

# ジャクソン・M・ギャロット牧師

## Pastor Jackson M. Garrott



1948（昭和23）年、福岡生まれ。父側の祖父は牧師、母側の祖父は神学校教授、両親は宣教師でした。

Jack was born in Fukuoka in 1948. One of his grandfathers was a pastor, the other was a seminary professor, and his parents were missionaries.

10歳の時、アフリカ伝道に尽力したリビングストン師の墓を訪ねた際「私も宣教師になる」と両親に言いました。

At the age of ten, when he visited the grave of the famous missionary, Robert Livingston, he told his parents that he would become a missionary too.

高1まで日本で過ごし、米国の大学では演劇と作詩を学びました。大学でカメラが上手で、記念アルバム等で活躍。大学で妻と会い、卒業の翌日結婚しました。現在、娘二人と孫三人がいます。

He spent most of his life through the 10th grade in Japan. After that, he went to America, where he completed high school and went to a university, majoring in drama and poetry. He was also one of the official campus photographers. While at this university he met his wife, and they were married the day after his university graduation. They have two adult daughters and 3 grandchildren.

転機は父が亡くなった74（昭和49）年の夏。当時、佐世保にいて、県立大学で英語を教えていました。

A turning point in his life was when his father passed away in the summer of 1974. At that time he and his family were living in Sasebo City in Nagasaki Prefecture, where he was teaching English in a college.

長崎では、お盆に爆竹や鉦（かね）を鳴らしながら、精霊船を引き回す風習があります。家の外から聞こえるそれらの音に、強い虚しさを感じました。

During the Obon season (the Festival of the Dead) Nagasaki has a custom of taking Shorobune (spirit boats) through the city streets with exploding firecrackers and clanging gongs. The noise from the streets brought him a great sense of the hopelessness of the average Japanese.

「偽りの神しか知らないこの日本に、まことの生ける神の愛と永遠の命を伝えたい。」

"I want to tell these people, who know only about idols, about the truly living God's love and eternal life."

それから米国テキサス州の神学校に入学し、78(昭和53)年の卒業後、日本に戻る前にバージニア州での教会を牧会しました。

After that he returned to America, to attend seminary. In May of 1978 he graduated from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Fort Worth, Texas), and pastored a church in Virginia before returning to Japan.

長崎市内の大学から問い合わせがあったので、家具などを売って、教員ビサを申請するための書類を待ちました。なかなか来なかったもので、また大学に訊いたら、「別の人を雇いました」と答えられた。

He had planned to teach English at a university in Nagasaki City, and sold his household belongings while waiting for the documents to apply for a teaching visa. However, he never received the documents. When he contacted the university, they said they had hired another person. He prayed to God in despondency.

落胆のあまり神に祈りました。「当時、私は献身以外に二つの夢を持っていました。一つは日本に戻ることに、もう一つはカメラで身を立てること。その二つを神の前に手放したとき、道が開かれました」。2カ月後、大村で英語講師の仕事が与えられました。

"At that time, I had two dreams. One was coming back to Japan, the other was making my living as a professional photographer again. When I released the two dreams to God, a door was opened."

ある時、ギャロット師は主から一つの幻を与えられました。

Two months after that prayer of release, a job of teaching English in Omura was given to him. He started preaching in Omura City (Nagasaki Prefecture) in 1981.

クリスチャン大名の大村純忠が肥前藩主だった戦国時代、人口の実に8割がキリスト教徒でした。大村こそ、日本最大のリバイバル都市だったのです。

After coming to Omura, one day the Lord gave him this vision, "Make Omura again to be the foremost Christian city in Japan." During the Warring State Period (Japanese history), Sumitada Omura, Japan's first Christian feudal lord, was reigning in Hizen. At that time there were 80,000 Christians in Omura Fief.

「大村を再び日本一のクリスチャン都市に」。それがギャロット師と、新生の里キリスト教会の揺るがぬビジョンです。

To see this city once again rise up as the foremost Christian city in Japan is his prayer, and this church's vision.