

MEMBER MISSIONS



In the Summer 2014 issue of *Japan Harvest* magazine, the official publication of the Japan Evangelical Missionary Association (JEMA), we began publishing profiles of our member missions. This has been an ongoing process, both to assemble profiles of existing members, and gather those of new members. As a result, this current booklet is not in alphabetical order, rather in the order in which profiles were published in our magazine.

As you read, please note the publishing date on the bottom of each page, and realize that for some missions their goals and activities may have changed since that time.

Although most of our member missions are included in this file, it is not complete. As of this date (February 18, 2017), we have 44 member missions.

Current members not represented in this document are:

Evangelical Free Church of Canada Mission
International Mission Board
The Redeemed Christian Church of God

- 1 Act Beyond (formerly Mission to Unreached Peoples)
- 2 Agape Mission
- 3 Asian Access
- 4 Assemblies of God Missionary Fellowship
- 5 Christian Reformed Japan Mission
- 6 Church Missionary Society - Australia
- 7 Church of God Mission
- 8 Converge Worldwide Japan
- 9 Evangelical Covenant Church
- 10 Evangelical East Asia Mission
- 11 Evangelical Free Church of America ReachGlobal Japan
- 12 Evangelical Free Church of Canada Mission
- 13 Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Norway
- 14 Finnish Lutheran Mission
- 15 German Alliance Mission
- 16 Inter Act
- 17 International Mission Board
- 18 Japan Baptist Fellowship
- 19 Japan Campus Crusade for Christ
- 20 Japan Christian Link
- 21 Japan Evangelical Missionary Society
- 22 Japan Fellowship Deaconry Mission
- 23 Japan Free Will Baptist Mission

- 24 Japan Lutheran Brethren Mission
- 25 Japan Presbyterian Mission (Mission to the World)
- 26 Liebenzell Mission International
- 27 Mennonite Brethren Mission
- 28 New Life Ministries
- 29 North American Baptist General Mission in Japan
- 30 Norwegian Lutheran Mission
- 31 Norwegian Mission Society
- 32 OMF International

- 33 OMS Christian Mission Church
- 34 Pioneers International
- 35 Reaching Japan Together Association/Reaching Japan Together
- 36 SEND International
- 37 The Christian and Missionary Alliance, Japan Mission
- 38 The Evangelical Alliance Mission
- 39 The Navigators
- 40 The Redeemed Christian Church of God
- 41 WEC (Worldwide Evangelization for Christ) International Japan
- 42 Wesleyan Mission in Japan
- 43 World Gospel Mission
- 44 Youth With A Mission



Act Beyond starts church planting movements to transform unreached people groups—where obedient disciples make obedient disciples and reproducing churches start reproducing churches—who make Jesus known while transforming lives, relationships, and communities.

A church planting movement is a fast growing network of churches that spreads the gospel within a region and people group who have never heard the good news of Christ.

Our Approach

Act Beyond joins with Great Commission Christians (GCCs), churches, and ministries across the globe to equip, send, and support Strategy Teams who prayerfully and strategically serve among Unreached People Groups (UPGs). The organization stimulates transformational Church Planting Movements among UPGs, trains missionaries throughout the world, and helps other GCCs to catalyze movements to Christ among UPGs.

This model came from many years of experience working in the mission field. Mission work among many of the people groups served by Act Beyond becomes less effective when only a few unrelated people in a group are converted. These new believers return to their families and their culture only to slowly be drawn back away from God. The forceful influence of culture and family upon these isolated believers deters them from pursuing God further.



Act Beyond approaches these people groups with the whole group in mind. Our model creates a revolution for God in the hearts of a people group and results in contagious church planting. After part of our team spends extensive time within a people group, we are able to leave with the confidence that these new churches will plant more new churches and the movement will grow.

Reaching Japan

To achieve the goal of seeing unreached people transformed by the gospel in Japan, the key question is: “What must be done to catalyze a church planting movement amongst these people?” Not: “What can I do to evangelize or reach each these people?”

We seek more teams in Japan to be involved in catalyzing a movement using a strategic church planting movement approach. The team will also be involved in being a liaison between national and international GCCs. This effort will include prayer, media, and scripture and literature translation and/or distribution. They will also recruit additional personnel.

Currently we have two works in Japan. One CPM work is in Chiba Prefecture (rural Japan) and Shizuoka Prefecture, and the other work is in Nagano Prefecture (Sanbi no Ie), which serves missionaries in Japanese study and both missionaries and Japanese people in ministry. **JH**

Act Beyond website: <http://beyond.org/>

Photo supplied by Act Beyond

Act Beyond

Our international history

1981: Launched in Seattle as Mission to Unreached Peoples (MUP) to bridge the gap between traditional missions and Christian relief and development.

1983: First missionaries sent to Nepal.

1990: Added focus on holistic church planting and sent increasing number of missionaries.

2001: Ethne Unreached People Group Network formed, with influence from two who would later become President and a Vice-President of Act Beyond.

2008: MUP re-focused on being exponentially effective by starting reproducing disciple movements (church planting movements) among the 30% of the world's population still cut off from the gospel. Began recruiting effort to launch hundreds of agile and effective teams to start movements to transform whole people groups.

2009: Ethne09 held in Bogota, Colombia. MUP became the steward for US donations to the global network. Kent Parks, President of MUP/Beyond, continued as Ethne Co-Facilitator and Program Director.

2010: Home office moved to Plano, Texas.

2013: MUP became Act Beyond to reflect strategic focus and greater effectiveness.



Purpose statement:

To be a leader in genuine Christian wedding ministry that sets a standard of excellence in every wedding location by the love, grace, and life-changing impact of JESUS CHRIST.

While working with YWAM Tokyo from 1983, I, Nicholas Sillavan, became convinced of God's desire to use Christian weddings—just becoming trendy—as an unthreatening opportunity for everyone in attendance to hear the Gospel. After marrying and attending Bible College together in England, my wife and I moved to Kansai in 1990. I then joined a bridal ministry, Cosmos Trust Co., established by a retired pastor, Rev. Koshio, who had a vision to reach young couples through this unique outreach.

Change

As the bridal industry expanded, our group also grew. Sadly, however, after 10 years together Pastor Koshio was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Entrusting the ministry to his core members, he went to be with the Lord in 1999. This necessitated the renaming of our company in January 2000 because it was a privately held company in his name.

In God's infinite creativity, He has given our Millennium Ministries International (MMI)/Agape Mission* unique opportunities to share the Gospel in the marketplace. Partnering with bridal industry businesses, we are excited to reach people we otherwise might never meet.

Many lives touched

Between 1994 and 2013, our team has shared a short gospel message in 103,518 weddings. Guests at each ceremony can range from 20–120, but on average about 50 attend. This brings the potential audience over the last two decades to about 5,175,900. With hundreds of other Christian ceremonies being held besides ours, the overall number of mainly non-churched Japanese folk who have attended a Christian wedding ceremony in the last 20 years is remarkable.

Apart from the couples, their relatives, and friends we also get to minister to choir and music company employees, bridal-salon staff and photo/video personnel. Over the years, as our ministers have prayed and interacted with them, trusting relationships have grown. As time has progressed, chances to speak of God's love and pray for individuals have increased. We rejoice immensely with every testimony of answered prayer ranging from personal encouragement and relationship reconciliations to physical healings and conception of babies! The number of these people coming to Christ and joining us in shining His light has given us tremendous joy.

Other ministries

Presently we have about 50 missionaries and 10 Japanese pastors ministering at around 60 regular venues from Kanto to Kyushu. Some venues welcome us to also conduct premarital seminars. Along with sharing biblical principles for marriage and God's salvation plan, we distribute Bibles or Christian literature. Some places also ask us to minister at annual Christmas services for couples married over the year.

We are deeply grateful to our team. Many are involved in a broad-spectrum of ministries beyond wedding ministry from church planting and discipleship, prison and homeless outreaches, youth, educational and music ministries, to media, literature and English evangelism.

Many sending organizations face challenges to fully fund missionaries or pastors by offerings alone. We thank God for enabling us to provide opportunities to supplement their support through tent-making opportunities to help them continue their witness in Japan. In various regions of Kansai and Tokyo, our regional leaders organize regular gatherings of our ministers for prayer and fellowship, mutual accountability and support. These care groups are vital to the ministry of MMI/Agape Mission.

We believe Christian weddings will continue to play a part in God's plan of redemption for Japan for the foreseeable future. Recently the 7MEDIA team* invited us to collaborate with other family-centered ministries to develop a series of Internet "landing pages" to provide information about weddings and marriage, healthy relationships and the raising of children. Please pray for us as we go forward. **JH**

<http://www.agapesenkyokai.com>

You can contact us at: agapemission@gmail.com

*MMI is our registered company name. Agape Mission is the name we use with churches, sponsors, and interfacing with mission organizations.

**7media.org

Photo supplied by MMI/Agape Mission





Asian Access

Asian Access

Our Past – Founded in Partnership

Asian Access launched ministry in Japan in 1967 under the name Language Institute for Evangelism (L.I.F.E.), later revised to LIFE Ministries. For the next two decades, LIFE focused on church-based English outreach. Thousands were trained to serve in English teaching ministry, as LIFE developed partnerships with hundreds of evangelical churches from over 50 denominations. Some of those teachers returned with LIFE as career missionaries and launched innovative partnership ministries that later became independent ministries, such as Friendship Golf and Song-Rise.

At the same time, it became clear that many Japanese pastors would benefit from practical pastoral training to supplement their seminary education. This resulted in the development of the leadership training now known as JCGI Network.¹

Over the course of several decades, JCGI Network training brought together over 400 Japanese pastors from a wide variety of denominational and independent groups. Its focus was gradually defined in terms of the four-fold aim that guides the program today—the development of leaders who

- live in a love relationship with God,
- are growing as Christ-like leaders,
- are reproducing disciple-making leaders, and
- are planting multiplying churches.

Our Present – Committed to Partnership

The ministries with which we partner have changed with the decades, but partnership is still a foundational value guiding all Asian Access ministries as we partner with local evangelical churches across the theological spectrum.

Over the years we have partnered with churches from Hokkaido to Okinawa, but our more than two dozen missionary staff currently are focused in the Tohoku and Kanto areas.

We partner with local churches in marriage ministry, parenting ministry, English ministry, creative arts ministry, pastoral health, relief ministry, surfing ministry—whatever supports the multiplication of disciples, leaders, and churches.

Our purpose in partnering is to spark disciple-making movements and church multiplication movements. At the same time, we support Christian relief activities. Alpha Japan, Be One Network, Churches Helping Churches, CRASH Japan, Hope Miyagi, Miyagi Mission Network, Relationship Central, and Samaritan's Purse are all groups with whom we have partnered, as well as many others. Since 2012 we have formed partnerships with SIM USA and SIM Canada to provide mobilization and support services for our missionaries. We look forward to new missionaries joining Asian Access Japan through an SIM East Asia partnership soon.

Our Future – Driven by Partnership

In the mid '90's, God opened the door for the “made in Japan” JCGI training model to be adapted for our first pastoral leadership training program outside the country. Our program in Mongolia was launched in 1996, and from there spread to other Asian nations. Our 2002 name change to Asian Access anticipated the continuing expansion of our partnership ministry that had just started taking place. As of 2014, contextualized leadership training programs based on the Asian Access/JCGI model have been introduced to eleven Asian countries.

The mission of Asian Access is to “identify, develop, and release emerging kingdom leaders to unite the church, multiply leaders and congregations and extend the transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.” Takeshi Takazawa, our Japan Director, is coordinating the combined efforts of our multinational staff as we enter a new season of ministry. We hope to deploy and serve church multiplication networks across Japan that will “establish reproducing congregations which will enfold one million new followers of Christ, and in turn send 1,000 missionaries from Japan to the cities of Asia, that will be home to one billion people by the year 2020.”²

In partnership, we believe God can accomplish through the body of Christ that which no single group can achieve on its own. And in God's grace we believe we can have a part in the Lord's development of “a vibrant community of servant leaders with vision, character and competence leading the church across Asia.”³ **JH**

1. JCGI originally stood for Japan Church Growth Institute before its training focus shifted from growing larger churches to planting more churches.
 2. <http://www.asianaccess.org/about/vision-japan.html>
 3. <https://www.facebook.com/AsianAccess/info>



C&MA
(The Christian and Missionary Alliance, Japan Mission)

Our purpose statement (lower right) sums up what The Christian & Missionary Alliance has been doing in Japan since we began ministry here in 1891. The first church was started in Miyoshi, Hiroshima Ken in 1895, and in 1899 the Alliance began work in the city of Hiroshima. In 1922 an Alliance Bible School (now called the Japan Alliance School of Theology) was opened in Hiroshima. In 1931 the Japan Alliance Church (JAC), consisting of 14 organized churches and 13 smaller groups, was formed with Japanese leadership. Alliance missionaries focused on Hiroshima and Ehime until the 1980s and today 23 of the 40 Japan Alliance Churches are in those two prefectures.

In 1982 the Japan Alliance Mission started to focus its church planting efforts on the greater Tokyo area and has begun 14 churches there over the past 30 years (plus one church near Nagoya). Alliance workers from the Philippines, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, and China work in another 18 ethnic churches (Filipino, Latino, and Chinese).

Since 2011, the Alliance Mission has been focusing on Tokyo and Tohoku. Four couples have served in Miyagi. Two couples are now living in Ishinomaki. The Alliance purchased a house damaged by the tsunami and started New Life Center, to be a voice of hope and to express the dynamic love of God through word and action. A weekly Bible study is held in a temporary housing unit and a community garden, Bloom, has been started in the empty lot next to the Center.

Our strategy for planting churches is built on five key objectives: evangelism, discipleship, leadership development, church multiplication, and staff development. Our core values include prayer, creative ministry, teams, partnerships, and missional churches. We are a Christ-centered team focused on Acts 1:8: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (NIV).

