

## Healing Hard Feelings

In January 2001, Seiko Sakamoto, a Japanese plasterer in a Tokyo subway station, fell into the path of an oncoming train.

Lee Soo Hyun, a Korean student in Japan, leaped down on the tracks to save Sakamoto.

Sakamoto reportedly had been drinking. Witnesses said he was also imbibing on the platform. He had purchased a small bottle of sake from a vending machine and wobbled over the edge. Hyun and a Japanese photographer, Shiro Sekine, 47, didn't hesitate to go after him. All three were killed.



Hyun had written on his Web site, speaking of his “treasures” – his family, his friends and his guitar – and started with a picture of him on the mountain bike he used to scale Mount Fuji the previous year. “I came to Japan to make a bridge between Korea and Japan,” he wrote. “I’m going to enjoy my life as much as possible ... Difficulties are also part of my life, and I’m ready to accept anything.”

The selfless act by the Korean student on behalf of the Japanese laborer caused many people in Japan to reconsider their long-held prejudices against Koreans. Strong feelings of distrust between the two countries go back to World War II atrocities that the Japanese inflicted on Koreans.

Many Japanese people, including the prime minister of Japan, openly expressed sorrow over their stereotypes of Koreans and began talks of reconciliation.

Nobuski Fujioka, 62, of Japan said, “I felt a kind of shame. A young foreigner sacrificed his life for a Japanese. This is not an easy thing to do.”

Although we may not face a life-and-death situation, is there a rift between you and another person that needs to be mended? Restoration brings sweet peace and a renewal of the mind.

In the spiritual realm, by giving His one and only Son, God took the initiative in healing our broken relationship with Him. He made the supreme sacrifice for us that we might be reconciled to Him.

*Much more than, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life (Romans 5:9-11 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter