Toshihiro Takami
September 30, 1926 - September 6, 2018

Celebrating the extraordinary life and impact of Rev. Dr. Toshihiro Takami, we have gathered a selection of memories of those who knew the founder and spiritual leader of ARI.
Blessing Born out of Hardship

Toshihiro Takami’s Life

In honor of Takami Sensei, who is resting in heavenly peace.

Rev. Dr. Toshihiro Takami, who led ARI, finished 91 years of his life on September 6th, 2018. The funeral was observed by his family members the next day and we held a farewell gathering on December 13th.

Among my many memories of Takami sensei, one of the most vivid in my mind is his napping figure on the hard wooden floor of his house. He would lay on the bare floor without any mat or sheet, using one of his own arms as a pillow. Sometimes, he would sleep blocking traffic to the dining room! When I had to pass the place, I had to step over him saying in a small voice, “I am sorry, Sensei.” If there are words to characterize Takami’s way of life, I think “simplicity” comes out first, as is shown in his napping figure.

Youth: Migration, Poverty, Zen, and War

Takami’s life can be divided into three sections. The first phase is from his birth up to his 25th year (1926 to 1951). He was born in Manchuria in present China and came back to Japan at the age of 10. His family was not wealthy enough to send him to school, but he was lucky enough to receive a scholarship to go to secondary school by living and training at a Zen temple. This temple, located in Kyôto, was his home from the ages of 12 to 17. After his graduation from high school, he moved to Kanagawa Prefecture to attend a naval school (a requisite of wartime). He was still attending this school when World War II came to an end. After the war, while he was doing various types of work to survive, he got a job to serve as a cook in the home of an American missionary in Kôbe. This event would dramatically change Takami’s life.

Growing in Mission

The second phase of Takami’s life encompasses the next 21 years (1951 to 1972), from his conversion to Christianity (due in part to the influence of Mr. Albert Faurot, the American missionary he worked for) until the time he decided to establish a school. After working in Kôbe for some years, Takami was given an opportunity to study at a college in the United States with the help of his employer. Takami studied at three universities in the US, focusing on theology in graduate schools and becoming an ordained pastor in the US.

After his return to Japan, Takami started working as a pastor in the Kansai (western) area. There he encountered the Theological School for Rural Mission in Tokyo and decided to enter it as a student. That was in 1961. However, the school offered him a director’s position of a newly established Southeast Training Course, which would become ARI about ten years later.

Takami met his wife Shinko in Kansai and they married in 1962. After spending twelve years together in this school, it began to face financial difficulty. In the same period, Bangladesh (a newly born country that had won its independence from Pakistan) was suffering from historical flood. Takami was sent to Bangladesh by the NCC (National Council of Churches in Japan) as a leader of a group of 50 young Japanese volunteers to serve there for four months. That activity was regarded as the first international cooperative action initiated by a non-governmental civil group in Japan. It is said that this experience influenced Takami to have the vision of creating ARI.
ARI: Living a Vision in Service for Others

The third phase is the final phase starting from 1972, the period of establishing and developing ARI. Takami had blessed encounters with various people, such as Rev. Fukumoto (who introduced him to available land in Nishinasuno), that helped him make his vision for ARI a reality. In May of 1973, the first batch of 16 participants from six countries was welcomed and the training program began. Takami would talk later about how the first ten years were especially difficult; however, he was always proud of ARI for being “the only school in the world that trains rural leaders,” and continued to lead ARI at the front lines until he retired as director in 1991 and as chair of the board in 1994.

Generosity from Scarcity

I think his childhood and adolescence were not very blessed ones. His life was tossed around by a war that left him poor. However, I believe that his experience in a Zen temple gave him the heart to cherish honorable poverty without being attached to materialism (as shown by his love for naps on hard-wooden floors). He emphasized the importance of “learning from that magnanimous, definitively orderly, and beautiful work of nature,” which became an important value in the life of ARI.

Also, during his harsh experience in Bangladesh, the generosity of the local farmers who shared their food taught Takami that “the most beautiful dignity of human beings,” which is “sharing in scarcity.” From that learning, his vision was born: creating a school and a community of learning where people live together, sharing the most precious gifts of food and life. Currently, ARI has sent out almost 1,400 graduates from 57 countries and given precious experiences to countless people.