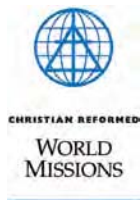
More information:

JAC: http://www.geocities.jp/jac_hij/
 New Life Center: <http://www.newlifeishinomaki.org/>.
 The Alliance: www.cmalliance.org
 For more pictures and news about Alliance ministry in Japan see our Facebook page: The-Alliance-in-Japan. **JH**

Photos supplied by Christian and Missionary Alliance, Japan Mission

The Japan Alliance Mission shares the gospel and makes disciples in order to plant multiplying missionary churches.





Increasing Capacity for Mission

How would you describe your mission?

The Christian Reformed Japan Mission is part of the denominational mission agency of the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) in North America. We started working in Japan in 1951, after being invited by the Reformed Church in Japan (RCJ), and we focused primarily on church planting in Kanto.

Who are your partners?

Ministering in Japan is a challenge, and we are grateful to be networked with others, including the RCJ, Christian Academy in Japan (CAJ), CRC Media Ministries (which focuses on Internet evangelism and radio broadcasting), and World Renew (which supports a long-term response to the Great East Japan Earthquake).

What significant changes happened in the past five years?

During the past five years we shifted from planting churches ourselves to helping Japanese Christians and churches increase their capacity for mission so they can plant even more churches.

Also, like other missions, we responded to the Great East Japan Earthquake. Key projects include:

- Higashi Sendai Volunteer Center which operates Sakura House in Higashi Matsushima City,
- Nozomi Center in Yamamoto-cho (southern Miyagi-ken) which provides a base to help re-build the local community and reaches out to those in temporary housing, and
- Team Rikuzentakata that carries out a visitation program to those in temporary housing.

What's your vision?

We want to see RCJ churches and Japanese Christians with increased capacity for mission. We want to see RCJ churches and Japanese Christians planting churches, leading Bible studies, and developing leaders. At CAJ, where seven of us serve, we want to see students getting equipped to impact the world for Christ.

What are your strategic priorities for the next five years?

In October of 2013, we had our five-year field evaluation that included a review and update of our strategic priorities, which now include:

1. Increasing the mission capacity of two groups of RCJ churches through consultations, leadership



Ken Lee (CRJM) hosts a Christmas party complete with a white elephant gift exchange as part of his young adult ministry.

training, Bible study training, and young adult ministry.

2. Exposing church leaders to other expressions of Christian worship and witness through the worship symposia and vision trips in greater Asia.
3. Continuing involvement in disaster relief.
4. Exploring new possibilities for ministry to children and youth.
5. Raising a prayer movement for the people of Japan.
6. Equipping CAJ students to impact the world for Christ.
7. Increasing our participation in mission networks.

Find out more online:

Bible study training: crcna.org/pages/gcb.cfm

Christian Academy in Japan: caj.or.jp

CRC Media Ministries: jesus-web.org

Leadership training: timothyleadershiptraining.org

Nozomi Center: nozomicenter.com

Reformed Church in Japan: rcj-net.org

Worship Symposium: worship.calvin.edu/symposium **JH**

Photos supplied by Christian Reformed Japan Mission



Jeong Gho (CRJM) explains Timothy Leadership Training to a Japanese pastor.



Larry Spalink (CRJM) talks to members of the East Kanto Presbytery about the biblical foundation for diaconal ministries as the calling of the church.



日本聖契キリスト教団
The Evangelical Covenant Church

ECC
(Evangelical Covenant Church)

The vision of our group is to make more Jesus disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world. We pursue this vision in Japan in partnership with the Japan Covenant Church (日本聖契キリスト教団) and others as we

- start and strengthen churches,
- make and deepen disciples,
- develop leaders, and
- love mercy and do justice.

These actions take shape through a variety of ministries (see bottom right).

We are a small mission and by God's grace have successfully navigated the transition from "missionary-as-parent, denomination-as-child" to a national church/mission partnership of trust, creativity, and cooperation. Our mission is increasingly multi-cultural, multi-lingual, and multi-generational.

Some specific areas we pray about are

- the struggles of different learners in the Japanese educational system,
- school non-attendance,
- hikikomori,
- internet addiction,
- mental health care, and
- suicide.

As God leads, we want to connect with others to make a positive difference in these areas. **JH**

<http://www.covchurch.org/mission/locations/asia/japan/>



Website links

Seminary seikei-seminary.org

Nihon Seikei Kirisuto Kyodan
geocities.jp/nskkjapan/index.html

Akagi Bible Camp
abc-biblecamp.main.jp

Odawara Christian Center
geocities.jp/occ_office/

Ministries

Seminary education at Covenant Seminary (聖契神学校)

Camping (Akagi Bible Camp)

Sports ministry, music

Tohoku Relief (in cooperation with 3.11 Iwate Church Network)

Christian Academy in Japan

Audio Bible Japan

Church planting

Spiritual formation

Discipleship

Language teaching

Youth ministry

Support for those with physical, emotional, and social disabilities, the elderly, and those who are victims of domestic violence



An Asian proverb says, “None of us are as smart as all of us.” Many people arrive in Japan full of confidence and with great intentions, but it doesn’t take long before people feel their limitations. Japan Baptist Fellowship (JBF) is committed to and blessed with powerful partnerships that multiply the impact of all that we do.

JBF was formerly known as the Japan Conservative Baptist Mission. It was born to facilitate a partnership between World Venture from America, and Fellowship International from Canada. Now we have a host of international partners from Asia and Europe and hopefully one day from Africa, South America, and Australia as well. We’re grateful for the healthy partnership we have with the Japan Conservative Baptist Association.

The Japanese church association we gave birth to 50 years ago has both experienced, visionary leaders as well as young, innovative pastors. Our roots in the Tohoku region and a strong base in Kanto, give us opportunities to serve alongside Japanese partners in both rural and urban centers. It also has allowed us to participate in church planting and relief efforts taking place in Fukushima, Miyage, and Iwate in the wake of the triple disaster. These relationships enable us to seek parent churches with whom we can help establish daughter churches. This gives birth to churches with a Japanese ethos and support network as well the DNA for reproduction built-in.

The Japanese proverb “ten people, ten colors” (十人十色) is a reminder of how unique each person is. While the first proverb speaks of our unity, this speaks of our diversity. In its pursuit of transformed lives, JBF made a strategic shift in the last decade to celebrate each missionary’s unique gifts rather than work in a one-size-fits-all approach. We’ve restructured into three teams, and

“Powerful Partnerships, Transformed Lives”

our missionaries are now released to serve in church multiplication, innovative ministries, and support ministries. These teams have become an incubator for synergy and mutual encouragement among like-minded missionaries. And the result has been a wave of new, progressive-minded missionaries using their gifts and talents to equip churches to reach Japanese people for Christ.

Some of the ministries we are pursuing include: mobile evangelism platforms, gospel music and kids gospel choirs, a visual Bible translation for deaf Japanese people, and outreach to the Tokyo noise music scene. Each ministry has the goal of catalyzing the efforts of churches and church plants to reach Japanese people for Christ. Our support ministries team works in missionary children’s education, short-term missionary co-ordination as well as English teaching.

This focused team approach allows us to take into account each missionary’s gifts, passion, experience, and language aptitude. It also puts them alongside others to whom they can relate and learn from. While church planting will continue to be our focus, we anticipate that the diversity of our mission will continue to grow and allow us to be on the cutting edge of innovation in ministry in Japan. **JH**

JBF
(Japan Baptist Fellowship)





JCL (Japan Christian Link)

We were founded as the Japan Evangelistic Band (JEB) in 1903 by Barclay Buxton and Paget Wilkes who envisaged reaching “the Japanese wherever they may be found.” That aim remains, encapsulated in our vision statement: *To help make a significant difference in the progress of the gospel among the Japanese people over the first half of this century.** We seek to fulfil this vision in Japan and elsewhere.

In 2000, we changed our name to Japan Christian Link (JCL). Our now-independent Japanese sister organisation retains the name JEB, or Nihon Dendoutai. As JCL, we have a renewed vision, a more flexible structure, and a greater emphasis on relationships.

About 30 mission people, including tentmakers, are involved in our work, in the UK, Germany, and Japan. We seek particularly to encourage those exploring creative and innovative ways of reaching and discipling Japanese people. For example, while some JCL partners are involved in local church ministries, others are working in Japanese companies, in higher education, in Tokyo’s contemporary music scene, and one runs an English-teaching business with a gospel purpose.

We continue to seek the Lord’s direction for our ministry, but currently aim to:

- Preserve our network’s distinctive focus on Japanese people.
- Continue making the most of the tremendous opportunities to bring the gospel to overseas Japanese people, especially in the UK.
- Help prepare and connect returnees to Japan from the UK and Europe with local Japanese churches and Christians so that they may grow and flourish as Jesus’ disciples and influence their nation for his glory.

- Encourage workplace ministry.
- Challenge the ‘sacred-secular divide’ in other ways. Encourage all believers in Europe and Japan to see themselves as part of God’s mission force.
- Encourage and promote a kingdom culture—an environment within our Christian culture that is conducive to spiritual growth.

We also believe we should remain flexible, open, and relatively small, but at the same time praying our efforts will have great effect.

Yet we see many obstacles to the progress of the gospel in Japanese hearts—both in society at large and within our Christian communities. Statistics suggest there is sadly little advance. Many things hinder Japanese people from hearing or responding to the gospel or hinder new believers from growing as Jesus’ disciples and witnesses within a vital fellowship. Similarly, many things also hinder Japanese returning from overseas with a new faith from continuing as disciples and influencing their families and peers. We would love to be a catalyst for changes that remove some of these hindrances and lead to a more conducive environment in which the gospel may speed on and triumph—as individual believers grow in Christ and shine as lights for him in their various spheres of influence. Perhaps you do too and already have some ideas. We’d love to hear from you . . . perhaps we could explore ideas together! **JH**

*Full outlines of our Vision, Key Aims and Values can be accessed at: <http://www.jclglobal.org/about-us/vision/>



1. Supplying Japanese Bibles and other literature to the UK and elsewhere
2. Small group study with Oxford students
3. Thierry—developing city-centre lunchtime ministries
4. J-D—in the Kansai academic world
5. Dave—in Tokyo’s underground music scene
6. Ian—missionary banker?!

In June 1865, Hudson Taylor stood on a beach in Brighton and asked the Lord for 24 willing, skillful workers to take the gospel to the inland provinces of China. As God answered that prayer, the China Inland Mission (CIM) was born. In 1950, however, after the communist take-over in China, the decision was reluctantly reached to withdraw all CIM missionaries.

Discovering great pockets of need in the countries surrounding China, CIM decided God wanted them to move forward and the mission began again in East Asia, establishing headquarters in Singapore. The first workers arrived in Japan in 1951. In 1964 the new name of Overseas Missionary Fellowship was adopted, then changed again in 1993 to OMF International.

With around 130 missionaries from 18 different sending countries, the Japan Field is one of the larger fields in OMF. We currently work in Hokkaido, Tohoku (Aomori, Iwate and Sendai), and the Greater Tokyo area, with our Japan headquarters in Ichikawa City in Chiba Prefecture.

OMF Japan's mission is, "To glorify God by the urgent evangelization and discipleship of the people of Japan." Our vision is that "by God's grace we aim to see biblical churches with roots in their communities, bearing fruit and reaching out in mission." Although each region has its own strategy, the overall OMF Strategy Focus contains three elements:

- Planting Churches,
- Pioneering Ministries to reach Neglected Frontiers, and
- Partnering and Networking with like-minded churches and organisations.

OMF Japan's identity is found in six core values:

- We depend on God
- We share Christ in word and deed
- We desire fruitfulness
- We serve in community
- We provide member care and development
- We use our resources wisely

Church Planting

OMF engages in pioneer church planting as well as cooperating in church planting with the Japanese Church. Some church



plants are more traditional in style whereas others embrace different approaches including gospel music and a house church network. Our church work involves evangelism and discipleship.

Pioneering

Our pioneering ministries aim not only at unreached geographical areas but also unreached sectors of society. We have ministry and outreach to dancers, the homeless, businessmen, and students. Some ministries use music and sports as ways in for the gospel. Others engage in counselling ministries.

Partnership

Although we partner mainly with JECA (Japan Evangelical Churches Association), OMF also has missionaries serving with other churches in Japan. We have increasing links to and cooperation with KGK (Kirisutoshya Gakusei Kai – a university student ministry). Some members also serve in theological education and at CAJ (Christian Academy in Japan).

Member Care and Development

We have a strong emphasis on our missionaries developing good language and cultural understanding and have our own language and culture centre in Sapporo. Continued learning and development is something we value and encourage through various in-house workshops. Through Fellowship Groups we support one another, and this is something we are aiming to develop further in the near future. We also have some members in specialist support roles ranging from Finance to Medical and TCK (Third Culture Kid) services.

OMF Japan has a prayer vision to see 30 workers in Tohoku by the end of 2015. This will mainly be in Aomori and Iwate as well as Sendai, where we aim to place more missionaries for a focus on student work and church planting. We want to continue to develop the work in Hokkaido and Kanto, while also being open to the possibilities to work in other areas of Japan. We are thankful that the Lord continues to send workers to Japan so that we can partner with the Japanese church in proclaiming the gospel to the Japanese people. **JH**

Learn more about our work here: www.omf.org/jp



RJTA (Reaching Japan Together Association)

Reaching Japan Together Association (RJTA) is a receiving agency in Japan. RJTA can connect missionaries from various countries and sending churches or organizations outside of Japan with a wide variety of local ministries and churches within Japan. Members can come via almost any sender. Various senders handle the “home country” side of things like donation management. RJTA places members with a variety of local ministries throughout Japan, not just those led by RJTA members. Under RJTA, a missionary unit is sent by one entity; is placed, received by, and serves in Japan under the auspices of RJTA; and ministers locally with a third entity. Through RJTA, senders and local ministries can be combined in countless ways without sacrificing the autonomy of either sender or local ministry. Guidance and care for first-term missionaries and the field-level interconnection beneficial to experienced missionaries are provided by RJTA. Our desire is to facilitate the God-given ministry vision of each missionary and local ministry.

