

Harvey and Mabel - The Missions Trip

by Randy Sly

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Harvey Brothers and sisters of First Church. I want to thank you for this opportunity to share with you about our recent missionary trip to the other side of the world - the land of the rising sun, the land of the pagan pagoda, the land of the recurring rice dinner, the...

Mabel Harvey! Why don't you just tell them we went to Japan. Ever since you started watching those travel programs you've been driving me crazy!

Harvey Sorry, Mabel, you're right as rigor mortis. I'll try to be less flowery in talking about our journey to the land of the compassionate Kawasaki.

Mabel Harvey!

Harvey Sorry, Mabel, I just had the one left -- didn't want it to go to waste. Let me now describe our journey into the Nippon wilderness.

Mabel (interrupting) Well, we spent ten days helping in a nursing home in downtown Tokyo. Harvey rebuilt the sewage system and I cleaned out the basement.

Harvey I just wanted the folks to realize how different it is when you travel in the mission field. But, you're right as rainwater, Mabel... we were in Tokyo - the flower of the far east... where we return to life as it used to be.

- Mabel Used to be! Harvey, you got all upset because the whirlpool / automatic bubble bath didn't work in our hotel room. And remember the fit you had when the cable TV went out?
- Harvey Thank you for that uplifting report on our accommodations! since these people supported us in this venture, we need to be sure they know we held the line... no frivolous financing!
(Looking at Mabel harshly)
- Mabel Well, you did your part, Harvey. You didn't rent any earphones on the airplane and refused to let the bell boy carry our bags to the room in the hotel.
- Harvey Mabel, as you know, this was a no frills journey into darkness. We were missionaries not some jet set fancy folks... But, we were blessed weren't we, darlin'? The couple in front of us both got air sick and spent most of the trip in the toilet. Their earphones were just sittin' there -- so I said to Mabel, here, "Look, Mabel, Movie manna!" We watched the Beverly Hillbillies movie three times!
- Mabel (Annoyed and wanting to get back on track) Anyway, our days were spent at the "Peace in the Midst of the Storm Nursing Home." You may remember when Brother Billy John Cosgrove came to the church and delivered his stirring message, "Jesus and the Japanese Geriatrics." It was that night Harvey and I felt the call.
- Harvey Right as rice cakes, Mabel. We felt the call and followed our hearts. The rest, as they say, is missionary history.
- Mabel As you well remember, Harvey, Brother Cosgrove said the P.I.T.M.O.T.S. Nursing home -- or PITMOTS to us missionary staff-- will never be the same again.

- Harvey It's the anointing, Mabel. We just had the anointing upon us. I could feel it we left the good ol' U.S. of A... the anointing came.
- Mabel That must be it, Harvey. How else would you explain your fantastic chapel message to the patients at PITMOTS?
- Harvey There I was, Mabel, standing with Brother Cosgrove in the basement of the home when this big crescent wrench fell from the top of the tall step ladder next to the man and KAPOW!... Brother C was sleeping on the cement.
- Mabel Poor Billy John... but at least you found your wrench, Harvey.
- Harvey Right as a ruptured disk, Mabel. I took apart the drain pipes the day before and thought to myself "Harvey, don't leave that wrench up here, it might fall on someone." But did I listen to myself? Noooooooo! Went right off and left it... but that's not the whole story. There I was lookin' down on poor old Brother C. Suddenly I remembered he was supposed to give the chapel service that morning. I said to myself, "Harvey," I said, "you have got to stand in the gap. You have got to give some spiritual bread to these old people. Just depend on your anointin', Harvey, the anointin' will carry you through. Least ways, Cosgrove won't come to for at least a couple of hours, so its up to you and your anointin'!"
- Mabel And what a sermon, Harvey! "Take Up Your Bed and Walk." A perfect message for those old folks in the nursing home. The more you preached the more they just shouted and thrashed around in their wheelchairs. I know it stirred me to a new place of faith and power... no telling what it did for them. You spoke with such power, under such anointing.

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