I am so grateful to God for sending Takami Sensei to this world and giving him a vision of creating this school. The value and spirit that ARI has at the bottom of its existence are becoming more and more important in a world where “dehumanization by modernization” is being accelerated with unprecedented speed.

Tomoko Arakawa
Director

Some Personal Episodes

I remember that Takami admired my work ethic when I first came to ARI. Whenever I came to his home, he would tell me, “Tomoko-san, the age of women’s power is coming soon.”

After 2000, Takami became so physically weak that he had to use a walker to get around. Despite this, he made sure to attend morning exercise every day. Takami would lean on buildings to steady himself through all the different stretches, even the ones that were difficult for him. This was a big inspiration for everyone in attendance!

In his final years in the nursing home, Takami suffered from memory loss. He often couldn’t remember my name when I visited him. However, he always asked me, “How is your family?” I think that, while his mind might not have remembered my name, his heart recognized me.
Encounters with Takami

Leading with Faith

It was a chance encounter that brought Takami and Hajime Kikuchi together. In 1965, Kikuchi was asked to join a rural extension program at the Theological Seminary for Rural Mission in Tokyo. It was here that he met the director of the seminary’s Southeast Asia Training Program: Takami Sensei. Kikuchi was later invited to join Takami in his work with rural people, which led the two to Nishinasuno and, eventually, the Asian Rural Institute. He would continue to work at ARI for the next twenty years, even serving as director from 1992 to 1993.

After all, a man of faith.

This same faith would return to the forefront of Takami’s life many years later when the two of us first arrived in Nishinasuno with the intent of breaking ground for ARI. We had previously conducted a Southeast Asia Training Course (which would become the basis for ARI’s curriculum) in Tokyo but had concluded that a separate school in a rural area like Nishinasuno would provide participants with a more authentic rural experience. It was the perfect place in which to establish our school; as a newer community established in the post-Meiji era, Nishinasuno was less bound by tradition than other towns in Japan and had a reputation for being open to accepting new people. In fact, in ARI’s first year, the local people would come almost every day to see our diverse class of foreign participants!

There was just one small problem with this location: the land we wanted to purchase for ARI’s campus was valued at 60 million yen. This amount was well beyond our means, as we had come to Nishinasuno with nothing. We had no money, no machinery, no resources at all. Nothing could be done without these necessities, so Takami spent his days helping collect children at Nishinasuno kindergarten, and his nights sleeping at the local church. He was, however, undeterred. I’ll never forget his words in the face of this adversity: “If the program is important for the needs of the people, both in Japan and all over the world, money and necessities will follow.”

And follow they did. To this day I don’t believe Takami had a concrete plan to secure the needed funds, but his experience in working with ecumenical organizations enabled him to convince local businesses of our project’s importance. These same businesses provided a financial guarantee to the bank, allowing us to acquire the loan we needed to purchase our plot.

Was traveling to a new place without any resources the most practical way to go about building a world-changing school? Probably not. But Takami never doubted that God would provide. He was, after all, a man of faith.

Hajime Kikuchi
Former ARI director (1992-1993) and staff member (1973-1992)
**Flexibility and Authenticity**

It all began with a letter.

In 1970, Kiyoshi Nagashima (then a student) was gripped by the desire to work as a volunteer in disaster-stricken East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). He wrote to a school elder for advice on the matter, who in turn referred him to a colleague involved in similar relief efforts. This colleague contacted Nagashima personally in the following days, introducing himself as Toshihiro Takami. He said if he wanted to work with people at the grassroots level he should come meet with him in Tokyo. This encounter inspired Nagashima to join Takami’s Southeast Asia Training Course.

After the founding of ARI, Nagashima’s extensive knowledge of poultry and animal husbandry would earn him a leadership position in the institute’s farm section.

Takami Sensei was my mentor: my spiritual leader, but also a teacher in all things. I cannot call him by his name alone. Sensei (=teacher, doctor) is a special word for me, and he was indeed a special person. He taught me much; not only about farmers and farming but also about human qualities like trust, severity, and geniality. While Takami Sensei’s ability to demonstrate each of these traits to their fullest was remarkable in and of itself, the fact that doing so never compromised his core character showed a quality essential in any leader: flexibility.

