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This "happening" was a spiritual highlight – to see how God works – first hand. - Dave

Testimony from Japan

by David G.*

Over 50 years ago I was stationed with the Air Force at an Air Base in Japan. Each year, the Chapel had a "Spiritual Emphasis Week". I thought the week would be structured like a Billy Graham Crusade. I was wrong.

A Chaplain came from another Base and was the featured speaker. Each night he presented information to a packed Chapel on who God is. Why we were created. How God wanted a personal relationship with us etc., etc. At the end of each service, there no invitation was given for those present to become followers of Christ. I really didn't think much was happening because each night had no special alter call – except I was wrong because of what happened the last night.

The last night the Chaplain told the audience that they had learned about God, His love for them, and how much He wanted to become a part of their lives. Then he said, "If any of you want to respond, I want you to come forward, turn around, and tell everyone you are a sinner and want to follow Christ.

At that point I felt the Chaplain had gone too far. It was quiet, all heads bowed, but then I heard someone coming to the front. A shock went through the audience as a voice said, "I am a sinner" – it was the Base Commander. As a result, many came to the front – many of them were Officers under his command.

This Commander, who was faced with many challenges, personal (including alcoholism) and in his family life, completely turned his life around. There was also a remarkable change on the Base – like turning from night into day – that could be seen not only in this Commander, but in the lives of his men.

Later I saw this Commander get out of his staff car, flight suit soaked with sweat, coming into the Chapel to pray with a Chaplain. I'll tell you, many lives were changed as a result of what God did that night.

*Permission to publish granted by author.