



Iwa

Summer 2022

Dear Friend of Iwa,

Ouch! I slipped on the tea garden path in my backyard and broke both bones in my right leg. The surgeon called it a "Humpty Dumpty" fracture. He inserted a titanium rod down the big leg bone, splinted the smaller bone with another rod, and screwed the fragments together. And so, I haven't been very mobile since March. However, "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" Romans 8:28 NIV. He really does! I could never have gotten all the writing and editing done that's needed for the next step in launching *Iesu Chado*, **The Jesus Way of Tea** if it wasn't for COVID and my recent injury. God's timing is perfect!

I have condensed over 300 pages of single-spaced rough manuscript down to **six summary units** totaling about 40 pages. Each unit gives a short description or sample of major aspects of the *Iesu Chado* ministry. The title and focus for each unit is as follows:

1. **Introduction:** *Iwa's New Ministry* (2 pages)
2. **Historical Basis:** *The Christian Century (1549 - 1650)* (5 pages)
3. **General Theological Perspectives:** *Christian Worldview and Values Reflected in the Japanese Tea Ceremony* (7 pages)
4. **Specific Christian Symbols:** *Biblical Meaning of Thick Tea Elements* (9 pages)
5. **Example of Integration:** *A Biblical View of the Thick Tea Procedure* (3 pages)
6. **Correlation:** *How the Japanese Tea Ceremony Correlates with the Life and Ministry of Jesus* (18 pages)

The final drafts of this material have been sent to the Iwa Board and key people who have expressed specific interest or a desire to participate in the development of *Iesu Chado*. **We will form a core team** to plan and execute concrete steps to launch *Iesu Chado* and begin hosting the Japanese tea ceremony from a Biblical perspective. **Our most immediate need is for people who will help us** in the areas of project management, social media, graphic design, photography, editing, publishing, fund raising, and people trained in the Japanese tea ceremony. I have attached a draft of the first unit, "Introduction: *Iwa's New Ministry*," to explain what *Iesu Chado* is all about. If you are interested in knowing more about *Iesu Chado* and how you can become more involved, please don't hesitate to **contact me at [overthewell@aol.com](mailto:overthewell@aol.com) or the Iwa office at 626-398-3468.**

**Most of all, what we need from everyone is prayer and financial support** to make the huge jump from research and development to direct ministry. I firmly believe that *Iesu Chado* is a match that, when struck, will spark a firestorm of spiritual renewal and evangelism among people of Japanese and Asian ancestry here in the United States and around the world. **Please join us in whatever way the Lord leads!**

Your partner in prayer and ministry,

Stanley K. Inouye  
President and Founder

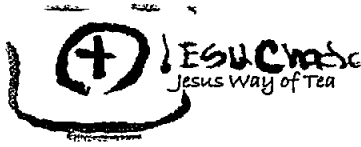
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***Iesu Chado, The Jesus Way of Tea***  
Christian Influence in Shaping the Japanese Tea Ceremony

**Introduction**

Stanley K. Inouye  
President and Founder of Iwa

**Iwa's New Ministry**

***Iesu Chado*** is the name of the new ministry being launched by Iwa. Translated from Japanese into English, ***Iesu Chado*** means "The Jesus Way of Tea."

The call and vision of Iwa has always been to discover why people of Japanese ancestry, whether in Japan or elsewhere, have been resistant to becoming Christians, and to develop meaningful and effective ways for them to understand the Gospel and receive Jesus into their lives as Savior and Lord. After over forty years of Iwa's history, I believe God has given us something that will enable us to fulfill that call and vision as nothing else has before.

I am convinced we have discovered a primary reason why Japanese are so averse to considering Christianity as an option for their lives today, and yet were extremely open to becoming Christians during what is often referred to as the Christian Century (1549-1650). It is estimated that a million Japanese became Christians over that time period. Evidence seems to indicate that the Japanese tea ceremony was instrumental in helping the Japanese to become believers, and also to survive seven generations as underground Christians during Japan's isolation from the world immediately following the Christian Century. And so, Iwa is launching a ministry to provide both Christians and those who are not yet Christians a life-transforming encounter with the real and living Jesus, just as those who became Christians during the Christian Century experienced him, through the Japanese tea ceremony.

***Experiencing the Good News***

Iwa will give people in small groups an experience of the Japanese tea ceremony both in its traditional form and in a way that its correlations to the Bible are made obvious through the use of Christian symbols, tea bowls and other tea accessories. A highly nonverbal and multi-sensory experience, the Japanese tea ceremony will guide participants into an actual encounter with Jesus through their interactions with the host, deep personal reflection, and the sharing of a uniquely intimate bonding experience that will strengthen their relationships with one another and others in the present and in the future.

***Being Transformed by the Good News***

Explanation of what the Japanese tea ceremony specifically symbolizes and means will be withheld from participants before they experience the traditional ceremony. Experiencing the traditional ceremony is meaningful and life-changing without explanation, but transforms hearts even more when, at a later time, the guests discover for themselves what each

progressive event and every movement represents in the life and ministry of Jesus. Complete information about how the tea ceremony corresponds with the Bible will be provided shortly thereafter.

### **Sharing the Good News**

To provide historical background and thereby make the tea experience even more understandable and meaningful to people of Japanese ancestry and others, Iwa will share with participants information about the relationship between Christianity and the Japanese tea ceremony, that was likely created by direct Christian influence early in its development during the Christian Century (1549-1650).

### Positive Outcomes

**Iesu Chado** may be very controversial among the general Japanese population and vulnerable to backlash from Japanese historians, Japanese tea ceremony aficionados, and Japanese Christians as well. However, the positive outcomes will far exceed any negative reactions we will encounter. Here are a few of them:

- Fresh insights into Japanese history will be offered and a new understanding about Christianity in Japan during the Christian Century will be introduced.
- The identity and self-esteem of Christians of Japanese ancestry will be transformed so they will no longer view themselves as less Japanese or inferior Japanese because they are Christians, but rather see themselves as more fully Japanese. They will become far more optimistic and confident about sharing their faith with Japanese who are not yet Christians.
- People of Japanese ancestry who are not yet Christians will have an opportunity to be introduced to Jesus Christ in an interactive, experiential way through the Japanese tea ceremony.
- Christians of Japanese ancestry will be able to observe Holy Communion, not only in its traditional, primarily verbal, form but also in a distinctly Japanese nonverbal manner that, in a culturally appropriate way, more meaningfully fulfills the Lord's desire for us to "do this in remembrance" of him.
- The philosophy and principles of the Japanese tea ceremony will be applied to other forms of Christian outreach and ministry to enable those forms to be more meaningful and effective for people of Japanese ancestry.
- Many more people of Japanese ancestry, in Japan and wherever they reside, will become more open to the Gospel because of their experience of the real and living Jesus Christ through the tea ceremony and many more will receive Jesus into their lives as their personal Savior and Lord as a result.

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ  
at GUBC,*

*I'm thanking the Lord so much  
for your faithful and generous  
support of Iwa's ministry!  
Please pray for us as we  
launch Iesu Chado.*

*For His glory,*

*Cyil*