

Gary and Jennifer's Profile



Name: Gary Chang DOB: 11/11/1977

Wife: Jennifer Shih DOB: 2/12/1977

Son: Caleb DOB: 2/21/2010

Daughter: Abigail DOB: 6/25/2014

Married: Jan/3/2009

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Greetings in the name of the Lord. My name is Gary and my wife's name is Jennifer. Together we have two children, Caleb 7 years old, and Abigail 3 years old. By the grace of God, we have been in full-time pastoral ministry since 2009. We first served at the Mandarin Baptist Church of Pasadena (now Arcadia Chinese Baptist Church) as an education pastor. Later God led us to Chinese Bible Church of San Diego Temecula Campus in 2013. I served as the lead pastor for this campus until 3/31/2017.

Over these years of ministry, God has been teaching us many things, especially about missions. While I was studying at Talbot, I took a class on world missions. One of the assignments was to pick an unreached people group and do an in-depth research, learn about their spiritual need, and pray for them for one semester. I already had a strong interest in Japan, so I chose Japan. I heard that Japan was "the missionary graveyard," but I never knew what it meant, until this project. God open my eyes to see the great need in this forgotten unreach nation. Why forgotten? Because Japan gives people the impression that they are doing so well. They are the 3rd biggest economic force in the world, with advanced technology and achievement. People tend to think that only the third-world country need missionary, not Japan. However, through this study, God planted a seed of missions in my heart. I learned that Japan is one of the most unreached nations in the world. According to the Joshua Project, Japanese is the second largest unreached people group in the world, with only 0.3% identified as evangelicals in a population of 127 million. I share with my wife, we both felt that if the Lord calls us, we should go someday. After I graduated, I began serving at MBCP. A year had gone by then on 3/11/2011, a 9.0 earthquake shook the east-side of Japan. It not only generated a shocking tsunami, but it also destroyed the nuclear power plant, which caused a terrible nuclear crisis. 20,000+ people died with many more missing. Life was swept away, just like that. Most of them left this world without knowing the name of Jesus. It was a tragedy. This crisis impacted us deeply. We felt that God is calling us to do something, so we decided to take a vision trip to Japan in December 2011, to seek the Lord's guidance.

Through friends' connections, we met a missionary from the USA, who had been in Japan for 50 years. We visited the church he planted. Although it was a small church, people were very active and connected. Being right before Christmas, we joined them to sing Christmas carols at the hospital. We met many elderly people. Many of them never heard of Christian songs nor of the gospel before. This scene really moved us, especially Jennifer. It brought back memories of her grandmother who had passed away never having the chance to hear the gospel because no one had ever preached the gospel to her. The missionary informed us that the gospel exposure rate in Japan is far too low because there are not enough Christians present in society to be witnesses. Another challenge is that most Japanese churches are low in number (an average of 10~35 people per church). He reiterated that more Christian workers and missionaries are needed. After this vision trip, we felt God's calling; however, God's timing was not yet come, so we continued to serve in pastoral ministry for the next 5~6 years. During this time, I served on a mission board and attended several mission conferences. God never stopped laying a heavy burden for missions on my heart.

By God's grace and timing, with the blessing of CBCSD's Senior Pastor, Albert Lam, I contacted WorldVenture (Conservative Baptist Association of America) in July 2015. God finally opened this door, we are gladly appointed by Worldventure to become missionaries to Japan in May 2016. We felt both honored and unworthy. We thank the Lord for calling us to be Christ's ambassadors to Japan. Although this will be a challenging journey, we ask the Lord to empower us and use us for His glory. We sincerely invite you to prayerfully consider partner with us and invest in the mission work in Japan.

