

Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).

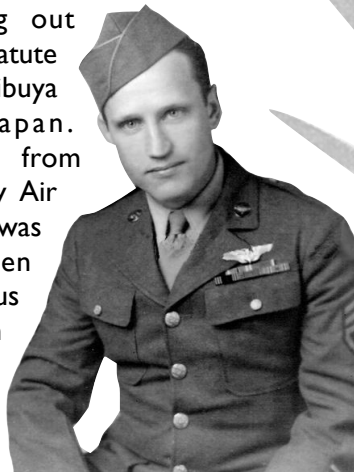


Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Issue 17

The Potential of A Gospel Tract

In the fall of 1948, Jacob DeShazer was passing out tracts near the bronze statue of Hachilo, at the Shibuya Station at Tokyo, Japan. DeShazer, a farm boy from Oregon, joined the army Air Corps at age 27. Jacob was one of the eighty men participating in the famous Doolittle Raid over Japan shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. During the raid, Jacob and his fellow crewmen bailed out over China and were



Jacob DeShazer

taken captive by the Japanese and were prisoners of war for over three years. In that Japanese POW camp, every day facing torture and death, Jacob's path changed when by the providence of God he was allowed to have a Bible. You can hear his personal testimony at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBD3bxiy_Kg.

Among those who accepted a tract from DeShazer was a Japanese man by the name of Mitsuo Fuchida. DeShazer had no idea that Fuchida was the lead pilot of the plane that attacked Pearl Harbor. It was Fuchida who shouted the war cry, "Tora, Tora, Tora!" which was the signal to continue the attack on that fateful day, December 7, 1941. DeShazer returned to Japan in 1948 as a missionary and preached to the nation that

had held him captive. He faithfully served Jesus Christ as an evangelist until his death in 1976.

The following is the incredible story of the lead pilot of the December 7, 1941, raid on Pearl Harbor.

Mitsuo Fuchida said, "I would give anything to retract my actions of twenty-nine years ago at Pearl Harbor, but it is impossible. Instead, I now work at striking the death-blow to the basic hatred which infests the human heart and causes such tragedies. And that hatred cannot be uprooted without assistance from Jesus Christ. He is the only One who was powerful enough to change my life and inspire it with His thoughts. He was the only answer to Jake DeShazer's tormented life. He is the only answer for young people today."

After the war, Fuchida was a defeated warrior in occupied Japan, farming to meet the needs of his family. In 1950, he came to know Jesus Christ as Saviour through a tract handed to him while exiting a train in Tokyo.

The tract was entitled, "**I Was a Prisoner of Japan**," written by Jacob DeShazer. Below is Mitsuo Fuchida's own personal testimony.



Mitsuo Fuchida

"I must admit I was more excited than usual as I awoke that morning at 3:00 a.m., Hawaii time, four days past my thirty-ninth birthday. Our six aircraft carriers were positioned 230 miles north of Oahu Island. As general commander of the air squadron, I made last-minute checks on the intelligence information reports in the operations room before going to



warm up my single-engine, three-seater "97-type" plane used for level bombing and torpedo flying.

The sunrise in the east was magnificent above the white clouds as I led 360 planes towards Hawaii at an altitude of 3,000 meters. I knew my objective: to surprise and cripple the American naval force in the Pacific. But I fretted about being thwarted should some of the U.S. battleships not be there. I gave no thought of the possibility of this attack breaking open a mortal confrontation with the United States. I was only concerned about making a military success.

As we neared the Hawaiian Islands that bright Sunday morning, I made a preliminary check of the harbor, nearby Hickam Field and the other installations surrounding Honolulu. Viewing the entire American Pacific Fleet peacefully at anchor in the inlet below, I smiled as I reached for the mike and ordered, "All squadrons, plunge in to attack!" The time was 7:49 a.m.

Like a hurricane out of nowhere, my torpedo planes, dive bombers and fighters struck suddenly with indescribable fury. As smoke began to billow and the proud battleships, one by one, started tilting, my heart was almost ablaze with joy. During the next three hours, I directly commanded the fifty level bombers as they pelted not only Pearl Harbor, but the airfields, barracks and dry docks nearby. Then I circled at a higher altitude to accurately assess the damage and report it to my superiors.