RJTA seeks to connect each member with a local ministry of compatible vision. We also equip, encourage, and empower each member’s unique calling, gifting, and vision. At the same time, we don’t sacrifice Japan field-level interconnection, support, comradarie, networking, or accountability.

RJTA provides:

- field leadership with “big picture” oversight of RJTA missionaries throughout Japan (supervision/ accountability without micromangement),
- candidate screening,
- customized placement (“matchmaking,” as opposed to “slot filling”),
- Japan-specific information/advice,
- a mission family,
- field conference,
- on-field member care by those with experience in Japan.

We take a flexible approach to elements such as language learning, children’s education, budget/support level/tentmaking, and furlough, addressing each on a case-by-case basis.



Currently RJTA missionaries serve in Tohoku and Kanto. We are involved in relief work, church planting, church encouragement, pastoral care, rural ministry, and friendship evangelism. Our vision and large contact base allow us to place missionaries anywhere in Japan, in almost any ministry role. RJTA is inclusive and broadly interdenominational. We affirm any ministry role for both genders. RJTA places people with ministries led by foreigners as well as those led by Japanese. We encourage experienced members who desire to lead new ministries. When one spouse is Japanese, it is possible for both to join RJTA.

Interested in joining us?

RJTA may especially interest:

1. Missionaries sent from countries or by agencies or local churches without much of a presence or experience in Japan.
2. Those serving or wishing to serve with a specific local ministry or church.
3. Those with complex support situations or a blend of support and tentmaking.
4. Those facing a change in an agency’s policy such that an alternative is needed for a missionary to stay in their current ministry.

US-based RJT (Reaching Japan Together) is a partner sending entity founded in 2012 which provides home-country donor processing and similar functions for those with a support base in the US. RJT is the primary, but not sole, sending partner for US-based RJTA missionaries who have no pre-existing sending agency relationship. RJT relies on RJTA to provide in-Japan supervision, screening, placement, and member care of RJT staff in Japan. We welcome exploration of additional potential partnerships with mobilizers as well as sending entities in the US and various countries. Please contact us: rjtajapan@hotmail.com. **JH**

Home page:
www.rjta.upgJapanmissions.com



The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM) has worked in Japan for over 120 years, with a major focus on church planting. Even today, the TEAM Japan Purpose Statement says that: “TEAM Japan exists to establish reproducing churches in Japan to the glory of God.”

Through a variety of activities such as English conversation classes, café outreaches, parenting classes, music outreaches, returnee ministry, and media, we seek to reach Japanese people where they are. Everything we do is ultimately aimed at establishing and strengthening Japanese churches, with the end goal stated in our Vision Statement:

“TEAM Japan missionaries envision reproducing churches thriving and multiplying throughout Japan, passing on the gospel in culturally relevant ways to future generations through Japanese believers.”

We’re working towards a day when the Japanese church is reaching her own people for Christ so effectively that we are no longer necessary to the process. Until that day comes, our immediate Ministry Goal states:

“We empower Japanese, in conjunction with new church plants and existing churches, to:

1. evangelize Japanese,
2. disciple Japanese, and
3. develop Japanese leaders.”

Our goal is to increasingly become disciples of Japanese people, both new converts and existing Christians. We also want to be catalysts for growth and change in the various churches and ministries where we work so they can effectively reach Japan.

To accomplish these goals, we follow three key strategies:

1. Cling to our Core Value of “God-Dependence” according to 1 Corinthians 3:6-7.
2. Model to the church TEAM’s values of “being Together in purpose through Empowerment, Accountability, and Mutual care (TEAM acronym).



3. Focus on six focus areas which will help us become both healthy and intentional as a mission.
 - Ministry Initiative Focus: ensuring ministry plans are well thought out and prayed through with clearly articulated strategies and goals that are in line with TEAM Japan’s purpose and vision.
 - Team-Based Ministry Focus: equipping missionaries with the skills necessary to be effective team members in a variety of multicultural teams.
 - Leadership Development Focus: developing people to effectively lead in their area of influence.
 - Member Care Focus: providing appropriate and adequate member care for our missionaries, recognizing that each missionary has responsibility for their own self-care under God.
 - Recruitment Focus: attracting a new generation of missionaries to carry on the work that we and our predecessors have done over the decades, in new and creative ways.
 - Resource Management Focus: attempting to invest the human, material and financial resources with which God chooses to bless us in the most productive, strategic, and God-glorifying ways for Kingdom returns.

At present we have approximately 70 missionaries working in various church planting and related ministries in Hiroshima, Hyogo, Ishikawa, Kagawa, Nagano, Okayama, and Toyama, and Tokyo.

We also have a significant number of people in the pipeline who are itching to get to Japan and utilize their creativity and energy to assist us in reaching even more layers of Japanese society for Christ.

TEAM Japan is excited about what God is doing and will do in Japan in the future! **JH**

TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission)





As a part of Campus Crusade for Christ International, our desire in Japan Campus Crusade for Christ is to see God raise up MOVEMENTS OF MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES everywhere, so that everyone knows someone who truly follows Jesus. We desire to WIN people to Christ, BUILD them in their faith, and SEND them out to win, build and send others.

Our staff team in Japan is very international, with 80 staff from eight different countries – Japan, U.S., Canada, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Australia. We have staff in Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Yokohama, Kobe, Kyoto and Fukuoka. Most of our staff work on university campuses, while others work in support roles alongside career people, stay-at-home parents, and other segments of society.

We desire to partner with others in the body of Christ, and always introduce new Christians to local church fellowships. Many students who came to Christ through our ministry have become lay leaders or pastors in their churches.

We have a two-pronged emphasis in our discipleship: 1. The Great Commandment, to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matt. 22:37-40); and 2. The Great Commission, to go and make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20).

Through changed lives such as the ones below, through students who desire to share their faith and disciple others, we pray that God will raise up movements of multiplying disciples all over Japan! **JH**

Some testimonies of students' changed lives:

Misaki, in Nagoya, became a Christian through CCC during her freshman year. She grew in her faith, and as a sophomore, she prayed, along with her friends, that she could lead an evangelistic Bible study. She met a senior student and shared the gospel with her. Her new friend showed interest and decided to do the Bible study with Misaki. After about a month, she became a Christian! Misaki rejoices at how God answered her prayer and worked in her new friend's life.

Motoi, in Osaka, was a Christian, but didn't have any desire to share his faith. Through his involvement with CCC on his campus, he began to change. When he saw his friend going through a difficult time, he wanted to share with him. His friend asked many questions, and eventually, Motoi led him to Christ. Motoi says that he himself could feel God's love more deeply through this. His friend used to have a violent temper and was estranged from his alcoholic father. After receiving Christ, he experienced God's peace and forgiveness and took the initiative to reconnect with his father.

Rena, who helped plan the Tokyo campus Christmas party, shares: "Though I had been worrying about the party being successful, God showed me that it wasn't having a lot of people come that would make it a success... we need to just keep our eyes on Jesus. What I was most happy about was that my friend Kanako received Christ! I was worried about how I could take care of my other friends who came, but just like the shepherd who left the 99 to search for the one, I felt that I needed to take time to explain the gospel to Kanako after the program. After she received Christ, we came back to the big room and I saw other Christian students talking with my friends! I realized again that I don't have to do it all alone, but we are a team!"





New Life Ministries

New Life Ministries was founded in 1954 as a resource for missionaries in Japan to get the literature they needed for evangelism. Since that time, New Life Ministries has grown into a full-scale operation, with three high-speed web presses that, combined, can print 48 Bibles per minute. We print Bibles and gospel literature for ministries here in Japan and for Bible publishers and missionaries around the world.

This year, we celebrate our 60th anniversary as a ministry, having printed countless numbers of Bibles and gospel tracts over the years, with the vision of supplying God's precious Word to those who truly need it. While we have accomplished much during the past 60 years, there is still much work ahead.

Our ministry has three pillars: the Asia Project, the Manga Project, and the HOPE for LIVING Project.

For the Asia Project, we work especially with partners in the Asian segment of the 10/40 Window, where there are many minority people groups that need the Bible in their heart language, and other groups who simply lack enough Bibles for their Christian population.

The Manga Project focuses on printing and sending our manga to partners around the world. It began with sending *The Messiah* to partners in Uganda, but due to its universal use, it has extended to prison ministries in the United States and outreach to the Philippines in wake of the 2013 disaster.

Finally, in 2011, New Life Ministries began its HOPE for LIVING Project, a literature distribution effort in the wake of the disaster in Tohoku. After hundreds of thousands of books and booklets were sent to local churches to use in ministry to the disaster victims, New Life Ministries is once again doing HOPE for LIVING in the form of literature ministry alongside food supply programs, this time in Tacloban, Philippines, which was hit hard by a powerful typhoon in November 2013. Many lives were lost and whole neighborhoods destroyed. Many people have become homeless or are living in tents/temporary housing. Churches lost their Bibles and materials for discipling children. This year, we have developed an Evangelistic & Discipleship Program to strengthen 30 churches in Tacloban City as they reach out to the hurting community, focusing particularly on the children. This will be coupled with a food supply program for the kids, thereby providing nourishment for both body and soul. We are continually praying about where God is leading us with this HOPE for LIVING Project, as we see it developing into a disaster response ministry.

We look forward to the day when everyone who needs a Bible has one. Until that day comes, we will continue serving the Lord in this work to which He has called us. **JH**



1. The Manga Project
2. Asia Project
3. HOPE for LIVING

To learn more about the work of New Life Ministries, visit our website at <http://newlifeministries.jp/>





In November 1951, the first missionaries sent by the North American Baptist Conference arrived in Japan. After two years of language school, they set up the first mission post in Ise City, Mie Prefecture. Church planting in the Tokai and Kansai areas has been our main ministry from that time until the present. University evangelism and English education have also been major parts of our ministry history.

Over the past 63 years, many career and short-term missionaries have been part of the ministry of NAB. We are grateful for those who have paved the way for our current ministry, and we have learned much from them. Presently ministering in southern Osaka, we have four career missionaries: Paul and Melissa Ewing, Shan Reed, and Yuri Nakano.

After NAB missionaries established several churches, the Japanese churches formed the Japan Baptist Conference (日本バプテスト宣教団). We now work alongside this sister organization as we minister in Japan.

Currently, we are continuing the tradition of church planting as we work in Sakai and Izumi Cities in southern Osaka. Although methods of church planting have changed over the years, the focus of planting and watering the seeds of the gospel has not changed. Building relationships continues to be where we pour our energies.

God has guided us through the ups and downs of ministry as we have sought to glorify Him in all that we do. Although we do not know what the future holds, we are looking forward with hope and joy to how He will continue to guide us.

As we look to the future, we have three priorities that are guiding our thoughts, ideas, and ministry:

1. Impact the next community
2. Reach the next nation
3. Equip the next generation

“Impact the next community” involves churches, members, and pastors going outside the walls of our buildings and houses to become involved more directly in the life of the community where God has placed us. We want to be a people who live out the gospel in front of and with our neighbors.

“Reach the next nation” is a call for us to look outside the comfort zone of our own culture to join God where He is at work across the street and around the world. We want to develop relationships that impact not only our own community, but also communities around the globe.

“Equip the next generation” reminds us to be intentional in developing leaders in all stages of life who will continue the call to share the gospel. The future of the community of Jesus-followers is dependent upon developing leaders today.

In the future, we hope to expand the ministry of church planting to include leadership development both in our current churches and in the surrounding communities. Although our current missionary numbers are small, God has blessed us with a variety of gifts and talents that we desire to be used for His glory. We pray more workers will join us in the ministry here in Japan.

The fellowship and cooperative spirit of the mission community in Japan encourages, challenges, and blesses us as we minister here. May God continue to be glorified as we become more unified as followers and servants of Jesus. ✞

NAB
 (North American Baptist Mission in Japan)

Impact the next
community

Equip the next
generation

Reach the next
nation



NLM
(Norwegian Lutheran Mission)

The Norwegian Lutheran Mission (NLM) has been in Japan since 1949. As a fruit of our work, a Japanese church, West Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (WJELC), was founded in 1962. Today, WJELC is a group of 42 churches, mainly in western Japan from Kobe to Hiroshima. NLM and WJELC share a joint vision of our work in Japan.

In Japan, NLM cooperates with the Finnish Lutheran Overseas Mission and the Icelandic Lutheran Mission. We are 12 missionaries with a good mix of first-time and experienced missionaries.

Together with WJELC and three other churches and organizations, we run the Kobe Lutheran Theological Seminary. Together with WJELC, we also run Hiruzen Bible Camp in Okayama prefecture, where we are in the process of transferring the ownership of the land to WJELC. In Kobe, we have the Kobe Lutheran Bible Institute and a media center, Lutheran Hour, which we also operate together with WJELC. In addition, NLM has started many kindergartens; but now we have one, which has 35 children.

NLM thinks there is still a need for missionaries in Japan because there are so few disciples of Christ here. We strive together with WJELC to reach the Japanese with the Gospel and make them followers of Christ. Our joint vision's motto is "Catching, bringing up, walking together – not survival, but service." To fulfill this mission, we train people in good practices, such as prayer, giving, and Bible reading. We also encourage each other to use our gifts and witness to the world by sharing the Gospel. In addition, we use new forms of media to reach new generations with the Gospel. We want to organize our camp and education institutions so that we can evangelize and educate more effectively. It is important for us to consider how we all can cooperate more effectively.

