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MEXICO: Then & Now

Hernando Cortes (1485-1547) sailed to the West Indies in 1504. After Carlos came to the Spanish throne as a boy in 1516, Governor Diego Velazquez of Cuba authorized an expedition to 'Yucatan' in 1519. Cortes and his fleet of 11 ships arrived from Cuba that year, on Good Friday at 9am. He came with an army of 500 soldiers and some horses.



master of up to 20,000 slaves. This beachhead quickly became his base of operation. Cortes was a decisive leader and that year the town council directly authorized their Founder, to launch an invasion of the **Aztec Empire**.



In order to unload the horses and supplies on dry land, he beached and then burned the entire fleet so no one could go back. An altar was built to bless the land but their religious ceremony was deliberately combined with native pagan practices. This mixed message left a curse on the land which has been handed down to succeeding generations. It's still reflected in lawless moral corruption and grinding poverty endured by many to this day.

Emperor Montezuma II believed these strangers were sent by some pagan deity to take revenge for his own ill treatment in the past. This *'godlike King of the Aztecs'* sent rich gifts to buy them off, but it only made the Spaniards more determined to stay. After seeing and assessing the rich agricultural potential of the land as well, Cortes mobilized his army and marched on **Mexico City**.

Soldiers mounted on horses never seen by that generation, were dressed in iron armor like Knights of the Round Table. Their awesome ability to shoot bullets was vastly increased with explosive and thunderous cannon fire that could cause an entire hillside to collapse. The Emperor was terrified and said, *'Whatever is going to become of us?'* Cortes first came to the capital Nov 8, 1519. It was called *'Tenochtitlan'* then, and sat like a jewel in the midst of the lake. This first attempt failed however, and Cortes retreated to Tlaxcala. They resisted at first but when that was broken, Tlaxcalans later became his loyal friends.

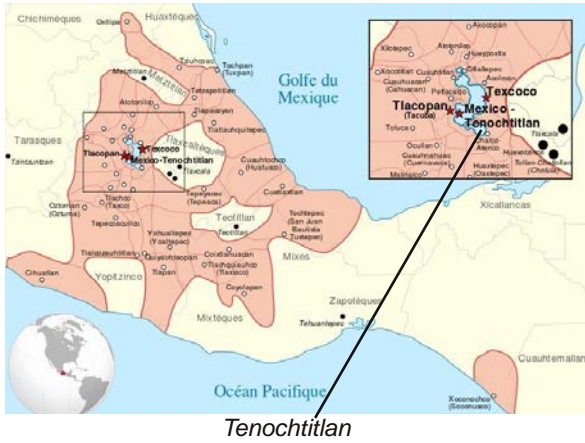
When Cortes arrived, what they called the *'True Cross'* was raised onshore. These two words combined in Latin are pronounced *'Veracruz'* by which the city he founded there is known today. Labor was cheap and he eventually became



Aztec Empire.

MONTEZUMA'S REVENGE

The endless ritual sacrifices of thousands of men, women and children required by the **Aztecs**,



Tenochtitlan

because of this unbearable tax on their lives, joined his forces. But the ruthless savagery of the Spaniards killed far more than sacrifices demanded by the Aztecs of Mexico.

One day thousands of people were slaughtered like sheep in the city square, as Spaniards opened unrelenting fire on ordinary, defenseless citizens. This second assault succeeded, and the city fell

Aug 31, 1521.

So with only a few guns and men mounted on a handful of horses, Cortes toppled the mightiest, most warlike of all American Empires. This historic civilization then came under the control of Spain. Although Tenochtitlan was rebuilt as a Christian city at the time, it had nothing of its former glory. Most of the enormous riches Cortes acquired were eventually lost. But that was nothing compared to the loss suffered when he ended his days back in Spain, and had to go tell it to the Judge of the whole earth... ■

bred deep fury in their subjects. This made them eager allies of **Cortes**, so numbers of natives who hated their overlords

MEXICO

Puebla: Nov 29 - Dec 10, 2013

David & Rowene Sheppard are growing a new church plant in Puebla called Grace and Glory. He said *'Only eternity will tell all that happened, but what we saw was pretty wonderful...'*

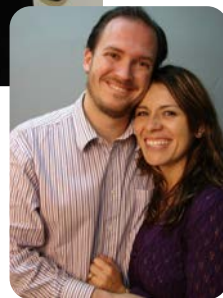
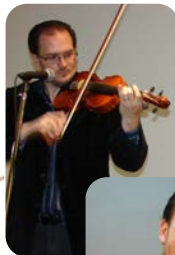


Rowene & David Sheppard

Lionel primarily preached and prophesied at our place, though he ministered very effectively in a pastors' breakfast as well. He also ministered with great blessing on both Mondays, to Logos Bible School'.

