5). If you are a Christian, you are a prince or princess born into the house of the King of Kings. How do you live the royal life, delighting the King and honoring the family name?

To answer this question, we must first warn of two errors. The first is legalism: believing that doing enough good or living by a set of rules will gain salvation, or thinking of the Christian life as an elaborate set of “do’s and don’t’s”. Scripture plainly declares, “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law” (Romans 3:28). The opposite error is antinomianism (from the Greek *nomos*, meaning “law”), where people claim that once redeemed, the law has nothing to say to them. I remember years ago riding with a friend who drove right through a red light and said, “Thank heaven, we are not under the law!” But when Paul asks, “Do we then make void the law through faith?”, he gives the definitive answer: “God forbid: yea, we establish the law” (Romans 3:31).

Keeping God’s law sets us free. Compare the law of God with the automobile manual that comes with every new car. It tells you how much tire pressure, oil, and refrigerant to use. If a driver says, “I don’t like all these do’s and don’t’s,” throws the manual away, and refuses to add oil, the engine eventually freezes up on a lonely road. The manual was not written to enslave; it was written to give an owner all of the freedom that an automobile can provide. A little sign

once caught my eye: “If all else fails, read the instructions”. The moral law of God is given by a loving and gracious Father to allow us to live in liberty.

Christianity is more than following a set of rules; it is basically and primarily a personal relationship. As Christians, we have received “the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father” (Romans 8:15). Throughout the Old Testament God was called Jehovah, but now under the New Covenant we can call Him “Abba”—an Aramaic word translated as a familiar “Daddy”. When my little daughter began calling me “Jim,” I sat her on my knee and said, “Thousands of people in this world can call me Jim, but you are the only person in all the world who can call me Daddy”. God is like Mr. Jones who adopts little Johnny from the orphanage into his family, so Johnny enters a new, intimate relationship where he now calls him “Daddy”. Furthermore, Christ leads us as a Shepherd; sheep follow their Shepherd, whereas goats must be driven. As Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27).

We are no longer slaves, but children. What God delights in is the willing, joyful obedience of children, not the reluctant, grim, resentful, dour service of a slave. He delights in hearing, “How much can I do?” rather than, “How much must I do?” As the Psalmist proclaims, “The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy” (Psalm 147:11). Let us walk in the center of His will—delighting Him, even as He delights in us.

Source: Abridged and edited from the Introduction to D. James Kennedy, *Delighting God* (Servant Publications, 1993). Scripture quotations in this column are from the King James Version.



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The View Ten Years From Now

National Director, EE Japan **Tomoyoshi Yamanaka**

Suppose you set yourself the goal of raising up at least one lay person a year who can do personal evangelism, and you patiently keep up EE training, especially OJT. And suppose you continue for ten years.

In the first year, you are the only evangelist. The next year there are two. If those two keep doing the same thing, the following year there are four. If each one keeps raising up one person every year like this, simple arithmetic says that after ten years there will be 512 evangelists.

Of course, reality never follows the math so neatly. You cannot choose who signs up. Some trainees grow greatly, while others drop away along the way. Your pastoral setting, the character of your region and many other factors will affect the results. Even so, there will be a great difference between ten years in which you kept at this work and ten years in which you did not.

Suppose the results came to only one percent of that figure. Even then, ten years from now you would leave behind at least five committed, passionate disciples of Christ who can do personal evangelism. In my experience, people like these are very likely to go on to dedicate their lives to ministry.

The form will differ according to each person's calling and gifts, but many of them will do so.

And through this work of raising disciples who can evangelize, which you began and faithfully led for ten years without giving up, how many people in all will hear the gospel and come to believe in Christ? The number is bound to be considerable.

