

Chang4Japan

Making disciples of Jesus in Japan for the growth of the Gospel in Japan



WORLDVENTURE
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In the past month, we have witnessed the historical moments of Japan. Japan has entered a new era with a new name "Reiwa" Japan is the only country in the world that still uses an era name. The name of the year changed due to the abdication of the emperor. Maybe you wonder what "Reiwa" means? The first Kanji (Japanese that used Chinese Character) has the meaning of "order." The first impression for many Chinese speaking people might be, do you order me to have harmony (Wa means harmony)? In fact, this phrase was taken from the oldest existing anthology of Japanese poetry. According to the Japanese official, "The prime minister said, "We chose this name with the hope that our culture will be nurtured while all of us are teaming up in a beautifully harmonious way." In other words, the Japanese official wishes the new era will be marked by diversity in a harmonious way. This certainly is a good wish for Japan. However, in fact, Japan is facing a situation that has to be changed. Due to the aging and low fertility rate, Japan needs a large number of foreign workers to fill the shortage of labor. Many companies have to shrink or even close down because they cannot fill the need of labor shortage. For more information, please read this report.

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/nhknewslines/backstories/incomingworkers/>



Japan currently has 2.5 million foreigners, accounting for about 2% of the total population. If Japan wants to maintain the operation of various sector of work. Japan has to recruit much more manpower to fill the need and recruiting foreign workers becomes a necessary choice. Japanese news and media often discuss these issues. In reality, Japan is a somewhat closed society that is more conservative and "inward focus," accept outsiders is not very easy. What effect does this have on missionaries? The Christian faith has always been considered as a tool for "Western imperialism." This kind of thought also appeared in Taiwan's textbooks when I was young. It is undeniable that Christianity has always been regarded as a "foreign religion" from the West. Such feelings and ideas are even stronger in Japan. For us Christian, we know that the kingdom of Jesus Christ does not belong to this world. What the gospel wants to bring us is actually the wish of the Japanese new era name. "Diverse but harmonious way." My prayer is in this new era, more and more Japanese will have the opportunity to hear the gospel, and experience the true and eternal harmony in the gospel. Christian knows, only (A.D) is the eternal era name of our Lord Jesus Christ (medieval Latin) Means in "in the year of the Lord."

Please pray for the spiritual revival of Japan. May God called and saved many more people in Japan in this new era of the Japanese year. Also, pray for Japan's society to be more acceptive to the foreigner and really open up to the new idea and to think outside of their traditional boxes, perhaps they might be more open to hear and seek the gospel.



Ministry update

- **Mini outreach center officially installed-** Thank you for your prayers and support, our mini outreach center was completed at the end of March. On April 14th, we have an official dedication ceremony.
- We pray through this small outreach center, we can connect with the community and share the love of Christ with many more. Please pray for the future ministry development and make the best use of this facility.
- **New missionaries family join our team-** We thank the Lord for calling more family to join our team. Please pray for the Robinson family as they adjust to new life in Kanagawa. For more information please see <http://thecrossproject.jp/>



Matthew
16:18

**Denen Grace Chapel
Building Dedication Service**
4.14.19

Robison Family Move-In
4.15.19



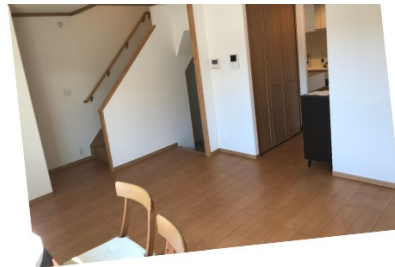
Private Room for Pastoral Study (1F)

Great for Office Worker/One-on-One Bible Studies/Counseling



Ministry Space (1F)

Storage Room (back left)/Kitchen (front left)/Bathroom (front right)



Main Living Space (2F)

Beautiful Views of Spring Cherry Blossoms Across the Street!



Kitchen (2F)

Lots of good counter space!

Three Western-Style Bedrooms (3F) - not pictured

Great closet space and lots of plug outlets!



