

lessons in needing and depending—two very essential ingredients for a dynamic walk with God. How does a rich man learn how to pass through the eye of a needle? From someone who is earthly poor but spiritually rich.

And there are so many other ways we need each other and can give to one another. Remember the mirror analogy? As pieces of that mirror, each is capable of only partially understanding and reflecting God. If we are to be able to expand our understanding of God beyond our limitations and reflect him more fully, we must gain insight from each other and join together in our worship, our service and our witness.

There is no doubt that the mirror which we call the body of Christ, has been shattered and scattered in this world.... One of those parts, the **Japanese** and those of other **Asian cultures**, for all intents and purposes, **is missing**.

There is no doubt that the mirror which we call the body of Christ, has been shattered and scattered in this world. The body of Christ today, culturally speaking, is a bunch of randomly scattered, disconnected parts. The parts are disproportionate in size. Some are big and growing fatter. Others are skin and bones, barely surviving. Still others are bruised and beaten. The remainder are diseased and dying. Some parts are even missing. One of those parts, the Japanese and those of other Asian cultures, for all intents and purposes, is missing.

The question we must ask ourselves now is, "What must we do to get the body back together again, to bring the mirror back to wholeness?" The answer has to do with understanding our roles in the restoration process. 1 Corinthians 12:24-25 helps us to understand those roles: "... But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other" (NIV).

Perhaps this is beginning to happen. Much of the dynamic growth and development in the church today, whether here in the United States or around the world, is occurring among cultures and in countries where Christianity has not been historically dominant. Indeed, it appears as though God is giving greater honor to those parts which have lacked it so that they may be added and combined with those who have been a part for a long time. The Lord is working in a special way to nurture and grow the parts that have been small, weak and even missing, so they will not shrink back, but be able to confidently contribute to those members of the body who have traditionally been large, strong and have contributed so much in the past. All this is so each part will be able to make its unique contribution to the others and the whole body, developing an equal appreciation and concern for each other in the process.