In the future, NLM's task will be to continue to support the church in reaching out to new people, especially young people and students. We will help to develop new ways of reaching out. We will continue to provide missionaries who are able to teach at our theological seminary and Bible school. We will also have missionaries capable of using new media. Through our good close relationship with WJELC, we believe in a renewal and strengthening of the existing work in a country where there are many opportunities. **JH**



“But where are the children?” That was the obvious question when we reached the kids worship section of the Sunday morning service at Zushi Fukuin Church, SEND’s first church plant in Japan. I was filling in for the pastor who was preaching elsewhere. Someone yelled from the back, “They’re not here yet, so let’s do it at the end.” Eighteen adults nodded in agreement and the band cranked out another hymn. Yes, it was a hymn, and yes, it was a band — a young man strumming away on a black acoustic guitar, an older lady trying her best to keep up on a six-stringed Morris, a young woman slapping away on a bass guitar, all being driven by a man in a suit playing a piano with great enthusiasm. Not exactly what I was expecting to find at a JECA church started by the mission formerly known as Far Eastern Gospel Crusade, if you know what I mean.

“They’re here!” yelled someone again, and the service was back on track as a little boy and girl popped through the back doors, ran down the aisle, and sat themselves on two little stools set up for them at the front of the cozy chapel. The lesson started. I gasped as a fully costumed Jesus appeared through the side door, complete with a wig, beard, bobby-pinned crown of thorns and removable cloak. Two thieves materialized on each side of Jesus, fully decked out for the part, carrying homemade Japanese-size wooden crosses behind them. The most impressive thing was not that they were saying their lines from memory, with only the narrator reading from a script. And it wasn’t that these were church people going all out for two neighborhood children on a non-Easter Sunday when their pastor was away. No, the most impressive thing was

that Jesus said, “I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” (Matthew 16:18 NIV).

SEND has been birthing churches ever since 1945 when it was itself birthed out of the GI Gospel Hour, a ministry among American servicemen who felt called to bring the gospel to their former enemies of World War II. Along the way, SEND operated three bookstores and the Fukuin Maru, a boat that carried missionaries to ministry locations in the Ryukyu Islands. A vision for camp ministry launched Okutama Bible Camp in 1968. While most SEND missionaries are involved in church planting in the Kanto area, some relocated to Tohoku after the disaster there in March of 2011.

Back at Zushi Fukuin Church, the service ended and we sat around the *oyatsu* (snack) table sipping tea. Church members began sharing excitedly about a charity rock concert they had held the previous week that 100 people came to. Rock concert? 100 people? The church officially has 24 members, most of whom are elderly. I had no idea how they got 100 people to show up, much less how they all squeezed into that building.

“It showed my friends that goof-ups like me are welcomed at church,” said the tattooed guitarist with a shady past. “Jesus came to seek and save the lost,” chimed in an obaa-chan with a walker. “We are few here, but we’re all trying to use our various gifts in obedience,” explained a middle-aged woman with tears in her eyes. It was all very refreshing, to say the least.

Rock on. **JH**

By Paul Suzuki, Area Director for SEND Japan



SEND ladies at Okutama Bible Chalet



Bible study

SPEND YOURSELF

The Assemblies of God work in Japan actually started before the Assemblies of God came into existence! During the Azusa street revival in Los Angeles, which began in 1906 and eventually birthed the Assemblies of God, a German immigrant named Carl Juergensen felt a strong missions call to Japan. Carl was shocked when he sensed God leading him to Japan. He had planned to return to his native Germany to do mission work. "I am 50 years old," he told the Lord. "How can I learn Japanese and be used of God to reach Japanese people?" But the call was clear. In 1913, Carl traveled to Japan with his wife and three children. Although Carl never learned the Japanese language well, his children, especially Marie, quickly became fluent and interpreted for their father as he preached the gospel on the streets.

Carl joined the (U.S.) Assemblies of God after it was formed in 1914. In 1920, an Assemblies of God District of Japan was formed under the direction of missionaries. After World War II, the Japan Assemblies of God was formed in 1949 as a self-governing body.

The Assemblies of God Missionary Fellowship (AGMF) in Japan is part of the Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM), which in turn is part of the U.S. General Council of the Assemblies of God. Currently there are 23 missionary units in Japan, with an additional four units in the U.S. on deputation or home assignment.

AGMF missionary units are spread across Japan from Tohoku in the north to Okinawa in the south. In previous years, there was also a missionary presence in Hokkaido until self-sustaining churches were established.

The Assemblies of God believes in the leading of the Holy Spirit for direction for ministry and the power of the Holy Spirit to accomplish ministry. In keeping with this emphasis, the AGWM allows their missionaries to follow the direction they feel individually led towards for the location

and type of ministry they will be involved in.

As a result, AGMF missionaries are involved in diversified ministries in Japan, including church planting, campus outreach, outreach literature ministry, Bible school teaching, and pastoring international churches. Some churches emphasize reaching out to all international people in a community, as well as to Japanese; and some, located near U.S. military bases, reach out to U.S. military personnel, as well as to the international community and Japanese people.

A strategic thrust of the Asia Pacific Region of AGWM (AP Region) is Spend Yourself. Spending ourselves, our time, energy, and finances to reach the unreached people groups across the Asia Pacific region is the commitment behind this major effort. Unreached people groups include remote ethnic peoples and victims of human trafficking. The entire nation of Japan, being less than 1% Christian, can be considered an unreached people group.

A strong emphasis in AGWM worldwide is the establishment of a strong national church. In keeping with this, the Japan Assemblies of God (JAG) was established in 1949. This group has national leadership; it is self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating. The AGMF works alongside the JAG in a cooperative and supportive role.

An important emphasis in keeping with developing a strong national church is developing Bible schools, to train national pastors and leaders. Because of this, Central Bible College (CBC), in Komagome, Tokyo, was established in 1950 to train young Japanese men and women called into the ministry. Since its inception, six hundred and forty students have graduated with plans to enter the ministry.

The AGMF has informal fellowship with missionaries from other national Assembly of God General Councils, such as Peru, Brazil, Great Britain, Australia, and Singapore. All missionaries from other national General Councils relate directly to the Japan Assemblies of God. **JH**



AGMF
(Assemblies of God Missionary Fellowship)



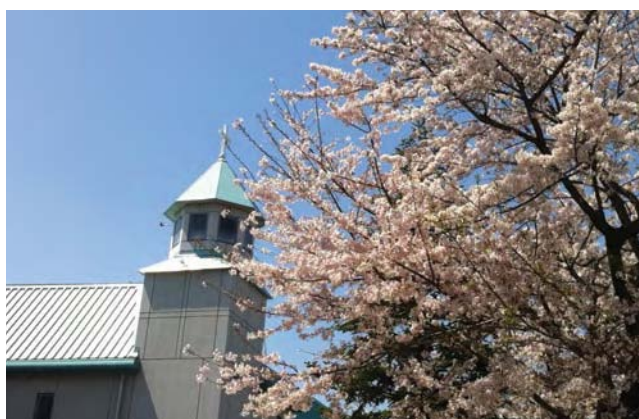
The Church of God Mission

The Church of God Mission in Japan is comprised of career missionaries and special assignment missionaries commissioned by Church of God Ministries whose headquarters are in Anderson, Indiana USA. “The Church of God began in 1881 as a movement emphasizing unity and holiness. Early leaders sought to forsake denominational hierarchies and formal creeds, trusting solely in the Holy Spirit as their overseer, and in the Bible as their statement of belief. These individuals saw themselves at the forefront of a movement to restore unity and holiness to God’s church. Their aim was not to establish another denomination but to promote primary allegiance to Jesus Christ and transcend denominational loyalties”.¹

Work of the Church of God in Japan was begun in 1908 by A.U. Yajima, a Japanese pastor who had traveled to the US for health reasons and found the church’s newspaper left on a train. Identifying with the emphasis on holiness and unity, Yajima contacted the church and soon returned to Japan with the vision of God’s people serving as one beyond the man-made barriers of sects and creeds. One year later in 1909, Yajima asked the church in America to send missionaries to help in the work. From the beginning, the work of the Church of God Mission in Japan has always been in direct cooperation with and at the request of the Japanese national church.

Presently, mission staff includes one career missionary and 6 special assignment missionaries. All are involved in educational ministries and all serve in local Japanese Church of God congregations. Career missionaries have been involved in congregational leadership and pastoring. Tamagawa Seigakuin Girls’ Junior and Senior High School in Tokyo is an important work of the church in Japan. There are 16 congregations of the Church of God in Japan from Okinawa to Hokkaido, along with two other congregations associated historically and currently in direct cooperation with the national church. Reverend Satoru Kanemoto is the elected chairman of the Japanese Church of God. **JH**

¹ <http://www.jesusisthesubject.org/our-history/>



More information about the church’s mission work can be found at:
<http://www.chogmissions.org/>

The Japanese Church of God website is:
<http://xn--u9j463geip7pa94cc38by5dpv1d.com/>



Roots and history

Evangelical Orient Mission started under the name “The Norwegian China Mission” as a result of a visit to Norway in 1889 by Hudson Taylor, founder of China Inland Mission (CIM). After CIM missionaries were expelled from China in 1950, our mission became independent from CIM and emerged as “Evangelical Orient Mission” on the Eastern Coast of Japan.

Thirty-six missionaries, including short-termers, have been sent to northern Ibaraki Ken, Fukushima Ken, Miyako, Iwate Ken, and Tokorozawa Shi since 1951. Thirteen churches have been planted and handed over to Japanese pastors. Most of them have joined *Doumei Kiristo Kyoudan*, Japan Evangelical Alliance. Radio-work and a Christian Bookstore started at an early stage; later Iwaki City became the base of youth and children ministries through English Classes, camps and cafes.

Since 2009 we, Akira and Anniken Mori, are the only two EOM-missionaries left in Japan. Besides pastoring the independent Taira Christ Evangelical Church (“Global Mission Chapel”) in Iwaki and local work with English classes, art exhibitions and work for handicapped people, God has led especially Akira to work more and more internationally as a bridge between Japan and God’s servants from abroad. He has also been engaged throughout Japan to serve in “Prayer Summits” and the Church Planting Institute (CPI).

We are thankful to EOM for the freedom it has given us to minister wherever God leads us. Our Mission is engaged in many projects in China, North Korea and India with the motto of reaching the weakest and least reached.

Since the tsunami in 2011, our work has changed. In spite of being so close to the devastated reactors, Iwaki City, where we live, has fairly low radiation. We have around 30,000 refugees from the high-radiation areas, and 6000 of them still live in temporary housing.

One week before the disaster we had just finalized the purchase of a 3-story former pachinko parlor. Suddenly we found ourselves able to store and distribute a steady flow of supplies from our friends around Japan, and host an increasing number of volunteers from 40 countries.

In 2012 the NPO “Global Mission Japan” was established to help and encourage people affected by the disaster. We currently have six fulltime workers taking care of volunteers and visitors, serving the needs of the community, and refugees. Our “Cross Cafe” is open throughout the week.

Our church has 55 members. Our motto is to rejoice in the Lord and praise Him, to know the Lord and make Him known. The latest method of outreach has been Alpha-dinner meetings in our chapel. The course has finished, but now we have dinner follow-up meetings with seekers, before we start a new course.

We sense there is a new opening towards the Gospel in our area. Walls that were too high between the church and the world outside, have been torn down as have walls between different churches. We pray for His visitation and transformation among us to bring His life to so many in darkness and hopelessness. **JH**

More about our work:
<http://www.globalmissionchapel.com>



Suomen Evankelisuterilainen
Kansanlähetyks

FLM
(The Finnish Lutheran Mission)

The Finnish Lutheran Mission (FLM)¹ is one of the official organizations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (ELCF) channeling international work. FLM was founded in 1967 in response to a strong revival movement among young people in Finland.

One of the main ideas of the revival was a strong desire to share the Gospel where Christ is not yet known. Therefore, in 1968, one year after establishment, our first missionaries went to Ethiopia and Japan. In recent years, FLM has had about 80 missionaries in 13 different countries.

Today Japan is one of the FLM's priority regions for mission work. In Japan FLM cooperates with West Japan Evangelical Church (WJELC) in Kansai and Shikoku. We currently have 13 long-term missionaries and 2 short-term (1-2 years) missionaries aged between 27 and 70. Four of the long-term missionaries are former missionary kids, who were raised in Japan.

Within WJELC, we are responsible for three churches, in Nishinomiya, Kobe and Awaji Island. In addition, we support the Lutheran Hour broadcasts and provide workers for the Kobe Lutheran Bible Institute. Next year we will also become one of the organizations running the Kobe Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Our vision

Our vision is "to be a dynamic Lutheran movement which offers Christian fellowship, known for its strong emphasis on Bible teaching and sharing the Good News where Christ is not yet known". The foundation of our work is reliance on God's word. We aim to work in an unprejudiced way and in a spirit of cooperation. We do this because we believe that salvation is found in no one else (but Jesus), for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

In the future, FLM wants to continue to support the local church (WJELC) in reaching out to Japanese people. FLM still sees a need for long-term missionaries in Japan. Instead of simply sending money, we want to keep sending new missionaries to Japan. We also think that to survive in Japan, the Church needs to reach out to new generations. So we emphasize work among young people.

One of our challenges is the fact that international schools tend to be located in big cities. Although we would like to focus our work on rural areas, missionary families with school children prefer to live in big cities so their children can attend international school. This is something we have to take into consideration more in the future with our partner church WJELC.

We also want to be open to new approaches of doing mission work. Thus, we'll continue to review how we work, to plan new strategies and search new opportunities with our main partner WJELC. Through continual strategic work, we believe that we can make the best use of our resources in order to do the mission work in this beautiful - but in many ways unreached - country of Japan. **JH**

¹ <https://www.sekl.fi>





Global Partners is all about “amplifying local church mission for global transformation.” As the international missions department of The Wesleyan Church of North America, we minister in more than 80 nations, focusing on unreached people groups, assisting existing international churches to strengthen ministry capacity, and helping North American churches know the joy of global ministry.