Of the eight battleships in the harbor, five were mauled into total inactivity for the time being. The Arizona was scrapped for good; the Oklahoma, California and West Virginia were sunk. The Nevada was beached in a sinking condition; only the Pennsylvania, Maryland and Tennessee were able to be repaired. Of the eight, the California, West Virginia and Nevada were salvaged much later, but the Oklahoma, after being raised, was resunk as worthless. Other smaller ships were damaged, but the sting of 3,077 U.S. Navy personnel killed or missing and 876 wounded, plus 226 Army killed and 396 wounded, was something which could never be repaired.

It was the most thrilling exploit of my career. Ever since I had heard of my country's winning the Russo-Japanese War in 1905, I had dreamed of becoming an admiral like Admiral Togo, our commander-in-chief in the decisive Battle of the Japan Sea.

Because my father was a primary school principal and a very patriotic nationalist, I was able to enroll in the Naval Academy when I was eighteen. Upon graduation three years later, I joined the Japanese Naval Air Force, and served mostly as an aircraft carrier pilot for the next fifteen years. So when the time came to choose the chief commander for the Pearl Harbor mission, I had logged over 10,000 hours, making me the most experienced pilot in the Japanese Navy.

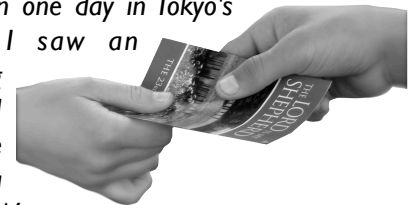
During the next four years, I was determined to improve upon my Pearl Harbor feat. I saw action in the Solomon Islands, Java, the Indian Ocean; just before the Battle of Midway on June 4, 1942, I came down with an attack of appendicitis and was unable to fly. Lying in my bed, I grimaced at the sounds of the firing all about me. By the end of that day, we had suffered our first major defeat, losing ten warships altogether.

From that time on, things got worse. I did not want to surrender. I would rather have fought to the last man. However, when the Emperor announced that we would surrender, I acquiesced.

I was in Hiroshima the day before the atom bomb was dropped, attending a week long military conference with the Army. Fortunately, I received a long distance call from my Navy Headquarters, asking me to return to Tokyo.

With the end of the war, my military career was over, since all Japanese forces were disbanded. I returned to my home village near Osaka and began farming, but it was a discouraging life. I became more and more unhappy, especially when the war crime trials opened in Tokyo. Though I was never accused, General Douglas MacArthur summoned me to testify on several occasions.

As I got off the train one day in Tokyo's Shibuya Station, I saw an American distributing literature. When I passed him, he handed me a pamphlet entitled *I Was a Prisoner of Japan* (published by Bible Literature International, known then as the Bible Meditation League). Involved right then with the trials on atrocities committed against war prisoners, I took it.





What I read was the fascinating episode which eventually changed my life. On that Sunday while I was in the air over Pearl Harbor, an American soldier named Jake DeShazer had been on K.P. duty in an Army camp in California. When the radio announced the sneak demolishing of Pearl Harbor, he hurled a potato at the wall and shouted, "Jap, just wait and see what we'll do to you!"

One month later he volunteered for a secret mission with the Jimmy Doolittle Squadron – a surprise raid on Tokyo from the carrier Hornet. On April 18, 1942, DeShazer was one of the bombardiers, and was filled with elation at getting his revenge. After the bombing raid, they flew on towards China, but ran out of fuel and were forced to parachute into Japanese-held territory. The next morning, DeShazer found himself a prisoner of Japan.

During the next forty long months in confinement, DeShazer was cruelly treated. He recalls that his violent hatred for the maltreating Japanese guards almost drove him insane at one point. But after twenty-five months there in Nanking, China, the U.S. prisoners were given a Bible to read. DeShazer, not being an officer, had to let the others use it first. Finally, it came his turn – for three weeks. There in the Japanese P.O.W. camp, he read and read and eventually came to understand that the Book was more than an historical classic. Its message became relevant to him right there in his cell.

The dynamic power of Christ which Jake DeShazer accepted into his life changed his entire attitude toward his captors. His hatred turned to love and concern, and he resolved that should his country win the war and he be liberated, he would someday return to Japan to introduce others to this life-changing Book.

DeShazer did just that. After some training at Seattle Pacific College, he returned to Japan as a missionary. And his story, printed in pamphlet form, was something I could not explain.

Neither could I forget it. The peaceful motivation I had read about was exactly what I was seeking. Since the

American had found it in the Bible, I decided to purchase one myself, despite my traditionally Buddhist heritage.

