

Prelude to A "Neighbor-ology"

*Confessing the Faith in Thailand today.
Part of the Evangelistic Situation.*

by KOSUKE KOYAMA.

"He who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen". I John 4: 20.

"As thou didst send me into the world, so I have sent them into the world". John 17: 18.

I

A conversation between a missionary and a woman suffering from cancer:

- M. How are you today? I have come to visit you hoping that I may talk with you a few minutes about the Christian religion.
- W. I feel neither well nor bad. If you want to tell me your *dharmma*—you are a teacher of religion, aren't you?—go ahead.
- M. Yes. I am a teacher of the Christian religion. This book I have in my hands is the Scripture. Just as the *Tripitake* is very important for Buddhism, this book is very important for us. There is a prayer, quite short and concise, in the Scripture. The name of it is the Lord's Prayer
- W. Just a minute! I am a northern Thai woman. Speak to me in the northern Thai dialect. You said that you are a teacher of religion, didn't you? How can anyone be a teacher of religion unless he is at home with the language of the people? Speak to me in the dialect. I am tired of hearing your poor Thai
- M. I am sorry. I can speak only the Bangkok Thai
- W. I thought so. You cannot! I don't like people like you. You missionaries are always trying to teach people while you really do not understand the people. The Buddhist monks are much better than you missionaries. I will call in a monk right now. I will listen to him. He will understand me. He can comfort me with his *dharmma*. He can speak my own language. You are wasting your time here. Go home!