I remember Takami Sensei having two distinct sides. Some circumstances made him a strict disciplinarian, so much so that I would occasionally want to hide from him! Other times (especially later in his life) he was a charismatic people-lover. An example of the former would be his reaction when I told him my plans for post-graduate life:

> Though I was in the middle of a poultry studies program (meant to deepen the knowledge I had gained in his Southeast Asia Training Course), my spirit was restless, and I felt called to temporarily abandon academics and volunteer for service in Bangladesh. I had this same desire during my university days but my teachers at the time told me that I needed more knowledge to serve in other countries. Takami Sensei gave me a similar response. He sternly said that I should concentrate on my studies and not allow myself to be distracted. I recall this as a moment in which strong direction was given to my life.

As a contrast to this interaction, I have a more light-hearted memory to relate: my graduation ceremony from the South East Asia Course in 1971. After the graduation service, the staff and participants gathered for a fellowship dinner to celebrate the year’s accomplishments. At this dinner, Takami Sensei surprised us with a special Japanese cheer he had prepared. The director’s behavior was wild! He danced and leaped through the room, wanting to entertain all present. Looking back, I realized that the importance of this moment was not in the performance itself, but in Takami Sensei’s genuine desire to bring happiness and life to his community.

These two stories reveal a man flexible enough to embrace both seriousness and humor with equal authenticity. It was this flexibility of disposition that allowed Takami Sensei to adapt to the challenges of ARI’s early days and establish the institute we know today: an institute that, like its founder, changes to be what its community needs without losing its core mission.

Kiyoshi Nagashima
Former staff member
(1973-2007)
With the passing of Takami Sensei, I join the thousands of people who have been touched by him in mourning. Nearly every interaction with ARI’s founder was a learning opportunity and many of us have multiple “Takami Stories”.

I first met Takami Sensei a few months before I became a staff member at ARI, back in 1993 when he was the acting director. I came to ARI for about a week during the spring break of my final year in graduate school. I had not been to ARI before, but I knew one of the ARI board members well: Mr. Hideo Kikuchi. Kikuchi-san thought I might be a good fit for ARI and so he helped me arrange a visit.

From my first experience with morning farm work, I immediately realized that ARI was a unique place. I felt a great sense of joy and peacefulness. I had a strong feeling that this was the place I had been preparing to serve and became excited about the possibility of working at ARI.

One warm afternoon during my visit I was working with the pigs, cleaning the manure. I was sweaty and smelled terrible! A staff member came to the pig house and called me, “JB-san, you need to come to the main building. They want to talk with you.” I told the person I would get cleaned up first, but she said I should go immediately. This worried me; I didn’t want to offend anyone with my stench!

When I arrived, they took me to the office where Takami Sensei was waiting. I sat down near him and we waited for the other staff members to come. It was only then that I realized that this was going to be a job interview. The fact that I was sitting next to ARI’s founder made me nervous about my smell. Takami Sensei looked at me and smiled. Then he leaned forward and said, “I love the smell of pig manure.” We laughed and I knew then that ARI was the perfect place for me. There is no place in the world where the head of the organization would say that kind of thing!

I feel very fortunate that I was offered a position at ARI after that. In reflecting back on the encounter, I now wonder if part of the reason why I was selected was that I had the sweet perfume of pig manure at my interview.

Rev. Debora Purada Sinaga
1991 Graduate, 1996 TA, Indonesia
Radical Leader

Takami became like a father to me after I began carrying him on my back to places he needed to go. He wanted to still be a part of the community and attend events, so I would carry him to the locations and sit next to him. He would always just look at me and smile after I finished helping him. You could see his true heart when he laughed and laughed. His morning gatherings showed his passion even when he was at his weakest. He was a radical leader. When he dreamed something, he wanted it to come true.

Takami was very concerned about other people’s lives. He had a passion for the African people that came to ARI. He told me that he always thought about them after they left ARI to return to their home communities. He always said a person that cannot be uprooted from their community is a grassroots leader.

Fish Lesson

One of the greatest lessons I learned from Rev. Dr. Takami: One Sunday evening we were sitting on a log by the workshop, having a chat. Takami Sensei said, “Laki, you come from the island of Sri Lanka and you have the sea around the country. You have lots and lots of different types of fish swimming in the salty sea water. Some of the fish are big and others are small, but they all swim around the same salty water, 24 hours a day. Some days they must brave the stormy weather and avoid getting dashed on a rock. Some must work to avoid being eaten by larger fish. One day the fish are caught and used, but the fish are not salty despite their lifetime in salt water.