Education

Gary

- Talbot Seminary (Biola University) 2009, M.Div. (www.talbot.edu)
- Major in Pastoral in General
- International Baptist College 2004, B.A. (www.ibconline.edu)
- Major in Bible and Christian Service

Jennifer

- 2004 Auckland University of technology, New Zealand.
- Major: Certificate of Early Childhood Education
- 2000 Unitec Institute of technology, New Zealand.
Bachelor of Design Major: 3D Design, Jewelry Design

Salvation and ministry background

- **Gary Chang**-I was born in Taiwan. My parent was saved when I was five and took us to church ever since. However, I did not understand and wasn't saved until I was thirteen years old. By God's grace, my family immigrated to New Zealand when I was twelve. During this transition, I began to experience God's love and mercy. I thank the Lord for His salvation. Thereafter, I was very active serving in youth-fellowship.
- At college, my friend introduced me to Campus Crusade, so I learned to serve with them, by doing campus evangelism. I also had the opportunity to join one of the short-term mission trips to Turkey for two months. It was during this trip that God called me into ministry. With my parent's blessing, I came to the USA in 2000 to begin my theological education.
- I attended International Baptist College in Tempe, Arizona (now Chandler, Arizona). During this time, I interned at Greater Phoenix Chinese Christian Church. Later, I move to La Mirada, California for my M.Div. at Talbot School of Theology. God gave me an opportunity to serve at the Mandarin Baptist Church of Pasadena (now Arcadia Chinese Baptist Church) as an intern. After graduating, I served as the full-time education pastor. In 2013, God leads me to Chinese Bible Church of San Diego to serve as the resident pastor of the Temecula Campus until 3/31/2017.
- **Jennifer Shih**- I was born in Lugang, Taiwan. It was a town full of temples and idols. My family also worship these gods, and never heard the gospel. By God's grace, my family immigrated to New Zealand when I was seventeen. My friend took me to a church for the first time. The message touched me so; this was the first time I ever heard of God's love. Thinking back, I always felt fear and never peace when I went to the temple. I thank the Lord for saving me at nineteen. Since then, I have been involved in children ministry and teaching children's Sunday school. God also gave me a strong interest in design and making crafts, I pray that the Lord will use me to reach children through activities and bible stories. Just like Jesus said, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belong the kingdom of God." (Mark 10:14, ESV) I desire to see Japanese children come to the Lord.

Prayer request:

1. 2017 will be a year of transition. We will engage in many conversations for missions, visiting many churches and people, traveling many places. Please pray for our spiritual walk with the Lord and our physical wellness. We ask for safety and protection.
2. May God open more doors and opportunities for us to share the mission to Japan; may God call churches and people to partner with us. Since the financial need to Japan is very significant, we ask the Lord to help us trust in His sovereignty and be patient for His provision.
3. In the past year, my mission agency has lost 3 missionaries to Japan. The wife of our field leader, Ken Taylor, past away due to cancer on October 19th, 2015, at the age of 54. Also, a family of five, Jamison and Kathryne Pals, ready to depart for Japan in October 2016, were killed in car accident on their way to their final mission training. This reality saddens us, but like Pastor John Piper pray at their memorial service “Lord, in the name of Jesus, and by the blood of these five, I ask, raise up — raise up! — a legion of replacements for the global glory of his imperial Majesty, Jesus Christ.” <http://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/john-piper-s-funeral-prayer-for-a-family-of-five>. May we be sent out by God to be that replacement.
4. May God continue to work in Japan, and open many more doors for churches in Japan. May God send revival to this land so that they will see that Christ is more precious than anything. Lastly, may God call Japanese Christians to be God’s global mission force one day.

For more information about us, please visit

- <https://www.chang4japan.org>
- <https://www.worldventure.com/chang4japan>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Chang4Japan/>

The vision of church planting in Kanagawa prefecture, Japan. This information made by our team leader, Kevin.

- <http://www.lavermansinjapan.org/workandvision/Vision2020.html>

If you would like to sign up for our mission newsletter please visit

- <http://www.chang4japan.org/newsletter.html>

If you like to know our mission budget and need please visit

- <http://www.chang4japan.org/support-the-chang-family.html>

Thank you