In the ensuing weeks, I read this Book eagerly. I came to the climactic drama – the Crucifixion. I read in Luke 23:34 the prayer of Jesus Christ at His death: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." I was impressed that I was certainly one of those for whom He had prayed. The many men I had killed had been slaughtered in the name of patriotism, for I did not understand the love which Christ wishes to implant within every heart.

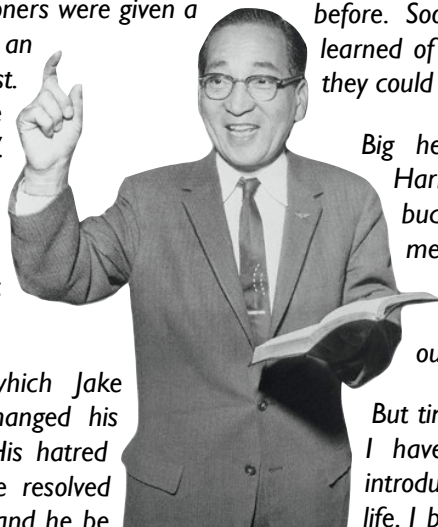
Right at that moment, I seemed to meet Jesus for the first time. I understood the meaning of His death as a substitute for my wickedness, and so in prayer, I requested Him to forgive my sins and change me from a bitter, disillusioned ex-pilot into a well-balanced Christian with purpose in living.

That date, April 14, 1950 – became the second "day to remember" of my life. On that day, I became a new person. My complete view on life was changed by the intervention of the Christ I had always hated and ignored before. Soon other friends beyond my close family learned of my decision to be a follower of Christ, and they could hardly understand it.

Big headlines appeared in the papers: "Pearl Harbor Hero Converts to Christianity." Old war buddies came to visit me, trying to persuade me to discard "this crazy idea." Others accused me of being an opportunist, embracing Christianity only for how it might impress our American victors.

But time has proven them wrong. As an evangelist, I have traveled across Japan and the Orient introducing others to the One Who changed my life. I believe with all my heart that those who will direct Japan – and all other nations – in the decades to come must not ignore the message of Jesus Christ. Youth must realize that He is the only hope for this troubled world.

Though my country has the highest literacy rate in the world, education has not brought salvation. Peace and freedom – both national and personal – come only through an encounter with Jesus Christ.



Mitsuo Fuchida



I would give anything to retract my actions of twenty-nine years ago at Pearl Harbor, but it is impossible. Instead, I now work at striking the death-blow to the basic hatred which infests the human heart and causes such tragedies. And that hatred cannot be uprooted without assistance from Jesus Christ.

He is the only One Who was powerful enough to change my life and inspire it with His thoughts. He was the only answer to Jake DeShazer's tormented life. He is the only answer for young people today.

You Have A Story To Tell

Perhaps you began reading the testimony of the two pilots and found you could not stop reading it. If you are a Christian you also have a story to tell.

Luke 8:39,

"Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee."

Psalm 66:16,

"I will declare what he hath done for my soul."

Matthew 5:16,

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Some guidelines on how to put your story on paper.

First, have an attention getting title for your tract.

Jacob DeShazer's tract caught the attention of Mitsuo Fuchida because of the title. You may not have been a prisoner in a war camp; however, you may have been a prisoner to some habit that you got the victory over after trusting Christ as your Saviour.

Example for starting your tract.

Start by telling when the situation took place. (For example, "When I was seventeen years old I...") Tell about the your salvation experience. When and where were you trusted Christ? How old were you. Simply tell your story. Write the way you speak; the testimony is yours. Be yourself! Make it short and simple.

Paul The Apostle's Testimony

He Tells of His Life Before Christ

Acts 22:3-5,

"I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day. 4 And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. 5 As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished."

Paul got the attention of the particular group he was talking to because he promoted the fact that he was a Jew. He told them where he lived, where he received his education and how he was "zealous toward God."

Verse 3,

- "I am verily a man which am a Jew."
- "born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia."
- "brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel."
- "taught according to the perfect manner of the law."
- "zealous toward God, as ye all are this day."

Give specific, yet appropriate, examples of what your life was like (attitudes, needs, problems) before you received Christ as your Saviour. Keep it short! Avoid being explicit about past sins.

Paul Tells How He Met Christ And How His Life Changed After He Met Christ.

Verses 6-11,

"And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me. 7 And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 8 And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. 9 And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me. 10 And I said, What shall I do, LORD? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do. 11 And when I could not see for the glory of that





light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus."