At least 12 people were baptized in the Holy Spirit during those days. One young lady who came with

tears to receive the Holy Spirit, was totally blocked. She obviously needed inner healing first.



Michael & Darling Sheppard

Michael Sheppard said she needed to forgive someone. Then her Mother came up and

apologized for not protecting her. Her Father also came to apologize, so the family was healed

and the blockage removed. She was immediately set free and released to pray in other tongues!

Another lady who prayed to receive Christ for the first time, was baptized in the Spirit, then went outside and was water baptized by immersion - so she got three big foundation stones laid in her Christian experience, all on the same day! On that day people were saved, healed, filled



Ruth, Gerald Nygren & Lionel



Water Baptism



with the Spirit, water baptized, prophesied to and learning to prophesy, encouraged and taught the Word - it was a great feast! ■

COMING!

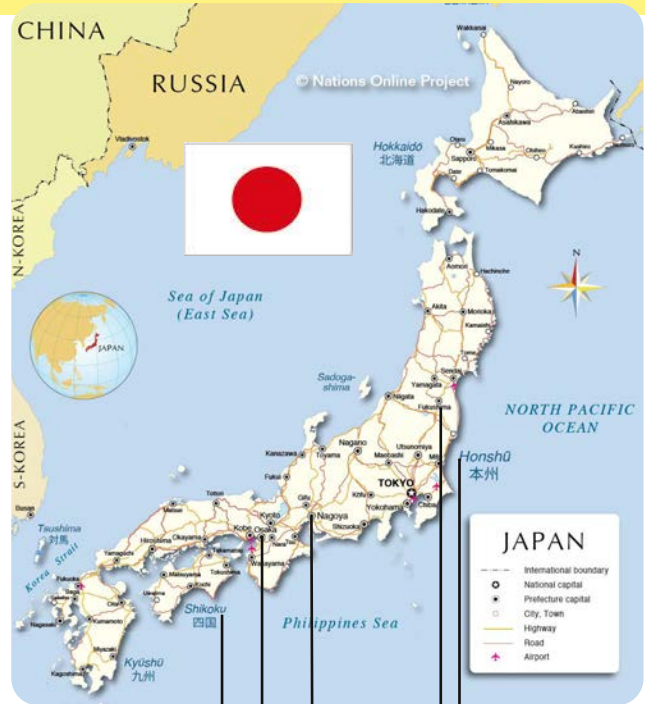
JAPAN: Apr 1 - May 6, 2014



Katsutaro Kawai



Lionel & Paul DeGagne



Katsutaro Kawai - missionary to Romania, will return home to Japan to interpret for **Paul DeGagne** of Abbotsford and myself, in several significant areas. We'll start in Osaka, then minister to churches in the Nagoya area, from there to churches on Shikoku Island, then up to Hokuriku Prefecture on the west side of Honshu Island. The last week we'll visit churches that are having revival north of Fukushima where the tsunami came and nuclear meltdown took place.

We're making a major effort in Japan at this time, because the

Lord told me not to forget Japan! In a dream last year, He said Japan was my 'pivotal invitation'. The first 'mission the Lord assigned me' (1 Sam 15:20 NIV) was carried out when the late Lester A. Pritchard included me in the Japan Thrust of 1971. This resulted in invitations and connections around the world that are still working today.

The Japanese economy is not as strong as it was. There are significant international, in-country travel and living costs, as well as normal operating expenses in maintaining the home base. If you feel a burden

for this mission, or the Lord speaks to you about supporting this ministry financially at some level, write today to:

'Release Ministries'.

Last but not least, **'Pray for us - that the Word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified'** (2 Ths 3:1 NKJ). ■

Rev Lionel Batke March, 2014

'Release Ministries' began in the 1990s during a series of visits to Japan with veteran missionaries Donnel & Venda McLean. Our express purpose, burden and vision was to inspire, activate, release - and establish spiritual gifts throughout the churches in an ongoing, operative way. One day Donnel said, 'This is a release ministry'. Many years later it became obvious Team Thrust Ministries was outdated - needing to be retired and

replaced. Pastor Doug Fortune then confirmed 'Release Ministries' to be the name of this new thing God is doing, so new governing documents were prepared. 'Release Ministries Society' was registered in Victoria as a corporation September 19, 2011 - then in Ottawa as a charity January 24, 2013. Graphics: Norman Glass, Secretary-Treasurer, Release Ministries.

Canada Revenue Registration Number 84180 4883 RR001
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