Global Partners, formerly known as Wesleyan World Missions, first sent missionaries to Japan in 1919. In 1952, a partnership began with the newly formed Japanese holiness denomination, Immanuel General Mission.

Today, Global Partners continues to work alongside the Immanuel General Mission, as well World Gospel Mission, an interdenominational missions agency. This three-way partnership is known as the Immanuel Wesleyan Federation, and is a positive example of western missionaries and national churches working together to spread the gospel in Japan. It has also opened up the opportunity for Japanese missionaries to work in Wesleyan and WGM mission fields in other parts of the world, including Bolivia, Cambodia, Jamaica, Kenya, the Philippines and Zambia, strengthening the work of all three organizations throughout the world.

Global Partners currently has a small but active ministry in Japan. We work to encourage and help build the local church by building spiritual bridges within communities.

GP missionary Andrea Swarthout’s ministry is centered in Kyoto. She helps in a local church, teaches cooking classes, hosts special events in her home, and leads English worship services and Bible studies. She also guest-preaches at Immanuel churches throughout Japan, and has taught at the Immanuel Bible Training College in Yokohama.

Meanwhile, Robin White is our missionary in Nagoya, where he leads a growing English ministry. Through weekly English classes, monthly English conversation cafes, and special events, over 40 non-Christian students, as well as their families, are now connected with Nagoya Immanuel Church and are getting the opportunity to hear about Jesus. Several students have begun studying the Bible as well, and there is a sense of growing interest and openness. In addition to this English ministry, Robin is also involved in music, preaching and youth ministry. His long-term vision is to minister through the creative arts, especially comics/manga.

Global Partners is thankful for the partnerships and ministries God has given in Japan over the years, and we continue to pray that God will expand our team and our vision in the years to come. **JH**



Global Partners

(Wesleyan Senkyodan)



JEMS
 (The Japan Evangelical Missionary Society)

The Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society (JEMS) is an organization committed to sharing Jesus with the Japanese in Japan. We also seek to reach Japanese people in other countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and the United States. Another commitment we have is to help Christ followers in the United States to deepen in their relationship with God. We seek to do so by reaching out to college campuses through Asian American Christian Fellowship (AACF) “retreat-type” experiences like Mount Hermon, and concerts/sporting events geared toward evangelism.

Based upon these two commitments, JEMS has a simple vision statement: Jesus to every Japanese, Jesus every day. Our international ministries, where we seek to share Jesus to the Japanese wherever they might be, are described in the first part of the vision statement. Our domestic ministries are captured in the second part of our vision statement where we provide various ministry opportunities so that Jesus might become an everyday part of a person’s life.

We began back in 1950, when a group of Nisei (second generation Japanese-Americans) pastors and lay leaders gathered at a conference center called Mount Hermon. After an extended time of prayer, God called the group to create JEMS. Since our incorporation in 1951, we have had many ties to Japan through anointed pastors such as Rev. Paul Ariga, Rev. Akira Hatori, Rev. Koji Honda, Rev. Yoshihiro Kishi, Rev. Nobumichi Murakami and others. JEMS continues to send support to many of these pastors due to their influence on the Japanese living in the US. We started sending missionaries to Japan and South America from the 1970’s. Currently we have 11 missionary family units as far south as Amakusa and as far north as Morioka.



Historically, we have always partnered with a Japanese church by providing an English teacher as a means of outreach. However, recently, many of the younger missionaries joining JEMS have a heart for church planting. JEMS also sends summer mission teams to Japan. Some are specialized like our hula or Black Gospel teams. Others include volunteers who help in Tohoku. Through our summer mission program, we seek to introduce churches in the US to ministries in Japan with the hope that a long-term relationship might blossom.

As far as what the future holds for JEMS, we want to send as many missionaries to Japan as possible. In the near future, our desire is to gather all the JEMS missionaries to meet and discuss what God is doing in and through their ministries. Then we will see what God is putting together in terms of a “plan” for Japan as it relates to JEMS. We are grateful for the various working partnerships we have with JEMA, CRASH, JCFN, Genesis College and various other Japanese churches. To find out more about us, please visit www.jems.org. **JH**



WEC Japan is a fun bunch of 40 missionaries from 10 countries and different denominations. We are here 'to see vibrant, indigenous and reproducing churches flourishing in Japan, transforming its society and mobilising for missions'.

We are based in Shiga-ken but our workers normally start in Kyoto for language study and then spread out to neighbouring prefectures.

WEC (Worldwide Evangelisation for Christ) was formed in 1913 by C T Studd, a Brit. God turned one man's crazy adventure into a movement that has since touched millions of lives in unreached countries. Our international slogan is 'Reaching People, Planting Churches, Mobilising Missions'.

Our first missionaries came to Japan in 1950. The team and churches grew rapidly in the early years. Japanese pastors were trained up. The churches later became known as the 'Sekai Fukuin Dendou Kai' (SFDK), and WEC came to operate separately, but in close partnership. These days at the SFDK's annual 'sekai', there are about 400 people. The biggest church has a congregation of about 100, the smallest about five. However, with many of the original pastors and just a handful of new young ones, there is a leadership challenge. As missionaries, we often talk about how to support existing churches while also growing pioneering work. Currently our workers are either: new workers, who spend up to two years in language study and then one year in a church placement; pioneer church planters, who work in multicultural teams to evangelise and set up new church plants of either traditional style or recently organic style; or pastoring churches or assisting Japanese pastors. We also have one worker seconded to KGK (*Kiristoshya Gakusei Kai*) and one to minister to tsunami survivors in Tohoku.

We have recently spent time praying and waiting on God for how to bless and grow the church. The following strategy was agreed in January 2015:

1. Pioneering: Planting Churches

To plant reproducing churches that prioritise discipleship, in strategic and under-churched areas.

2. Training: Leadership Development

To raise up potential leaders and develop Japanese church leadership.

To train and equip Christians to minister and to be an influence in their community, work place and church.

3. Mobilisation

To promote world mission vision in churches.

To recruit workers for Japan and overseas.

To provide opportunities for ministry overseas and for missions training inside and outside Japan.

<http://www.wec-japan.org>

4. Partnership

To partner and network with mainly SFDK and other like-minded churches and organisations in church planting and in sending workers to develop and support churches and ministries, in line with the field vision.

At our annual field conference in May 2015 we will move onto discussing exactly how to do this, through goal setting (we have not yet got it all 'sorted!').

We have recently decided our values in the ministries.

1. Prayer

Prayer is our priority and the basis of every WEC activity.

2. Team-based Ministry

We aim to function in teams; multi-cultural teams whenever possible.

3. Effective Ministry

We aim to carry out effective ministries through:

Working strategically

Sufficient research and prayer

Persistent and committed ministry

Appropriate evaluation

Wise utilisation of resources

4. Member Care and Personal Development

We aim to provide training, support and accountability for missionaries so that they can fulfil their calling.

We recognise each individual's own responsibility for self-care and personal development.

We joined JEMA about ten years ago and value the training and networking opportunities. **JH**

WEC
(Worldwide Evangelism for Christ)



CMS (Church Missionary Society of Australia) is a fellowship of Christian people and churches committed to global mission. We work with churches to set apart long-term workers who cross cultures to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

CMS was founded in England by a small group of Christians with a passion for worldwide gospel outreach, including John Newton, who wrote the hymn “Amazing Grace”, and William Wilberforce, who was a leader in abolishing the slave trade in England. A CMS outpost was set up in Sydney in 1825 to support work among Aboriginal people, and shortly afterwards the first missionaries arrived from England to serve in western NSW. CMS Associations were set up around Australia, and the first Australian CMS missionary, Helen Philips, sailed for Ceylon (Sri Lanka) in 1892.

Our current vision is for a world that knows Jesus. We aim to achieve this by:

- Reaching gospel-poor peoples for Christ
- Equipping Christian leaders for church and society
- Engaging churches in cross-cultural ministry

The current CMS Australia involvement in Japan began with Anne and Denis McIntyre (who went out as single people and married later). Since Anne arrived in 1971, there has been a continuous CMS Australia presence in Japan.

From January 2016, CMS Australia will have 15 missionaries, with 15 children, working in the Kanto and Kansai regions with Mission to the World (MTW), The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM), Kirisutosha Gakusei Kai (KGK), and local churches. We aim to build up the body of Christ in Japan by focusing on ministry in Japanese under local leadership and to encourage and support Japanese Christians in evangelism. **JH**



FWBIM
(Free Will Baptist International Missions)

Free Will Baptist International Missions (FWBIM, of which Japan Free Will Baptist Missions is a part) has moved from pioneer-type work to facilitation and partnerships. Thirty years ago many of our workers went to places to pioneer the only existing evangelical church. Today we find ourselves talking with mature leaders from our FWB works in places like Brazil, Cuba, Cote d'Ivoire, India, Japan, Panama, etc. We are asking God to help us all reach farther together. We have moved from jack-of-all trade people to specialists who facilitate ministry by training, mentoring, and working alongside local workers.

FWBIM sent its first missionaries to Japan in December 1954. Less than two years later in August 1956, following language school in Tokyo, the Calverys moved to Abashiri, Hokkaido to plant a church. In 1961, they moved to Bihoro, and planted a church there too. These churches form the center for our rural outreach work in Eastern Hokkaido. The team of national pastors and missionaries has a vision that includes the unreached and under-reached towns and communities in this region of Hokkaido.

In October 1966 our mission started our first church plant in Sapporo. Sapporo and surrounding cities have become the center for our work in central Hokkaido. We have five national pastors and six churches partnering with our missionaries to reach out to the more than 2,000,000 people who live in this area.

Our mission efforts in our third main area, Kanto, began in 1961 and continue today. Several new missionary families have joined our veteran missionaries and national workers who have been faithfully working in Kanto. The new workers bring with them energy, talents, and vision for the future. We look forward to the good things God has in store for Kanto and Japan.

We exist to labor with the Body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission.

At FWBIM, we realize we are not the only ones charged with the task of mission. We work alongside and in conjunction with other like-minded Great Commission Christians to take the gospel to the least-reached peoples of the world. We have dedicated the first 80 years of our existence as a mission (61 in Japan) to this task and the task hasn't changed. But we are adapting to current needs to be the best stewards of the resources God gives us, as well as striving to be strategic in our efforts in a new era for Christian missions.

In 2015 we have 16 career missionaries and 4 missionary interns assigned to the field of Japan. This is the largest number that we have ever had assigned to our field here. However we are not closing the door to others who might wish to join us in laboring with the body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission. It is all for His glory. **JH**



OMS Christian Mission Church began in 1901 when Charles and Lettie Cowman together with Juji Nakada started the work in Japan. Earnest and Hazel Kilbourne joined them the next year. Cowman, Nakada, and Kilbourne opened the Central Gospel Mission where they held services every night while also starting the Bible Institute (Tokyo Biblical Seminary). From its very beginning as the Oriental Missionary Society (OMS), Charles Cowman and Earnest Kilbourne's focus was training Japanese people to effectively share the gospel, with the goal of winning their own people to Christ. Juji Nakada established the Japan Holiness Church, and OMS has worked with them for 113 years.

Today we continue in this goal to empower the Japanese to reach their own people. In 2013, One Mission Society in Japan became the OMS Christian Mission Church. We still work in partnership with the Japan Holiness Church and Tokyo Biblical Seminary. The OMS Christian Mission Church was established to continue the task of evangelism, training and equipping, and releasing Japanese Christians to reach their own families, friends, and fellow workers.

We seek to reach Japanese people through English classes, cooking classes, craft classes, hula classes, an English fellowship and coffee ministry, and sports ministry. We are in the process of translating into Japanese and publishing a method of training potential Christian leaders called 'Train and Multiply' to help Japanese Christians reach their neighbours. They in turn would also train and equip those they reach for Christ to continue to reach the next group of believers. We hope to have level one of 'Train and Multiply' ready to be published later in 2015, and level two published in 2016. We desire to see Japanese believers trained in this way to reach their own people. We believe we will see the evangelism of Japan as the laity are trained to evangelize, disciple, and release those they lead to the Lord to reach their families and friends for Christ. This is the goal and focus of OMS Christian Mission Church. **JH**



WGM

(The World Gospel Mission)

The World Gospel Mission (WGM) website states, “World Gospel Mission partners with individuals and churches worldwide to make disciples of Christ and encourage believers to become missions-active through ministries that reach the whole person—physically and spiritually—transforming communities.” This describes what WGM as an organization is doing as a whole, and in Japan through the years. In Japan, WGM has worked in two ways to make disciples: university student ministry and the Immanuel Church.

The first WGM missionaries arrived in Japan in 1952. David and Edna Kuba were Japanese-Americans with a deep desire to reach the people of Japan with the gospel of Jesus Christ. As they began to make contacts with people and churches, they discovered the Immanuel Church denomination. The Kubas felt it was not necessary to begin another denomination and that working with the Immanuel Church would be a good way to serve. In 1952 the Immanuel Church and the Wesleyan Church of America joined in a partnership called the Immanuel Wesleyan Federation (IWF). In 1954 WGM was invited to join IWF. Since that time, WGM has worked with the Immanuel Church in many different ways.

A few years after their arrival in Japan, the Kubas felt the Lord leading them into a ministry with university students. They began Bible studies and the Lord brought many university students to them. Through the Kubas’ ministry, student groups were established at Rikkyo University and Keio University; and a campus Bible study was held at Tokyo University. Many students from this ministry went into full-time Christian work as pastors or missionaries. After the Kubas retired, the student ministry continued with Kevin Zirkle and Dennis Probst working on these campuses.

WGM missionary Zach Motts describes the ministry to university students, “We come alongside Christian students, and create open spaces for them to walk alongside non-Christian students. We open these spaces through Bible studies, hosting events, and being available to hang out.”