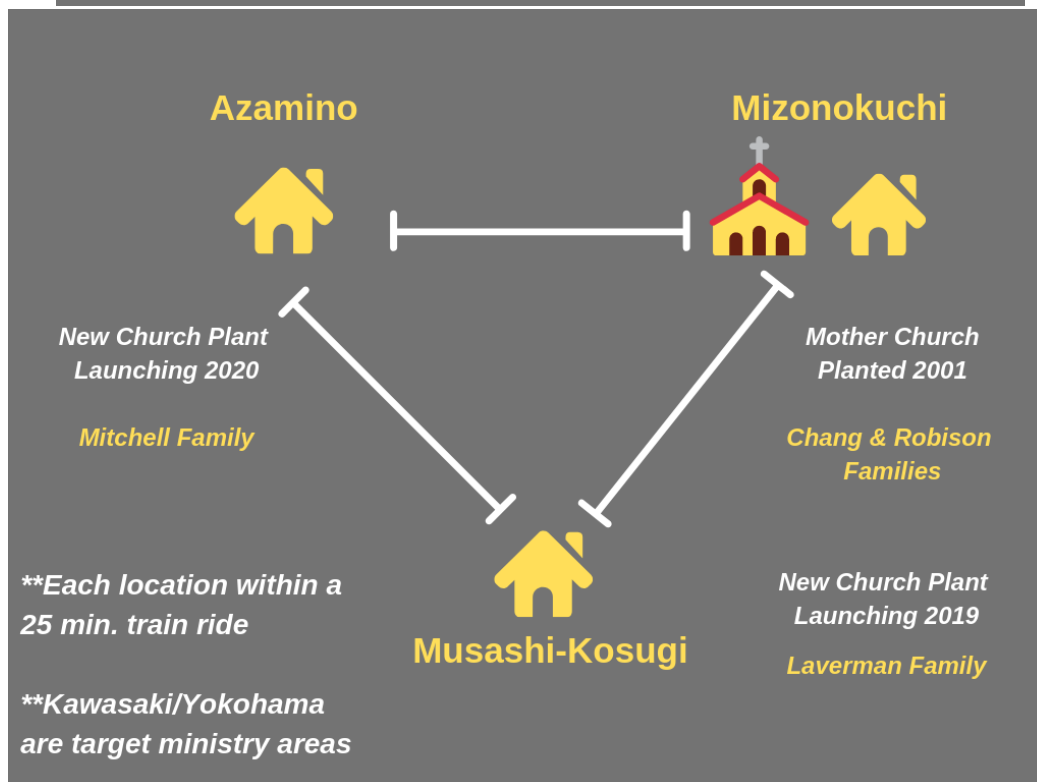
Denen Grace Chapel

Dedication Service for Takatsu Chapel/House • April 14, 2019

**“See, I am doing a new thing. Now it springs up,
do you not perceive it?” Isaiah 43:19**

Church planting ministry and prayer request

- The graphics below show our current ministry and subsequent development plans.
- Please pray for our team (relatively new), ask the Lord to give us unity in Christ, and have good communication.
- Ask the Lord to give us good spiritual health.
- Please pray for church outreach. How we should use this facility and what kind of outreach program we should have etc. May God give us the wisdom to serve the community.
- The following few months, several of our teammates will take the turn to go back to the US for home assignment, please pray for a good transition.
- Pray for us four families, our team leader The Laverman Family, team The Mitchell Family, The Robinson Family and us.



Ministry update

Connecting with more pastors and worker in Japan

Thank God for giving me the opportunity to attend the East Asia young leader Lausanne mission conference. In this conference, I get to meet many mission work as well as many Japanese pastors and missionaries in Japan. This means a lot to me, as a new missionary on the field. May God continue to stir up the faith and the calling He has for us and empower us to give our life to the multitude of unreached people in Japan.

Going to Korea to attend the East Asia Young Leader Lausanne Conference



More than 50 representatives from Japan, pastors and missionaries



Missionary Annual Retreat

We thank the Lord for His blessing. Over the past few years, our mission group has grown significantly. We have about 20+ units now and continue to grow. Many missionaries who have been on the field for more than 20 years says, over the past 10~15 years, there aren't that many new missionaries come to Japan. However, things begin to change for about 3 years ago. They thank the Lord for years of long prayer been answered. Other possible reasons perhaps are due to the 2011 Tohoku earthquake God did call and move many more people to respond to that tragedy. Many missionaries have since come to Japan. Every year our mission group in Japan have an annual retreat, we thank the Lord for such wonderful fellowship. For more information please take a look our mission group website. <http://www.jbfjapan.com/>



Japan Baptist Fellowship annual retreat

Our church in Japan is part of the Conservative Baptist Association. I am thankful that I got the opportunity to share with many Japanese pastors in a morning devotion at the annual pastor retreat.



Gary prayer request

- Recently, I feel I hit a bottleneck on learning the Japanese language. Although the hearing ability has improved a lot, the ability to speak is still very limited. Sometimes I try to use a little bit more advanced grammar, but I got it wrong very often. Although Japanese people generally understand what I try to say, however, it is not because I use the correct terms or grammatical form. I really hope I speak more accurate Japanese.
- Although we are entering into the 9th months in Japan, finding the balance between ministry, family, learning, and life is still a challenge. Please pray that the Lord will help us to be healthy in our spiritual life and physical life and family harmony.

Jennifer prayer request

- Jennifer got the opportunity to meet a Japanese mother who has learned some Chinese. Also, another mother who like to practice English with her. Also, there is another family, we have the opportunity to go out with. Please pray for all these relationship buildings, may God help us grow our relationship with them, and pray for one day we can share the gospel message with them.

Caleb prayer request

- Caleb now in fourth grade, learning Japanese still is the biggest challenge. Thank you for your prayer that we found a Christian lady who can teach him Japanese once a week. She used to live in the US and she is a retired teacher.
- Please also pray for us on how to plan Caleb's future education need.

Abby prayer request

- We need the love and wisdom to help Abby grow and adjust her personality. She is very dependent on her mother. Although she has some improvement lately, she often finds reasons not to go to school because she does not want to leave her mother for too long. May God help her to overcome her shyness, and begin to practice speaking some Japanese. She is still not very willing to try to learn and speak Japanese.
- Please pray for her spiritual growth, may God work in her heart and help her to know and believe in Jesus.
- **Please pray for our whole family on learning the Japanese language. We have been in Japan for almost a year, but the progress is slow. Sometimes I (Gary) is very worried, but we need to look to the Lord for strength and hope. May God help us to trust in Him.**

New platform for sending out update and prayer request

In order to ensure the privacy of the people we serve and update the prayers request, we decided to open a private group of Facebook (FB). If you would like to join this group, please let us know by sending us an e-mail. I will also send invitations to brothers and sisters who are already on my Facebook list.

Let us pray for you

We thank you for your ongoing support and care, we also hope to connect with you and get to know you more. If you have any prayer request, please send us an e-mail, so we can pray for you.



Line prayer group



Partner with us to reach Japan for Christ:

- please visit www.worldventure.com/chang4japan to partner with us.
- You can also send a check to Worldventure, please make payable to
- WorldVenture, memo write #275
- 20 INVERNESS PL E
ENGLEWOOD, CO 80112-5622

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