

GARY AND JENNIFER CHANG

CALEB // ABIGAIL



Making disciples of Jesus for the advancement of the Gospel
in Japan and around the world.

ABOUT US

Growing up in Taiwan, Japanese culture has always been a primary influence in society, because Japanese has occupied Taiwan for 50 years, leading to a bittersweet relationship between the two countries. Japan put a lot of work into building Taiwan's infrastructure, yet many of the natural resources were taken away by them. (Gary) My grandfather died because of the harsh labor enforced by the Japanese. My Dad never saw his father. It was a difficult time for my father's family.

Why are we considering serving in Japan?

I have always had a strong interest in the Japanese culture. During my high-school years and into college, I took Japanese language classes. The thought of serving in Japan had never occurred to me and the only reason I did was because I liked their culture and language. While in seminary at Talbot in 2009, I took a class on Introduction to World Missions. It was through this class God began to burden my heart for Japan.

The Japanese culture values knowledge and it drives them to develop and accomplish much. Yet they do not know the Creator of Knowledge, our God of the universe, and often attribute their success to false gods and idols.

Many times, people will look at their prosperity and immediately jump to the conclusion that they don't need the Gospel, because they are doing so well. However, God cares about their heavenly lives just as much as their earthly ones and has called missionaries to share God's eternal salvation to the Japanese. The thousands of gods that Japan worships cannot help bring true peace to the people of this lost nation.

Many Asian countries have experienced some level of spiritual revival in the past 100-200 years. China, South Korea, and Taiwan are just a few, however, Japan has not shared in this revival. Five years ago, an event changed the landscape of Japan in a physical, mental, and spiritual way. The 9.0 earthquake that hit the country on March 11, 2011 caused multiple disasters. Tsunamis and radioactive eruptions left 20,000+ dead, while countless others lost everything. Most of those who died never knew the name of Jesus Christ.

This disaster was the turning point for our family. After we saw what happened, we felt the call to serve in Japan. After several years of waiting and exploring, we thank the Lord for calling us to become missionary to Japan through WorldVenture. Our desire is to see this wonderful nation worship the one true God, and one day Japanese Christian can become a major mission force in the global mission work, for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.



JAPAN

A 3,000 km arc of four large islands (Honshu, Hokkaido, Shikoku, Kyushu) and 3,000 small islands in NW Pacific. Mountainous; only 13% can be cultivated. Japan has the world's tenth-largest population, with over 127 million people. Honshū's Greater Tokyo Area, which includes the de facto capital city of Tokyo and several surrounding prefectures, is the largest metropolitan area in the world, with over 30 million residents. The first written mention of Japan is in Chinese history texts from the 1st century AD. Influence from other nations followed by long periods of isolation has characterized Japan's history. A major economic power, Japan has the world's third-largest economy by nominal GDP and fourth-largest economy by purchasing power parity. It is also the world's fourth-largest exporter and fourth-largest importer. Japan has 2nd lowest homicide rate (including attempted homicide) in the world and the longest life expectancy of any country in the world.

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MINISTRY SUMMARY

Serving alongside other missionaries to make disciples of Jesus and planting churches. We desire to impact the Japanese community with the love of Christ, through building spiritual community, and experience true joy as God's people.

PEOPLE

We seek to serve young adults and young couples, helping them to learn more about Christ through relationship building and Bible study. Jennifer seeks to serve the children through crafts and creative Bible stories, we hope to plant the seed of Gospel in their hearts while they are young.

MAJOR CHALLENGES

The Japanese culture values the harmony of their society. Their unique culture and identity makes it difficult to assimilate into their lives. The Christian population is very low, and to become a Christian can be seen as unfavorable and out of touch with their values and culture. May God give the Japanese Christian boldness to live a different life, despite the social pressure they experience.

PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray that the Lord will continue to draw the hearts of the Japanese to Him, especially those who have been affected by the earthquake and tsunami.
- Pray that the Lord will prepare our family, spiritually, linguistically, emotionally, financially.
- Pray that the Lord will bring unity and strength to our church planting team.