It only takes a few seconds to read Paul's testimony of how he became a Christian.

- "I made my journey"
- He tells us what happened.
- He tell us how he responded.

Verses 12-21,

"And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, 13 Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. 14 And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth. 15 For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. 16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. 17 And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance; 18 And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me. 19 And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee: 20 And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him. 21 And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles."

Paul tells us how his life was changed.

Prayerfully explain the specific ways Christ has changed your life. It is the Holy Spirit's ministry to draw someone to Christ. Just tell your story and God will use it.

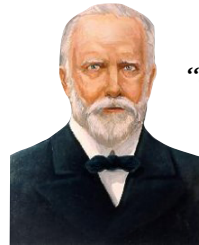
C.H. Spurgeon - Gospel Tracts



C.H. Spurgeon

"The very first service which my youthful heart rendered to Christ was the placing of tracts in envelopes, and then sealing them up, that I might send them., I used to write texts on little scraps of paper, and drop them anywhere, that some poor creatures might pick them up, and receive them as messages of mercy to their souls. I could scarcely content myself even for five minutes without trying to do something for Christ.

If I walked along the street, I must have a few tracts with me; if I went into a railway carriage, I must drop a tract out of the window. It may be that, in the young dawn of my Christian life, I did imprudent things in order to serve the cause of Christ, but I Still say, give me back that time again, with all its imprudence and with all its hastiness, if I may but have the same love to my Master, the same overwhelming influence in my spirit, making me obey my Lord's commands because it was a pleasure to me to do anything to serve my God."



R.A Torrey

R.A. Torrey - Gospel Tracts

"Comparatively few Christians realize the importance of tract work. I had been a Christian a good many years, and a minister of the Gospel several years, before it ever entered my head that tracts were of much value in Christian work. I had somehow grown up with

the notion that tracts were all rubbish, and therefore I did not take the trouble to read them, and far less did I take the trouble to circulate them, but I found out that I was entirely wrong. Tract work has some great advantages over other forms of Christian work."

Importance and advantages.

1. Any person can do it. We cannot all preach; we cannot all conduct meetings; but we can all select useful tracts and then hand them out to others. Of course some of us can do it better than others. Even a blind man or a dumb man can do tract work. It is a line of work in which every man, woman and child can engage.
2. A tract always sticks to the point. I wish every worker did that, but how often we get to talking to some one and he is smart enough to get us off on to a side track.
3. A tract never loses its temper. Perhaps you sometimes do. I have known Christian workers, even workers of experience, who would sometimes get all stirred up, but you cannot stir up a tract it always remains as calm as a June morning.
4. Oftentimes people who are too proud to be talked with, will read a tract when no one is looking. There is many a man who would repulse you if you tried to speak to him about his soul, who will read a tract if you leave it on his table, or in some other



place where he comes upon it accidentally, and that tract may be used for his salvation.

5. A tract stays by one. You talk to a man and then he goes away, but the tract stays with him.
6. Tracts lead many to accept Christ. The author of one tract ("What is it to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ?") received before his death upwards of sixteen hundred letters from people who had been led to Christ by reading it.



Mitsuo Fuchida

"As I got off the train one day in Tokyo's Shibuya Station, I saw an American distributing literature. When I passed him, he handed me a pamphlet...I took it." **What if the man handing out the tracts wasn't there that day?**



The FairHavens Pulpit

- What Is Faith - Message 1
- What Is Faith? - Message 2
- What Is Faith - Message 3
- A Bumper Crop of What?
- A Good Man With A Bad Friend - Message 1
- A Good Man With A Bad Friend - Message 2
- Understanding The Failure of Fundamentalism
- Book of Jude - Series
- The Shadow of The Cross
- Colossians
- No Need For The Battle About Easy Believism And Lordship Salvation
- Why The Word Repent Is Not Mentioned In The Book of John
- Our New Common Salvation
- You Have The Credentials
- Are You Heading To The Other Side?
- Israel's Laodicean Fundamentalist
- I DO Need To Understand
- I Am Joseph
- Christ's Prayer - John 17

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Sites of Interest

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Nine Short Broadcasts About...



"Lord, lay some soul upon my heart, And love that soul through me; And may I bravely do my part To win that soul for Thee.

Lord, lead me to some soul in sin, And grant that I may be Endued with power and love to win That soul, dear Lord, for Thee."

Only *One* LIFE
 twill soon be past
 only what is done for
Christ WILL LAST