WGM’s work with the Immanuel Church has included a variety of ministries over the years. English Bible classes held at churches, preaching for evangelistic meetings and other special meetings, teaching at the Immanuel Bible College in

Yokohama, and serving as the English secretary to the President of the Bible College are some of the ways WGM missionaries have worked to build God’s kingdom in Japan.

Another way we work together is in outreach outside of Japan. The Immanuel Church has sent missionaries to work with WGM in Kenya, India, and Bolivia.

In the past few years, the Immanuel Church has emphasized youth ministry, particularly camps and youth activities. WGM has four young missionaries who are working with youth, both in the church and on university campuses.

Zach Motts came in 2007. He met Esther Ueki, a Japanese MK from Jamaica, and two years later they were married. Zach and Esther are currently in the States on an educational leave. When they return in 2016, they will be working with university students and young people in Immanuel Churches.

Holly Muehleisen arrived in 2010. She is in her second term and works with children and youth in three Immanuel Churches as well as with university students.

Brandon Kuba is the grandson of David and Edna Kuba. He arrived in the fall of 2014 and is currently in language study. He will be working with university students.

We are thankful for the new missionaries WGM has in Japan. We are excited to see how the Lord will develop the ministry of each one, working with university students as well as with children and youth in Immanuel Churches. **JH**

We come alongside Christian students, and create open spaces for them to walk alongside non-Christian students. We open these spaces through Bible studies, hosting events, and being available to hang out.

The Immanuel Church has sent missionaries to work with WGM in Kenya, India, and Bolivia.



The Evangelical East Asia Mission (EEAM) formed through the merger in 1982 of two Swedish missions: the Swedish Evangelical Orient Mission and the Swedish Mongol Mission. The work of these two missions began in Japan in 1950. We were inspired by a strong appeal from the famous Japanese evangelist Toyohiko Kagawa: “Now when the doors to China are closed, please send your missionaries to Japan which is wide open for the Gospel!”

The Swedish Mongol Mission planted 11 churches, mainly in Hokkaido, which have now all joined the Japanese denomination Nihon Dōmei Kirisuto Kyōdan. All our first missionaries were former missionaries to China. Because they initially hoped to return to China, they didn’t start any work of their own in the first few years but instead helped local churches. It was not until 1955 that they started planting churches. Our mission field was the eastern part of Shizuoka prefecture, south of Mount Fuji, in the area around Suruga Bay and the Izu Peninsula.

My wife, Kerstin, who came with her parents Johannes and Ingrid Aspberg in 1950, remembers six adults were baptised in Ohito (now Izunokuni city) in 1953; two of them later became pastors. Kerstin’s father died suddenly in 1954, but her mother Ingrid, together with a Japanese pastor and his family, continued missionary work in that small town for almost 40 years. In 1958, about 1,000 people drowned in a devastating typhoon, but Ingrid survived and, together with other Christian organisations, did all kinds of rescue and relief work. As a result, many were added to the church.

We now also have churches in the cities Fujinomiya, Fuji, Numazu, and Mishima. Three World Horizons missionaries have been helping us with church planting and rural evangelism in the Izu Peninsula since 2000.

In 1986, EEAM handed over the property and church buildings to create a Japanese religious body, the Orient Evangelical Church. EEAM is currently only responsible for the church in Fuji, where we live and work. EEAM is a very small mission consisting of me (Bo Dellming), Kerstin, our son Daniel, who works as a missionary and teacher at Kwansei Gakuin University in Nishinomiya, his family, and Marianne Nyselius, a retired missionary in Okayama.

The Lord has taught me many things over the years about ministry in Japan. Here are six:

1. Get help from one another. A church should always work as a team. The Lord has been so good to me. I am very aware of my limitations but the Lord has provided us with talented people.
2. Be a humble pastor or missionary. Recognise your weak points and delegate to those who can do the job better than you.
3. The blessing of the Alpha course. Most of those baptized here in Fuji, including 30 Chinese, have come through the Alpha course.
4. Aim to be a church of small groups. We haven’t got there yet, but we strive to bring everyone into a loving, caring, and intimate fellowship.
5. Become a serving church. Show love and mercy to your community. We have been trying to help and share the Gospel with homeless people over the past 10 years, but we wish we could reach out much more.
6. Love one another. A church united in love draws people like a magnet. A city with churches that work together in unity will have an impact. Missionaries loving and praying for one another will bear fruit.

We give much thanks for the fellowship we’ve enjoyed with JEMA people over the years, especially at the Church Planting Institute conferences. **JH**



EEAM

(Evangelical East Asia Mission)

MBMission
(Mennonite Brethren Mission)

MB Mission is the global mission organization of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America. The work of the mission in Japan began in 1950 when MB missionary Ruth Wiens was sent to Osaka. Other missionaries soon followed, and several churches were planted in the Osaka area over the next few years. In 1958, the Japan Mennonite Brethren Conference (JMBC) was formed. Today, the JMBC has 29 churches with 26 full-time pastors and an active membership of about 1,500 people. Most of the churches are in the greater Osaka area, but some are in areas around Hiroshima, Nagoya, and Yokohama. In addition, the JMBC has established a seminary (Evangelical Biblical Seminary) and a Christian camp (Nosegawa Bible Camp) in the Osaka area.

The initial focus of MB Mission in Japan was evangelism and church planting, but it has shifted to building up churches in recent years.

MB missionaries currently serve alongside local MB churches in outreach initiatives and discipleship. A primary ministry is conversational English classes, as they serve as an effective bridge between local MB churches and their communities. In addition to teaching English classes, MB missionaries are involved in various other ministries in the church according to their gifts and abilities.

In daily life and ministry, each missionary strives to live out the five core values of MB Mission:

- dependency on Jesus,
- risk-taking obedience,
- relational integrity,
- transforming community, and
- celebration.

Although MB Mission had a strong missionary force in Japan in the early years, the number has gradually declined. There are currently four long-term missionaries serving with MB Mission in Japan — Doris Goertz, Wendy Eros, and Cory and Masami Giesbrecht. In addition, many short-term missionaries teach English for one or two years or serve in MB churches on summer ACTION teams.

The current MB missionaries are grateful to the missionaries who have gone before them and have trained leaders in the church. Building on the strong foundation that has been laid, they now have the privilege of working with Japanese leaders and church members to help further the kingdom of God. Through the ministry of English conversation classes, God has allowed our missionaries to see fruit, for which they are thankful. Their prayer is that gospel seeds will be planted in the heart of each person who comes to the classes. Their desire is to see many Japanese people come to know Jesus as their personal Savior and to walk in faithful discipleship with him. **JH**





Liebenzell Mission was founded in 1899, born of spiritual revival in Germany in the late 1800's. It was initially the German Branch of the China Inland Mission, later branching out on its own under the name of Liebenzell, after the town where the mission set up its headquarters.

Work in Japan began in 1927, after Liebenzell's director of the South Pacific Islands department visited Japan the year before. He attended a missionaries' conference in Karuizawa, where he received a strong burden for bringing the Gospel to Japan. Upon returning to Germany the mission's council promptly accepted his proposal.

At the time, Germany had been defeated in World War I and the German empire collapsed. Prior to this, Germany's empire had included islands in the South Pacific. After Germany's defeat, these islands became a mandate of Japan.

The mission felt there was a need to have a center in Japan in order to negotiate with the Japanese government. That center (at Yokohama) quickly evolved into the headquarters of Liebenzell's mission in Japan.

Churches founded in the years up until World War 2 are now part of *Dōmei Kirisuto Kyōdan* and *Nihon Kirisuto Kyōdan*.

After World War 2, work restarted in 1951 at Nakanoshima, Kawasaki, where the center of LMI-Japan is still located today. The number of missionaries increased rapidly, most of them, according to the mission's policies, evangelizing in the unreached rural area of Ibaraki Prefecture.

From the 1960s onwards church planting further spread throughout Kanto, forming the *Ribenzeru Kirisuto Kyōkai Rengō*. In 1992 Liebenzell churches joined with many churches from three other church associations (founded by OMF, SEND, and TEAM), to form the Japanese Evangelical Church Association (JECA).

Today about 50 congregations have grown out of LMI's ministry. At present 18 missionaries serve in Japan.

Liebenzell's ministry aims to establish groups of believers and churches that ultimately will be self-propagating and self-supporting and also have a burden for world missions. We focus upon less-reached but rapidly-growing suburban areas.

Liebenzell's present ministries include:

- Church planting in areas not served by an existing church.
- Cooperating with churches that seek to do missionary outreach.
- Pastoral ministry at churches that do not yet have a Japanese pastor.
- Retreats and support services at the *Okutama Fukuin no Ie* (House of the Gospel).
- A boarding home for missionary children who attend the German International School in Yokohama.
- Continuing support of relief efforts in the areas affected by the March 2011 earthquake/tsunami/nuclear disaster, involving short-term "impact" teams.

Other ministries include student outreach, literature distribution, retreat programs, Sunday school, and Bible-teaching classes.

Liebenzell sets great value upon:

- Adhering to biblical principles,
- Working in partnership,
- Servant-mindedness,
- Cross-cultural sensitivity,
- Exemplary lifestyle, and
- Mutual esteem and encouragement. **JH**

Liebenzell Mission



The Navigators

The calling of The Navigators is “To advance the gospel of Jesus Christ and his kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of laborers living and discipling among the lost.”

Being in Japan, those words “among the lost” hold special significance for us because our hearts burn with a desire to see Jesus Christ made known in the mainstream of Japanese culture and society. Our hope is that through our ministries, God would raise up Japanese laborers who have a solid foundation in God’s Word. We desire to see these laborers take the gospel into their existing families, neighborhoods, and workplaces in uniquely Japanese ways.

From the start we strive to be:

- relevant by entering into their culture and context,
- personal by giving time and energy through one-on-one interaction and discipleship, and
- missional by creating safe environments where believers and those who don’t yet believe can build genuine, on-going relationships.

Our team is made up of Japanese, Koreans, Americans, and Germans all working together under the leadership of The Japan Navigators. We’re predominantly located in eight major cities, but with a network that spreads throughout Japan. We seek to relate to and learn from our Japanese friends, on campuses, in businesses, and in community settings. We believe that as we journey together, God’s kingdom will be experienced both in our relationships and through exploring his Word together. The majority of those we relate to, at first, have no interest in the Bible. We often witness God move in amazing ways to draw them to himself, even at times impacting entire families and classes of students.

Our discipleship approach emphasizes that God, by design, has placed each person in unique relationships and circumstances to shine his light through him or her. As much as possible, we encourage people to remain in their specific context, culture, and relationships while trusting in the promises of God and the guidance of the

Holy Spirit. As their faith in Christ grows, they often become our teachers in understanding the scriptures from a Japanese perspective. Many of them have become leaders in local area churches and/or in their communities. Many continue to have fellowship with each other and their pre-believing friends through regular contact. Most have a growing desire to be used by God to carry Christ into their families. We feel honored to be on this journey with them. Please pray for us. **JH**

Some verses that God often uses to guide The Navigators are:

1 Corinthians 2:2 (NIV)

“For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”

1 Thessalonians 2:8

“...Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.”

2 Timothy 2:2

“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”

Acts 17:26-27

“From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.”

Isaiah 60:22

“The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the LORD; in its time I will do this swiftly.”





The year was 1948 and the Baptist General Conference (BGC) responded to the call to send missionaries to post-war Japan. However, the BGC did not possess the legal status necessary for that endeavor. That year, under a cooperative agreement with the Far East Gospel Crusade (now SEND), Francis and Marion Sorley arrived in Japan. Due to shortages at the time, they brought their own house trailer and vehicle with them. Since that time, 26 families and six single missionaries, along with countless short-term missionaries, have served the Lord in Japan under the BGC, now known as Converge Worldwide.

In 1965 the churches planted by missionaries working cooperatively with young Japanese pastors joined together to form the Japan Baptist Church Association Rengo (日本バプテスト教会連合). The Headquarters of the Rengo sits on the same land where the Sorleys first parked their house trailer in Nerima-ku, Tokyo. In November 2015, the Rengo celebrated 50 years of ministry. In that time, the Rengo has grown to an association of 66 churches stretching from Tokyo to the Kii Peninsula, Kansai, and Hokkaido. Currently, there are eight church plant projects underway, with more being planned.

Converge Worldwide has one mission—multiplying transformational churches. We are committed to developing communities of Jesus-followers who regularly meet and fellowship in reproducing, multiplying movements, which holistically impact individuals, communities and regions through the power of the gospel. In view of this mission, Converge Worldwide has one central ministry focus, namely, developing transformational leaders. Our role in Japan is to accomplish this in strategic partnership with the Japan Baptist Church Association Rengo.

Currently, Converge Worldwide Japan consists of nine missionaries involved in ministries such as teaching at Christian schools, providing leadership for the Church



Baptism held at the home of Jeff and Barb Chapman in Nara in May 2013. Mrs. Takemoto became the first Christian in her family.



Current Missionaries at the recent Ground-breaking Ceremony for the new missionary residence/guest house in Tokyo: L to R; Ian Smith, John and Elaine Mehn, Barb and Jeff Chapman, Christine and Rob Wright, Jane Fischer. On Home Assignment: Lori Harms

Planting Institute, church multiplication and outreach development, and care of Third Culture Kids. Our newest missionaries to the field are in language school, preparing for involvement in evangelistic and discipleship ministries.

In 2011 and 2012, we welcomed over 120 short-term missionaries, who had come to aid in disaster relief ministry in response to the triple disasters of March 2011 in Northeast Japan. Converge Worldwide missionaries, career and short-term, worked closely with various aid organizations to provide relief and rebuilding of lives, as well as homes. We are committed to showing God's mercy whenever disaster strikes.

We are united in our belief that God will continue to build his church in Japan according to his plan and timing. We are privileged to join our Lord in making his name known throughout the land of Japan and continue to pray that "the Lord of the harvest will send out workers into his harvest field."

