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The Rinell Family

I belong to a missionary family. Our background is as follows:

Missionaries in the Swedish Baptist Union

My Father, J.A. Rinell served in China	48 Years
My Mother, Hedvig " " "	55 "
My Brother Egron & his wife Gerda served together in China & Japan	82 "
My wife Hellen and I served together in China, Japan and my 18 months in the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Korea as interpreter	88 "

Missionaries in the Northern Board of Christian Mission

Hellen and I served together in <i>Pusan, Korea</i>	7 years
	<hr/> 280 years

Missionaries in the Swedish Baptist Union

Hellens Twinbrother David Collin and his wife Lisa served in Kongo	82 "
	<hr/> 362 years

We were five kids all born in Shantung, the holy province of China, the home of the two philosophers Confucius and Mencius. My brother Egron and I were missionaries in this province. My two sisters were nurses a few years in the Peking Union Medical College and otherwise in America. My youngest brother was civil engineer in the States. My elder sister and younger brother died a few years ago. Egron and his wife are pensioned in Sweden, and also Hellen and I. My younger sister is still in the States. Hellen and I have a son in Sweden and a daughter in USA. Our family of only ~~five~~ ^{four} members has had to have the continents in order to survive! All five kids were educated in Boarding Schools belonging to the China Inland Mission in Chefoo, China. They were British Schools. Egron and I attend the SBU Theological Seminary in Stockholm, while the others were educated in the States.

After 30 years of missionary service in China I happened to be the last Swedish missionary to leave Communist China. As the war in Korea was about to end the UN organized

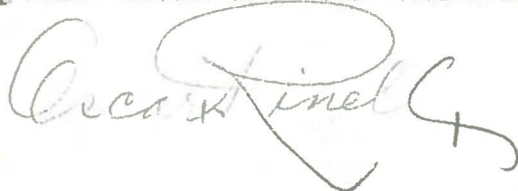
the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission consisting on the Communist side of the Poles and the Czechs and on the Free World side the Swiss and Swedes. I was in the first Swedish delegation as interpreter in Chinese and English. My work was at ^{Tamunijom} HQ and in North Korea. My brother Egron was the first Swedish missionary to cooperate with the Japanese Baptists and the American Baptist Mission. He was stationed in Himeji and rented a typical Japanese house where he also started ~~at~~ conversation and Bible classes for students. My wife and I took over in Himeji, while my brother and his wife went to Kanto Gakuin and later Kyoto. We arrived 1955 and served until 1966.

Dr. and Mrs. Hiroyuki Oguni helped us to buy land next to theirs. We built a two story building, the ground floor was for mission activities and the upper was a missionary residence. Mr. Namioka, the principal of Hinomoto Girls' School, and many students have been a great help. We began with Sunday School and by 22 Jan. 1957 this building was dedicated as Himeji Christian Center. In the early years Mr. and Mrs. Satoshi Takechi were of great help in the work. English Conversation and Bible Classes were held in 2 universities, 3 high schools, 2 factories and the YMCA regularly. Sunday worship services were started 1959. I preached as a rule every Sunday and Takechi served as interpreter. As the work expanded we felt the need of a Church building. Dr. and Mrs. Oguni helped us to buy the land close to the Center which was owned by 22 people. The present Church building was built and dedicated in December 1962.

Week after week young and old came to hear the Gospel. In the beginning the young who believed were baptized in the Baptist Church. It took 6 1/2 years before the historic day, when I could baptize the men at the Center. During my time 13 were baptized there. The leader of the English Speaking Society at the Technical University was Kuneo Miyazawa. Once every week I attended classes there during ten years. He witnessed in Hawaii that a Swedish missionary led him to Christ. He was afterwards baptized in Kobe, became a MD and also took ~~the degree of~~ the Masters Degree of Biblical Studies and is very active in Church work. My last three years in Himeji continued with activities both at the Center and in different institutions outside of it. Michio Fujiwara was interpreter and took active part as speaker together with me in all our activities. I had worked and prayed for founding a Church but the members were still too few when I with regret left Japan

at the age of 70. I was very happy to hear that on April 21 1968 "Megumi Kyokai" ^{= Grace Church} was organized at Himeji Christian Center.

Himeji is in our hearts after being there eleven years as missionaries. On our way to our assignment in Pusan, Korea, we attended the Baptist World Congress and Expo 70 in Osaka. We also had the pleasure of visiting Himeji and our friends there. Returning from our finished assignment in Korea we were again visiting Himeji. During my journey to the Far East I also visited Himeji in Nov. 1979. Hellen and I cherish bright memories of the blessed years of enriching cooperation and fellowship with the Japan Baptist Union and the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.



Torslanda, April 24, 1980

Mrs Michi Shiga
2117-29-Naka-Kibogooka
Asahiku
Yokohama, Japan.

Dear Mrs Shiga,

Thank you so much for your letter of Oct. 9, 1979, which arrived when I was travelling in the Far East and America. Yes I had the pleasure of meeting your Father. Please greet him heartily from me. I share your gratitude of ~~many~~ American missionaries who have served in Japan. They and the Japanese friends are the finest people I ever have had the pleasure of meeting. Sorry for the delay of these lines. After returning to Sweden I had to try and catch up on the work left undone during my travelling, write a few articles and speak on several occasions on the impressions of my trip. I hope the above can give you a brief outline of the work and experience of the Rinell families.

God bless you richly and fraternal greetings to all who may know us, including the Gamfos and others at the Office.

With Christian love,



Hellen & Oscar Rinell



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By Air Mail • Par Avion 8270 Denver Street

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