## **THE UNTOLD HIROSHIMA MIRACLE-All Adventist Survived & Unharmed from The Atomic Bomb**

All twenty Seventh-day Adventist church members in Hiroshima, Japan, were miraculously saved from the atomic bomb which exploded there on August 6, 1945. In the 1970's, they were interviewed by Asako Furunako, a professional news reporter. Not one was injured in the slightest, nor suffered the effects of radiation. They all lived less than a mile away from the central impact of the bomb. Six of them have since passed away from old age.

The Atomic Bomb destroyed everything within a two-kilometer (1.2-mile) radius: the temperature of the ground reached an unimaginable  $6,000^{\circ}$  C (10,832° F). Everyone within a four-kilometer (2.5 mile) radius was burned to death. A tremendous wind, at the speed of 4.4 kilometers (2.7 miles) per second, was generated, causing even cement buildings to collapse and broken glass to fly up to 16 kilometers (9.94 miles) away. The radiation from the bomb was unbelievably strong, causing those exposed to it to lose all bodily functions and their cells to undergo apoptosis, a kind of cellular suicide. Between the blast itself, the resulting fires throughout the city, and the radiation burns, some estimate that 200,000 citizens of Hiroshima lost their lives. **But...** 

## ...In the midst of all this devastation, was it really possible that not one church member, even the one living within 1 kilometer (0.62 miles) of where the bomb hit, was killed, or even hurt?

During her investigation the journalist heard the testimony of church member Mrs. Hiroko Kainou, who, surprised by the sudden fierce wind, fell to her knees and prayed. Though every piece of glass in the house blew out, she came away without a single scratch. All of the other 20 Adventist church members in Hiroshima were also kept alive and safe. Though six of them have since passed away from old age, Mr. and Mrs. Morita, the Yoshimuras, the Sumis, the Matsutanis, and others are still active.

Iwa Kuwamoto, who is still doing evangelism from her home by telephone and letter at age 83, was within one kilometer (.62 miles) of the bomb site when the bomb fell. When she crawled out from under the fallen buildings, she witnessed the giant mushroom cloud that was obscuring the sun and shrouding the land in darkness. She tried desperately to help her husband, an unbeliever at the time, to get out from under the fallout, but the raging fires were threatening to close in on them. Taking her husband's hand and crying, (Iwa) said, "The fire will be here soon. I can't do anything more, so let's die here together. God knows everything. Please believe in Jesus Christ. I cannot save you!" But her husband said, "No. I will die here, but you must escape for our children's sake. You must somehow get to safety and find the children. Do it for the children!"

Once again she said, "No, there is no way I can escape from this fire. I will die here with you." But her husband would not listen to her. He said, "No! I'll be OK here. For a long time I rebelled against my mother and you and wouldn't believe in God. But now I do believe in God's salvation, so we can see each other again. Please, please go and find the children. Please, just go!" So, with burning tears and a breaking heart, she left her husband there, and, pouring water over herself along the way, she escaped the flames, and was eventually reunited with her children.

Tomiko Kihara was a doctor with her own clinic at the time. She had been on night duty the evening before and had arrived home at 2:00 a.m.; she was sleeping when the bomb fell. Although she was less than one kilometer (.62 miles) from the center, nothing fell on her, and she was not hurt in any way. Shocked by the blast, she ran outside to see what was happening, but all she could see was the burned and blackened ground. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, she ran to a hospital on the edge of town, and there for one week without rest or sleep she worked for the victims as one of the very few doctors still alive in the city after the blast. In the weeks and months following the tragedy, she continued to use everything she had to help the victims, and was able to witness to many in this way.