**Converge
Worldwide has
one mission
— multiplying
transformational
churches.**

Converge
(Converge Worldwide Japan Mission)

Pioneers Japan has a small but growing presence in Japan. Our desire is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to those areas of Japan that have little Christian influence. Wherever possible, we partner with national churches to support and strengthen the believers. We currently have people serving in Kamaishi, Ishinomaki, Nagoya, Hiroshima, Shimonoseki, and Fukuoka.

Our Vision

Pioneers' vision statement is to mobilize teams to glorify God among unreached peoples by initiating church-planting movements in partnership with local churches.

Core Values

Our core values serve as the heart and focus of each team.

1. **Passion for God**—The Great Commandment is our motive for the Great Commission. We want to live our lives fully surrendered to him so that all nations may know that he alone is God.
2. **Unreached Peoples**—Pioneer focuses on those with the least opportunity to hear and understand the gospel.
3. **Church-planting Movements**—We want to see new believers united in fellowship with other believers, forming churches that plant churches—until all peoples are reached.
4. **Ethos of Grace**—Understanding that each person bears the image of God, we endeavor to cultivate an atmosphere of mutual acceptance and respect in all our relationships, encouraging each one to attain his or her full potential in Christ.
5. **The Local Church**—Pioneers partners with sending churches to plant new communities of Christians. We also work alongside local, indigenous fellowships wherever possible.

6. **Team-centered**—Teams that are both task- and member-focused are the core of Pioneers. This is crucial since many of the world's remaining unreached peoples are in difficult and isolated pockets of the world.
7. **Innovation and Flexibility**—Reaching the world's remaining unreached peoples requires creativity and sensitivity to the unique calling, vision, and needs of each missionary.
8. **Participatory Servant-leadership**—Pioneers has a decentralized leadership structure. We are principle-driven rather than policy-driven, applying an interactive approach to decision-making that is based on trust.

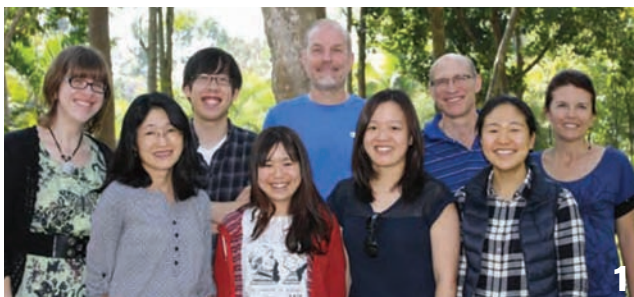
JAPAN Launch

To prepare new missionaries for long-term service and fruitfulness in ministry, Pioneers Japan has developed JAPAN Launch, which is a two-year process designed to:

- Support new missionaries as they systematically study Japanese language and culture.
- Provide skills and knowledge to evangelize and disciple in the Japanese context.
- Journey with new missionaries as they enter a country of intense spiritual warfare and learn to battle spiritually.
- Practice the skills necessary to flourish on a Pioneers team.
- Encourage character and spiritual formation as God prepares them to serve in a new context.

Pioneers Japan desires to partner with other mission organizations to become more effective at evangelizing and discipling our Japanese friends. We eagerly anticipate joining with God as he reaches this country.

- 1 Members of Pioneer Japan
- 2 Kid's lesson in Fukuoka
- 3 Worship karaoke in Tohoku
- 4 Hiroshima team prayer time





ReachGlobal is the mission arm of the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA), which was founded in 1884 and arrived in Japan in 1949. Over these past 66 years we have helped establish the Evangelical Free Church of Japan and planted numerous churches throughout the country.

Today ReachGlobal has 16 full- or part-time staff working in Onagawa, Sapporo, Sendai, and Tokyo. Below are brief updates on each location.

Onagawa

ReachGlobal went into Onagawa first as learners as we prayer-walked asking God to show us how to love the locals. Onagawa had 80% of the town and 10% of the population washed away by the tsunami in 2011. After the disaster 70% of the residents were living in temporary housing.

Megumi Project is a social enterprise project offering young mothers of Onagawa a place of employment to create new products from used kimonos. Each lady receives training on how to sew. Every morning starts with a sharing time from biblical themes and praying for each other. See the Megumi Project web site: megumiproject.com and the article in the Winter 2016 issue of Japan Harvest.

ReachGlobal was invited by city officials to open a community space called Kizuna Friends in the newly-built promenade in front of the new train station in Onagawa. As this town moves toward rebuilding we have the privilege of being part of the community.

Sapporo: Coen Life

In Sapporo, we purpose to multiply communities with a passion for Christ and compassion for people.

Our Lead Team of five is made up of three EFCA ReachGlobal missionaries and two paid local believers. We use three platforms to accomplish our purpose—a café (Café COEN), an English school

(COEN English), and the church (COEN Bible Community). We connect with unpaid staff, customers, English students, and Bible-community friends, introducing them to Christ when they are ready.

The Bible community worships on Sundays and we have Bible studies during the week. Approximately 20% of the 120+ people we now see weekly are choosing to spend time in God's Word.

We use a business model operating a café and English school because they:

- align with the gifts of those called to this ministry,
- meet people's needs,
- provide open doors to build relationships, and
- give opportunities to show our faith.

For further information visit COENLife.com. For the café and English school sites, visit CafeCOEN.com.

Sendai

At the Sendai Izumi Evangelical Church our mission is to proclaim the Good News to the city of Sendai and northward into the growing town of Tomiya which will become a city in 2016. We are committed to multiplication through discipleship of believers (2 Tim. 2:2), and to serve the community through outreach English classes and community center outreach. We also took part in earthquake relief and tsunami victim ministry.

It has been a joy to see how seekers have come to believe in Jesus through seeker Bible studies. It is an even greater joy to watch them grow in their faith, to serve God, and to share the gospel with their family and friends.

Tokyo

Our long-term vision in Tokyo is to see God raise up numerous ministry teams that multiply healthy, transformational churches in Central Tokyo. The first step in our vision is to plant a church in the Waseda area of Tokyo that makes disciples for Christ and partners with other Christians to transform the community. We are also in the planning stages of a coffee house initiative. The coffee house will be a self-sustaining business to establish a Christian presence in the community and an open door for building relationships. **JH**



The ELFCN mission's strategy is to evangelize the least reached people groups in the world and has missionaries in the Middle-East, Mali, and Japan. The first missionaries came to Japan in 1950 and started their work in Mie Prefecture. During the next few years, through home meetings and many Bible studies, churches emerged. In 1961 in cooperation with The Norwegian Mission Society, that was and still is working in the Kansai area, the churches were united into a denomination with Japanese leadership called Kinki Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC). It became a denomination working in both cities and rural areas where not many churches existed.

One era ends, another begins

In 2014 the cooperation with KELC was brought to a close and the mission agency of ELFCN prepared to move us (the five missionaries in our mission) to a new location. After praying, networking, and surveying, we moved to the east part of Nagoya to do evangelism.

As we have maintained a strong focus on evangelism and mentoring, we have also stressed good relationships with local churches. At the same time, we have been working to clarify our calling as a mission here in Nagoya. We believe there is a need for many different approaches, but we think our calling is in one niche: the house church.

House churches

Coming to Nagoya, we saw some churches which were growing, but others looked like they weren't. After living here just a few weeks, we realized that there were also healthy and growing house churches. What we used to believe was that Japanese people do not usually open up their homes. But we see Japanese people running their house churches from their homes. They are growing and branching out, even



without connections to foreign missionaries. House churches can be done in Japan. And there are no startup costs. We find that "house church" is just a term; the location is not so important. Cafés or open spaces work well too.

We are exploring, and starting to use a house church evangelization method which is known worldwide: Training for Trainers (T4T). We are also connecting with missionaries doing the same in other parts of Japan. There is a unique Japanese method of doing house churches: *Ten Gai Nai*¹ that we are also using. Both are great tools to quickly tell the Good News and connect people to Jesus and other believers.

We believe that God wants us to start healthy networks of house churches, which we call Life Church Network. That is why we are also looking for partners: both mission agencies and independent missionaries. We want contact with Christian businessmen and women who desire to bring good change to their workplaces.

A house church usually starts with a group consisting of three to seven people who meet regularly. As they incorporate basic church activities of teaching, worship, fellowship, giving, etc., they will become a church. They also try to send out one or two from their group to start another group.

Life Church Network's...

Vision: Loving God, connecting people with Jesus, living life like Jesus.

Mission: To reach and influence Japan, by building a network of Bible-based house churches that will change life and communities.

Goal: Four generations of house churches in Japan by 2020.

Core Values ("EPIC"):

- Empowering believers to fully use their spiritual gifts.
- Planting simple, healthy churches which reproduce.
- Interaction with honest, intimate fellowship, both with God and with other believers.
- Creative flexibility in sharing and living the Gospel. **JH**

1. From Mitsuo Fukuda's book, *Upward Outward Inward*, (UK: Wide Margin, 2010).



The ELFCN missionaries: Marianne Jacobsen, Nathan and Inge Mikaelson, Ruth and Knut Ola Topland with children Karen, Marie and Julia

JPM/MTW Japan Vision:
A Biblical Church Planting
Movement that is
healthy, reproducing, and
increasingly indigenous



Mission to the World

Planting churches. Transforming communities.

History

The Presbyterian Church in America's (PCA) Mission to the World (MTW) is our current agency, but our roots go back to Bible-believing Presbyterian missionaries in 1948. They began Japan Presbyterian Mission (JPM) and Tokyo Christian Theological Seminary (TCTS). Several graduates started churches that later became the Presbyterian Church in Japan. TCTS later joined Tokyo Christian College to form Tokyo Christian University.

The Presbyterian Church in Japan

Church plants in the 1950s grew into a solid, indigenous church of 2,500 worshipers in 64 churches. JPM continues close partnership with the Presbyterian Church in Japan (PCJ), but we are not "under" the PCJ. Japanese Christians have loaned JPM about US\$800,000 in church bonds since 2001 to help us purchase four ministry buildings in Nagoya and Chiba, reflecting the close trust relationship that continues.

Increased from 15 to 60 career missionaries since 1996

Our USA "Japan Partnership" borrowed the theme "Pray for the 70!" from OMF's history. (Hudson Taylor borrowed it from Luke.) God is answering these prayers. More than 50 of our 60 missionaries had a Japan short-term mission connection. Since 1996 over 1,000 short-term team members, gap-year interns, and other short termers have come, including hundreds to serve in the tsunami relief effort. Many have now become career missionaries or are in the process. A healthy PCA stateside church base, and partnerships with Australian and Korean evangelical Presbyterians also helps us grow. Pushing the compelling need of lost Japan and inviting all candidates to serve on church planting teams seems to help mobilize this generation.

Church planting priority over revitalization

It is clear that JPM has helped Kingdom advancement most by starting new churches. We give some resources to church revitalization and we pray. But new birth is less difficult than resurrection. New churches generally grow faster, have more baptisms, younger people, and mobilize more leaders for the future.

Missionaries also doing church planting

Some modern "experts" are against this. But Japan is the world's second largest unreached people group. We need aggressive church planting by God-called workers regardless of their passport country. We long for more Japanese church planters, of course. Our missionaries often work under Japanese pastors. But we gladly have those of our missionaries gifted as church planters do church planting. The Great Commission trumps recent extra-Biblical mission philosophy. Healthy new churches birth new Japanese workers.

Tokyo city center church planting

Since 2009 we began putting significant resources into this in partnership with Redeemer PCA of New York City (see Tim Keller's video at www.mtwjapan.com). Grace City Church Tokyo already averages about 160 worshipers. The worship venue near Tokyo station costs ¥180,000 for five hours each Sunday. God is blessing the investment with much fruit. Our Community Arts Tokyo ministry was also born from this work. Two more churches began worship in 2015. Roppongi International Presbyterian Church is next, Lord willing.

Christian schools for Japanese and missionary children

JPM started the International Christian Academy Nagoya (school) in Nagoya and Covenant Community School International in Chiba to deepen our ministries in these cities.

Christ Bible Seminary(CBS)/Institute Nagoya

Japan desperately needs more Japanese church leaders. We started CBS recently to provide seminary training for the Nagoya region. God provided a large four-story building near Nagoya JR station. CBS sponsored "Love Japan" with John Piper in 2014. We pray that God will use CBS to raise a host of godly, well-trained laborers for all of Japan.

Gospel-centeredness our most important value

The gospel is our greatest need for ourselves and for our ministries. We confess with John Newton (and Apostle Paul) that we know two things: I am a great sinner, and Jesus is a great Savior for sinners.

We pray for Holy Spirit power as we attempt great things for God, and continue to expect great things from God for the lost in Japan. **JH**

German Alliance Mission

Member missions

The German Alliance Mission (GAM; Deutsche China-Allianz-Mission) was started by the Swedish–American evangelist Fredrik Franson, who also founded TEAM and many other missions. In 1890, the first GAM missionaries left to work in China. They worked in association with the China Inland Mission, which was founded by Hudson Taylor.

GAM started to focus on Japan in the middle of the 20th century after being forced out of China by the revolution.

In 1953, a 47-year-old single lady, Maria Hardenberg, came to Japan as the first GAM missionary to Japan. Despite poor living conditions, she faithfully started her work, distributing tracts and sharing the gospel. Other missionaries followed her, and in 1956 the first church was started in the town of Hashima, Gifu prefecture.

More new churches were founded, and they formed an association called Dōmei Fukuin Kirisuto Kyōkai, which is a member of the Japan Evangelical Association (JEA) and the Federation of Free Evangelical Churches. The association also has close ties with Tōkai Theological Seminary, an interdenominational seminary in the Nagoya area that teaches and trains new church staff and pastors; some GAM missionaries help with the teaching at the seminary.

GAM's goal has always been to establish Japanese churches through evangelism, counseling, and education so that ultimately the churches could stand on their own and be handed over to Japanese pastors. We also have two retreat-and-learning centers, which offer a variety of programs, including retreats and camps for young people and educational programs.