Our world is like that. You must live your life with all the risks and danger that lurk around you. You are constantly surrounded by dirt and sin, but you yourself need to be clean, not salty and useless. When you return to Sri Lanka, practice all that you’ve learned at ARI and live a clean and healthy life.”

To be rooted and uprooted

When I was a participant in 1999, Takami Sensei talked about rice transplanting in his leadership class. He talked about the importance of the uprooting process. He compared each one of us to a seedling, asking us where we came from and saying how important it is to be uprooted from where you are familiar with. This uprooting process is very painful since seedlings are grown in a very nice, caring environment, then suddenly pulled out of their nursery bed… however, this is an important period for us to grow stronger and become rooted better to bear fruit in the future.

Since then, I often compare myself to a seedling and reflect on what kind of soil, fertilizer or environment I am rooted in (and what I experience when I am uprooted from it). Should I take this uprooting process positively or not? The root is hidden, yet it is the heart of life.

Takami Sensei to me was someone who was like a neighbor figure, not someone who sat in a high position. He was always there at morning exercise with his favorite hat. He was always there and accessible. As we prepared for his farewell service at ARI, my heart filled with gratefulness for his vision, passion, and leadership. He was one of the founders and leaders who sowed thousands of seeds, whose flowers are blooming all over the world. He did not say, “I sow a seed!” He did not say that he did something great. His constant humble works of training leaders and leading ARI was like a farmer who takes care of the soil and seedlings. To improve and care for soil takes time, energy, and love. This is a big decision to make! But we human beings cannot work alone. God, nature, human beings… It is a team effort.

The seed I received from Takami Sensei is still growing. Sometimes my root is shaken, sometimes I forget where I come from and become arrogant. But I remember this story of uprooting and re-centering myself.

Takami Sensei, ARI is growing. Every year different people gather and share joy, as well as struggle and learn from each other. Where you sow and cultivate the seeds, they are sure to grow. Thank you indeed, and rest in peace.

Kaori Sakuma-Vero
ARI General Manager
1999 Graduate, Japan

Bernard Timothy Appau
Chaplain & Livestock Staff
2001 Graduate, 2007 TA, Ghana

Lakshman Perera
1977 Graduate, Sri Lanka
Memories of Tom

Eimert van Herwijnen is a long-time supporter of ARI and a close friend of the Takami family. A military veteran and Master of Chemical Engineering, he began working in 1959 for Shell Chemical in their head office in the Hague.

In 1962 he was offered a position with Shell Sekiyu in Tokyo. He, his wife Eve, and their three young children lived in Yokohama’s Shell compound for the next five years.

Upon their return to the Netherlands, Eimert joined the Committee for Development Aid and Outreach at his church, the “Remonstrants.” Later, he became President of the International Association for Religious Freedom. Rissho Kosei-kai was a prominent member group. In this capacity, he was able to visit Japan and ARI several times over the following years.

During the period of 1962 to 1967, I lived with my family in Japan. My wife Eve was an active member of the Women’s Guild of the Yokohama Chapel Centre. The Guild organized excursions to Christian activities in the region. On one of these excursions, Eve visited the Southeast Asian Course of the Theological Seminary for Rural Mission in Tsurukawa near Tokyo. Later, Takami Sensei (who my family knew as Tom) spoke about his initiative at a meeting of the Women’s Guild.

After our return to the Netherlands, Eve and I celebrated our so-called Copper Wedding (12.5 years) anniversary. We asked guests to donate to SEAC in place of personal gifts. Soon after, Tom visited us in Rhoon near Rotterdam on his way to the World Council of Churches in Geneva. He wanted to thank the people who had made a donation. Tom told his life story and his vision of empowering rural communities to be able to develop and help themselves. After this encounter, Eve and I began to talk about ARI in churches and women’s groups.

In 1983 I was able to take an extended holiday. Eve and I traveled to Nishinasuno, ten years after ARI was founded in Tochigi Prefecture. We arrived late in the evening, a day or so after the kitchen and dining hall had burned down. Tom was waiting for us in the office and he took us to our room in the men’s dormitory. We spent six weeks with the ARI community and joined in all the activities. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn from Tom’s leadership and wisdom. It changed our ideas about development aid and sustainable agriculture. We were impressed with how ARI was able to build a community on the campus with a diverse group of new participants each year.

Over the years Tom visited us several times, once together with his wife Shinko-san. I was able to visit ARI a few times while in Japan for other purposes. Despite the long distance and the limited opportunities to meet each other in person, there was always a strong bond of friendship between us.

Eve and I discussed going to ARI once more on several occasions, but in 2011 Eve passed away. I was later told by ARI staff member Steven Cutting that Tom’s health was not good, and in 2012 I traveled with my friend Els, now my wife since 2013, to ARI. I wanted to see Tom once more and tell him how he changed my life and to thank him for his friendship.

On Eve’s tombstone are the words “That we may live together.”

In order to allow his words to be read by many people—specially by younger generations—we have made this booklet of his words. Here we selected 33 quotes, providing them in both Japanese and English.

Please use this booklet to understand the origin and ethos of the Asian Rural Institute.

If you are interested in getting a copy, please contact JB Hoover at afarifriends@gmail.com

Eimert van Herwijnen
Supporter from Brummen,
the Netherlands
Perspectives from the Memorial Service

When remembering a friend or loved one (especially in the context of a farewell service), it is important to present them as fully human. This means embracing every aspect of who they were, not just their ‘greatest hits.’

There was a temptation to do this for a man as accomplished as Toshihiro Takami. His memorial service held on December 13th, 2018 with an attendance of 250 people was a beautiful (yet appropriately simple) celebration of an extraordinary individual. Despite its air of admiration for Takami, the perspectives provided in the service were both honest and comprehensive.

One of these perspectives was from Mr. Michio Itô, a representative of JANIC (Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation). He spoke of Takami, not as an ARI-affiliated individual, but as an independent activist who worked to further the cause of humanitarian NGOs in Japan. As Chair of the Board of JANIC (from 1987-1996), Takami gave considerable time and effort to the organization. He attended its board meetings (despite a daunting travel time of five hours round-trip), navigated its economic hardships and provided the moral foundation that allowed JANIC to coalesce into a successful body (now with a membership of 175 NGOs focused on research and advocacy). This shows that, while Takami’s work for ARI was his crowning achievement, it was not the sole focus of his life’s story.

Mr. Itô’s sharing was followed by some prepared remarks from Takami’s long-time American friend, David Dudley. An architect who also works with student groups at Doane University, David first met Takami as a friend of his parents. They remember him as a great source of warmth and laughter in their lives.

It wasn’t until later in life, however, that David truly came to appreciate Takami’s ability to bring people together. He recalled an instance when he ran into Takami in an airport after a period of lapsed contact. They were both holding disposable spoons they had taken from their respective airplanes! The two were soon talking and laughing about the situation as though they’d never been apart. David’s experience portrayed Takami as a man who took notice of the small things and who was gifted at building bridges between people (even with jokes about spoons).

This exploration of Takami as a ‘full human’ wouldn’t be complete without the perspective of a family member, which the memorial provided through the words of his son, Shin. Shin spoke of his relationship with his father candidly, recounting memories of a difficult childhood spent with a parent who was often either absent or emotionally unavailable. Ironically, it wasn’t until he traveled abroad that he was able to develop a comfortable rapport with him.

The relationship between the two continued to thaw in Takami’s later years. He played a key role in bringing together Shin and his wife Shizuka, even presiding over their wedding (a ‘bring your own pastor’ event, according to Shin). After his retirement, Takami enjoyed spending more time with his family, relishing the role of grandfather.

Shin has a better understanding of Takami’s actions: while he certainly loved his family, he decided to not love them more than the people he had devoted his life to serving. It proved a spirit of selfless, Christ-like love.

Takami Sensei’s life was one of remarkable accomplishment. We remember him, however, not because he was without flaw, but because he had the will to embrace his gifts and wrestle with his faults in service of a higher purpose.

Stephen Miller
Volunteer (Brethren Volunteer Service)
By Sharing Life We Live

The following text by Dr. Toshihiro Takami expresses some of the values and aims of the ARI training program. We send this essay to each person who applies to the Rural Leaders Training Program with the request to write a response. It serves as one of the selection criteria.
Our motto at ARI is “That We May Live Together.” Participants come to work hard in order to return to their own people to work and live even harder. Not only Protestant and Roman Catholic Christians, but also Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and others share the life at ARI. For we believe the love of God in Jesus Christ is for all peoples and not only for us who confess our faith in Him. In fact we believe that by sharing life with others, we too may have the joy of living ourselves.

