

CHIEKO LEARNS ABOUT JESUS

By Lucy Stevenson Ewell

Church Magazines
(Based on a true story)



Hawaii is a group of islands in the Pacific Ocean. It's part of the USA.



There are two temples in Hawaii.



Hawaii's state flower is the yellow hibiscus.

Chieko smoothed her soft, white dress. She was the angel in the Christmas Nativity play, and the show was about to start.

Chieko didn't know much about Christmas or Jesus. Her family had come to Hawaii from Japan, and they were Buddhist. But her father's boss had asked her to be in the play, and she was excited to be a part of it. She worked hard to learn the words.

"Fear not," Chieko said as she stood on the stage. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord." She loved being in this play.

A few years later, Chieko met some missionaries. They were from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. "Would you like to come to church to learn more about Jesus Christ?" they asked.

Chieko remembered her part in the Christmas play. *Who is Jesus?* she thought. She wanted to learn more.

When she got home, Chieko asked her parents if she could go to church with the missionaries. "I don't see why not," Mama said. "As long as you still come to the Buddhist temple with us."

At church, Chieko learned new songs and made new friends. In Sunday School, she learned that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. Because of Him, she could repent and live with God again someday. Chieko felt something special inside. She knew Jesus was real.

Years passed. Each week, Chieko went to the Buddhist temple with her family. And each Sunday, she went to church.



She and her husband, Edward, had two sons.



She was a schoolteacher and principal.



During her Church service, she gave talks in English, Japanese, Korean, Tongan, and Spanish.



Chieko felt something special inside.

When she was 15, Chieko wanted to be baptized. She was a little scared to ask her parents. But they supported her. "We know you can be a good daughter and a good Christian too," Papa said. Chieko was so happy!

As she grew up, Chieko kept following Jesus. Sometimes people were unkind to her because she was Japanese. But Chieko didn't let that stop her. She treated everyone with kindness.

When she was 63, Chieko was called to serve as part of the Relief Society General Presidency. She visited Church members around the world. She shared the Savior's love.

Chieko also spoke in general conference. "Let us come unto Christ," she said. "Let us rejoice in Him, the giver of all good things."* ●

* "Rejoice in Every Good Thing," Ensign, Nov. 1991, 89.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY CAROLINA FARIAS