Yet compared with that number five, it is not the number that matters most. For Jesus' command is, **"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations"** (Matthew 28:19 ESV). That is why we teach the following in EE classes:

"Do not judge the effectiveness of your evangelism and discipleship merely by the outward response of the person you share with. It should be judged by whether 'spiritual grandchildren' are born through that person. A disciple of Christ is a follower of Christ and a member of His body who is spiritually alive, functioning in a healthy way, and continually maturing and reproducing." (EE 13-Week Clinic textbook, Japanese edition, p. 99)

There is a limit to what one person can do. But you are not alone. First of all, Jesus is with you. The Holy Spirit is with you. And if you raise up someone, just as someone once raised you up, you will gain a fellow worker you can count on. And if that fellow worker lives the same way you do... And if the chain keeps going... Though it begins with just one, **"One man of you puts to flight a thousand, since it is the LORD your God who fights for you, just as he promised you"** (Joshua 23:10 ESV).

"One disciple a year" is by no means a high hurdle, and yet the fruit it bears is immense. If you patiently keep at it, the view you see ten years from now will be completely different. EE Japan offers many kinds of support to help you reach the goals you set. Our OJT coaches are always ready to come alongside you. So that you will not only bear fruit but also see **"that your fruit should abide"** (John 15:16 ESV), EE Japan will continue to serve you and your local churches.



Information

- ① [Important] Fall 2026 Online 13-Week Clinic Starts Monday, August 31, 2026! The August 31 class is the introduction and orientation, so anyone interested in the ministry and training of EE may join that day only, free of charge. For the Zoom link and other details, please see the EE Japan website (eejapan.com). Inquiries by email are also welcome.
info@eejapan.com

② OJT Volunteers Wanted!

OJT (on-the-job training) is where trainees actually share the gospel. We are looking for volunteers to be "listeners" so that our trainees can practice. No special knowledge or experience is needed. It is a truly valuable way to help raise up budding evangelists. We would be grateful for your help. Please sign up on our website or with the QR code at right.



- ③ EE Prayer Meeting on Zoom: Wednesdays, 8:30 p.m. (JST)
Rev. Yuko Takahashi, chair of the EE Japan board, leads a prayer meeting on Zoom. We intercede for the ministry of EE, our partner churches, revival in Japan, world peace and those who need salvation. Everyone is welcome. Please come and pray with us.
Zoom meeting information
Meeting ID: 883 9235 5160
Passcode: 771672



④ Did You Know?

You can use a credit card on the EE Japan website! Please use it to pay training fees, to buy textbooks and books, and to give to EE Japan. On the EE Japan website (eejapan.com), click 「支払・献金」 (Payments and Donations).

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● Reports

① Messiah Mission Int'l. Ministry (a Filipino church)

On April 12, a graduation ceremony for a clinic hosted by EE Philippines was held at MMIM, a Filipino church



in Kobe. This church carries the pain of having lost its pastor during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we were greatly encouraged to see it overflowing with passion for evangelism. It was also a great joy that a Japanese woman put her faith in Jesus that day. We are deeply grateful.

② Tokyo Living Water Christian Church, Singapore S-Word Evangelical Free Church

On May 5, at a Chinese church in Koto Ward, Tokyo, two leaders completed the EE teacher training course. We give thanks that EE is being used so powerfully in international churches in Japan as well, and that the work of proclaiming the gospel keeps expanding.

③ A Personal Evangelism Workshop

was held on June 13 and 14 at Family Church Hiroe Chapel (Japan Covenant Christian Church) in Kurashiki, Okayama Prefecture.



It is a mini version of the 13-Week Clinic, EE's main training tool. The participants studied with great enthusiasm and renewed their commitment to sharing the gospel. At the end of the workshop they made actual visit appointments and had opportunities to share the gospel. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible sent out to proclaim the gospel boldly.

④ On Sunday, July 12, we visited Kobe Bible Fellowship to see those who are working hard at evangelism and discipleship through EE. We are grateful for the strong encouragement we also



received from the senior pastor. EE's purpose statement reads: "To glorify God by equipping believers to multiply in and through local churches worldwide." We pray for ever greater blessing on Kobe Bible Fellowship.