ARI is a very hard community to live in. Participants come from widely different backgrounds—socially, politically, religiously, culturally. Only those who are strongly motivated, deeply dedicated and experienced leaders come to ARI. Many of them seem to have common characteristics of being strong-minded, power-conscious, quick for action, rather domineering, above average ability and with a high degree of self-esteem.

Each day we go through the difficult process of making corporate decisions—as consensus, not compromise. Each person—man or woman, young or old, rich or poor, strong or weak—has equal right and responsibility to participate. We know “people’s participation in human development” is an indispensable key to realizing justice and peace. But this is easy to say and difficult to practice. Each of us must learn to be a good listener —especially to the poor and weak, the voiceless. At the same time, each person needs to become an articulate but not necessarily an eloquent speaker. Eventually each one learns to be a trustworthy spokesperson of his or her own community, in word and deed.

Each of us must learn to be a good listener—especially to the poor and weak.”

One of the most critical, painful and difficult experiences each person goes through at ARI is a process of image change. With such a variety of cultural backgrounds and values, the self-images of participants differ greatly. Equally varied are the images they hold of a desirable community. These images are important. They set the limits of what each Participant is going to be. They determine what kind of world he or she will try to build. We often observe Christian leaders consciously or unconsciously assuming an image of a leader according to their own cultural tradition—quite often dictatorial, paternalistic, or in keeping with an image of their former colonial masters.

Many come to ARI with their own images of a training institute. They expect it to be a conventional “academic institution” rather than a community of learning through a process of personal encounter. These Participants suppose that a set of normally accepted subjects in agriculture and social sciences will be taught by experts to students. Instead, what happens is that people have to go through the pain of creating for themselves a community of learning. In the process, each person has to find a new image—quite different from the one they came with.

Pastors, priests, school principals and others often find it very difficult to engage in physical labor—“spoiling” or “dirtying” their hands and knees. They think it is below their dignity to take a shovel or a broom to scrape up chicken or pig dung. Leaders are not supposed to do that: manual labor is below their self-image. Every year we hear some participants murmur, “We did not come to ARI to work in the mud. We came to Japan to study.” People become indignant when their expectations are not met. We need to learn to listen to these indignant murmurs. In this painful process of having our conventional images shattered, we find ourselves emerging with new images—of ourselves, of leadership, life and culture. All this happens as we work together to produce and share food and other resources.
How to donate to ARI

USA
US citizens may make tax deductible gifts to ARI through AFARI. Make out your check to the American Friends of ARI and send it to:

American Friends of Asian Rural Institute, Inc.
2028 E Ben White Blvd #240-9000
Austin TX 78741

or donate online through AFARI at http://friends-ari.org/

Canada
Canadian citizens can make a tax deductible donation to the United Church of Canada to support ARI. Cheques payable to the UCC should be sent to:

United Church of Canada
Church in Mission Unit
3250 Bloor St. West, Suite 200
Toronto, Ontario M8X 2Y4
Attn: Pat Elson (Please designate "ARI" on the cheque)

Prayer spoken at ARI’s service at the time of the family funeral for Rev. Dr. Takami on September 6, 2018

Heavenly Father and Lord....

...the Alpha and Omega, the Creator of all things. We want to humbly thank you and acknowledge your mighty presence and anointing in this memorial service as we celebrate the lives of men and women who have served you with honesty and dignity and have touched the lives of many people of all walks of life.

Heavenly Father, with all humbleness we want to thank you for the life of Rev. Dr. Toshihiro Takami, whom you chose and sent in our time to bear fruits that live on and on. We thank you and celebrate the life of Takami: a father, a family man, a pastor, a teacher, a friend, a social worker, and an evangelist who gave all his life for the total redemption of mankind.

We thank you Lord for his holistic witness and vocation that swept from Japan to all around the globe, and we are here to sing Hallelujah and Hosanna because of our rich diversity; thousands from countless cultures and languages who are not here now can vividly remember the fruits and efforts of his hands.

We remember him for his national and international ministry that was Christ-centered. We praise God for his comprehensive journey that paid huge dividends preaching love, peace, hope, and reconciliation to the aggrieved in Japan and the world over. We give thanks for his combination of heavy-duty thinking and practical tools, which enabled him to found the Asian Rural Institute, “So That We May Live Together.”

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Amen

Peter Mukasa Bakaluba
Priest from Mukono, Uganda
2018 Graduate