Currently, GAM has nine long-term and four short-term missionaries in Japan. Our missionaries work in teams with Japanese pastors, have teaching ministries, or plant new churches. Our young church workers teach language classes and support the local churches in many practical ways. Over the past few years, quite a number of these young people have become career missionaries, which is a wonderful blessing for our organization.

Since we are almost all located in the greater Nagoya area, it is easy for us to come together as a team. We value our times together and hold day-long




Christ for the world
allianzmission 
In the Federation of Free
Evangelical Churches of Germany

meetings, usually five or six times a year. In addition to the necessary business talks, we reserve time for God's word, fellowship, and prayer.

GAM missionaries tend to have shorter, but more frequent home assignments than in the early days. This can be a big challenge to the working situation, but we see the need on the supporters' side. We are deeply convinced that the prayers of our brothers and sisters in Germany are vital for our mission work here. In order to deepen our relationships with our supporters and involve them in our mission work, we travel back to Germany more often than we used to do.

This practice of constantly involving our support base with our ministry in Japan has led to some wonderful blessings. One outstanding example is the help we received for people in the disaster area after the great earthquake in March 2011. Money raised by our supporting churches allowed us to send a missionary family to join an international team in Tohoku. Other wonderful examples of the close relationships between our missionaries and their supporters include volunteer teams who come to help build or renovate church buildings or support us in our evangelism efforts in the local churches.

In autumn 2015, we launched a new project and invited a prayer team to Japan. For ten days, the team stayed in different churches and spent their time praying for and with Japanese Christians.

We feel deeply blessed having such a strong support base. May God continue to call people as missionaries to Japan for his glory and for the salvation of the Japanese people. 



InterAct Japan



INTERACT

Fifteen years ago, three Swedish denominations (Orebro Mission, Free Baptists, and Holiness Union Mission), each with their own foreign mission, merged to become a single mission—InterAct or Evangeliska Frikyrkan (which means Evangelical Free Church) in Swedish.

Two of the missions had been in Japan since 1950. Orebro Mission started in Kansai and founded the Kansai Bible Institute (KBI) in 1961, where many Japanese pastors from various denominations are educated. The school is now located in Ikoma, Nara prefecture. The mission also started the Japanese denomination, Japan Evangelical Church (JEC), which now has 32 churches and about 20 branch churches in many prefectures.

The Holiness Union Mission started in Shirakawa in Fukushima prefecture, but now works in Tochigi prefecture, together with 11 Japan Evangelical Church of Christ (JECC) churches.

The work has always been focused on planting new churches and training Japanese pastors and leaders. There are very few missionaries now, just

The work has always been focused on planting new churches and training Japanese pastors and leaders.

the Edefors family in Shizuoka, the Bohmans in Tokyo, and the Kullbergs in Tochigi prefecture.

In our latest pioneer work in Ōgane in Nasukarasuyama city, we were able to purchase a wedding chapel that went bankrupt about 15 years ago. The chapel and its surroundings were in a very bad state. It was quite an adventure to buy it and convert it into an ordinary church. We are very happy to have this nice little church, which occupies 3,300 square meters and has a parking lot for 50 cars. Since we were able to buy it tax-free, it cost only about ten million yen to buy and fix the church. We also bought and renovated a building beside the church that had been used as a reception hall for wedding parties. That was also an interesting major undertaking. We now live in half of that building; it is very practical living next to the church.

Our mission has had many short-term missionaries who came to our churches for one or two years to do outreach through English teaching. Many Japanese have heard the gospel for the first time in an English class. Other ways we reach out include cooking classes, choirs, weddings, concerts, and music therapy.

We are happy that JEC and JECC are now sending quite a few missionaries from Japan to many countries around the world. As missionaries, we can still do many things to reach the unreached in Japan, but the Japanese pastors are now definitely the main leaders in JEC and JECC, and we are very happy about that. **JH**



Youth With A Mission



YOUTH WITH A MISSION

Youth With A Mission, or YWAM, is a global mission movement of Christians from many cultures, age groups, and Christian traditions, united in a common purpose to know God and make him known through training, evangelism, and mercy ministries. When YWAM began in 1960, our main focus was on giving young people opportunities in missions. Today, we still focus on youth, but members are of almost every age group, and many of our short-term efforts have grown into long-term endeavors. We currently operate in more than 1,000 locations in over 180 countries, with a staff of over 18,000.

YWAM Japan began in Osaka in 1975 and presently has ten teams operating in Japan. They're located in Okinawa, Kyushu, Osaka, Tokyo, Chiba, and Nagano, with staff coming from more than 15 countries and ranging in age from early 20s to late 60s! YWAM Japan teams seek to know God by spending time in his word, worshipping, and in prayer and intercession. Servant leaders work with their teams to make God known by ministering from a biblical perspective and being relationship oriented. Our teams are:

- visionary,
- broad in structure,
- decentralized,
- international, and
- interdenominational

They are also committed to:

- championing young people
- valuing the individual as well as families
- practicing hospitality
- financial dependence on God
- communicating with integrity
- emphasizing the importance of practicing our faith before teaching it

All YWAM Japan teams are called to bring the gospel to the Japanese people and to see them equipped to spread the gospel both in Japan and abroad for God's glory and honor, whether through YWAM, another mission organization, or the local church. Evangelism takes place at university campuses, street corners, train stations, public and team facilities through Bible studies, cultural activities, and coffee houses. Teams are also involved in mercy ministries to the homeless, people involved in human trafficking, and communities affected by natural disaster. Training in knowing God and making him known takes place in church-planting locations (Kyushu, Nagano, and Chiba) as well as in seminars and the five-to-six-month Discipleship Training School (DTS) offered in Okinawa, Osaka, and Tokyo.

Many of our short-term efforts have grown into long-term endeavors.

Satisfactory completion of DTS qualifies graduates to become missionary staff at any YWAM location globally. DTS is also the entry course required for acceptance to missions programs offered by YWAM's University of the Nations. Some graduates eventually enter world missions through YWAM or other mission organizations. But many graduates choose to return home to work or pursue studies and participate in outreach through their home church. DTS in Japan is offered in Japanese in Okinawa; Japanese or Korean in Osaka; and Japanese or English in Tokyo. The three-month lecture phase of knowing God is taught in weekly sections by guest lecturers from Japan and overseas. The two- to three-month outreach phase is located in Japan as well as various locations overseas (most recently East and Southeast Asia).

It is a privilege for us in YWAM Japan to be called alongside our brothers and sisters in churches and missions in Japan to see the Great Commission fulfilled! **JH**



Top: YWAM Japan National Staff Conference
Middle: YWAM Azumino (Nagano) Church Plant (Shekinah Christian Fellowship) Worship Meeting (outdoors)
Bottom: YWAM Okinawa Discipleship Training School Outreach Phase





Det Norske Misjonsselskap

Norwegian Mission Society (NMS) is a mission agency with a long tradition in many countries. It was born in 1842, out of the mission revival in Europe in the first half of the 19th century. Its first missionary went to Germany for mission studies, but in 1844 NMS founded a school in Stavanger, Norway, which has grown into an established institution for education in theology, missiology, and international studies.

The first mission field was Zululand in South Africa, although early on our mission had most missionaries in Madagascar and Cameroon. In 1902, NMS started working in China, which became the springboard for work in the rest of Asia as the missionaries who fled from the communist regime ended up in Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. Later, NMS started operating in the Mekong region, Pakistan, the Middle East, and Brazil. It recently started work in three European countries where the Christian faith is about to disappear. Our main focus has always been on evangelism and practical service.

The work in Japan started in 1951 in Kobe, Osaka, Wakayama, and Nara by missionaries who came from China. The missionaries used their homes as bases for evangelism. Initially, the home office of the mission was strongly opposed to building churches and employing local workers, since it wanted to keep costs down in Japan. The original plan was that the mission would plant Japanese churches, which would then evangelize their own people. But this didn't work out. The new Christians needed places of worship. Despite the economic situation being bad, churches were built and pastors were educated and employed. After ten years, these churches formed the Kinki Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC), which now consists of 29 congregations in five prefectures in the



Kinki area and has a membership of more than 2,000 (although probably about half that number are active church members).

Over the years, we have been engaged in many kinds of Christian work, with an emphasis on church planting and theological education. For many years, radio evangelism through the Lutheran Hour was a big thing, as were Bible correspondence courses and home and hospital visits. For ten years, we also had a ship, the Shinko Maru, which sailed around the Japan Inland Sea and the Kii peninsula taking the gospel to children and adults in small fishing villages. We also had a student center in Tezukayama, Osaka, which was very active. But the number of students dwindled when university campuses moved out of the city, and now Tezukayama is a regular small neighborhood congregation. Kindergartens have also been an important area of work for NMS—we started two kindergartens and two nurseries, which now legally belong to KELC.

Most of the above activities are described in the past tense. In recent years the work has changed, and the number of missionaries has dropped from around 40 during most of the 1970s to 1990s to just two couples and three retired volunteers today. The older of the two couples pastors a local congregation and helps with outreach to homeless people in the area, giving about 40 people a hot meal at church every Wednesday. The other couple is finishing language school and plans to start a children and youth ministry from the fall of 2016. Everything we do is done with the approval of and in cooperation with the KELC, and, apart from the missionaries, we also contribute to various other projects that we have agreed on with the church.

We wish we had more missionaries sharing the gospel in Japan, because the need is so great, but looking back we see that the kingdom of God has been growing, and we feel so blessed and happy to be a part of his ministry in Japan. **JH**



Norwegian Mission Society

JFDM (The Japan Fellowship Deaconry Mission)

Since 1951, the Japan Fellowship Deaconry Mission (JFDM) has been blessed by our Lord to work alongside other Christian mission organizations in Japan. The beginnings of our mission, however, date back decades earlier to China where deaconesses (“sisters”) from Germany and the USA served the Lord by planting churches and offering dental assistance in remote areas under the umbrella of the China Inland Mission.

With the communist revolution in 1949 and the subsequent expulsion of our mission from China, our missionaries were forced to close their stations and resettle in a nearby country. The plan was to wait and serve for a few years in Japan until the political situation would allow for a return to China. With the sisters’ passion for outreach and their medical training, the first ministry emerged on Japanese soil in 1952 at Higashi Naruo in Kobe. As they observed the situation in China, our missionaries slowly began to realize and accept that the Lord was calling them to serve in Japan permanently. They prayed to find open doors for the gospel in this new country.

As the years passed, additional sisters from the mission headquarters in Germany and the USA were commissioned and sent out for ministry mainly in the Kansai region. In those pioneering days of JFDM, two churches in Shikoku were planted; both are now very active congregations served by Japanese pastors. Over time, mission families and young couples from Germany and North America joined the contingent of deaconesses serving in Japan. In 1987, the mission purchased a rustic retreat center in Karuizawa in Nagano and, by God’s grace, developed it into a beautiful guesthouse and Bible camp ministry. In addition, the Deaconry Motherhouse Bethel was established in Kobe in 1985.

Presently, JFDM has 11 churches in Kansai, two churches in Tokyo, and the camp ministry in Karuizawa. The churches are predominately led by Japanese pastors, and they work closely together with the six foreign missionaries who assist them. We thank our Lord that he has richly blessed his mission in Japan. We are reminded that all this became possible only because he called and equipped deaconesses, missionaries, pastors, and other Christian layman over the last 65 years.



Our current fields of activity are:

- **Church planting:** We seek to get to know our neighbors and invite them to church through activities such as cooking and language classes, musical performances, cell-group ministry, and children’s programs.
- **Mature churches:** JFDM wants planted churches to mature to the point where the mission’s support is minimal. The goal is for these congregations to be led by Japanese pastors, become outreach-focused, and join together as part of the Japan Fellowship Deaconry Synod.
- **Cooperation:** JFDM works together and partners with other Christian groups and churches to support special events, such as evangelistic activities in the Kobe–Osaka region.
- **Bible camp ministry:** We make our facilities at Karuizawa available to various church groups and individual families for spiritual refreshment and physical rest by providing an environment that nurtures genuine fellowship with other Christians and personal Bible reflection (www.kfbc.net).

Our vision:

- Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we aim to plant churches in new areas and strengthen existing congregations so that they mature and become more outreach-focused. For this, we seek to discover how we can meet the spiritual needs of the Japanese people by making them feel more welcome in our churches. We also recognize that we are working in a changing Japanese society where spiritual conditions are in flux.
- Furthermore, through Bible teaching and encouragement, we seek to equip believers to share their faith with others, by word and deed, and thus fulfill the Lord’s commission in Matthew 28:18-20. **JH**



LBIM (Lutheran Brethren International Mission Japan)

Lutheran Brethren International Mission Japan (LBIM) was God's idea from the beginning. The Church of the Lutheran Brethren (CLBA), is a small evangelical (in the traditional sense of the word) denomination headquartered in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, US. The denomination's overseas missions program began in 1902, when the first missionaries were sent to China. Soon afterwards missionaries began work in Cameroon and Chad and later in Taiwan.

There were no plans in place for sending anyone to Japan, but after WW2, God placed a strong burden on the heart of a Midwestern farmer in the US. He shared his vision with the treasurer of the denomination, stating that he felt God had called him to fully support a missionary in Japan. At the time, however, no one in the CLBA had any thoughts of going.

Months later God spoke to another man, who went to the board sharing what he felt was a call to go to Japan. The leaders told him about the farmer's visit, and, in God's perfect timing, LBIM began its work in Japan in 1949. This first church plant was located in Sakata, in Yamagata Prefecture.

After the war, missionaries from a variety of denominations flooded Japan, and LBIM decided to concentrate its work in the northern region of Tohoku—not exactly a popular spot at the time. Those early church-planting efforts took place in Yamagata and Akita, on the west side of the mountains along the Sea of Japan—a rural area where Christian workers were few and far between.

Although these missionaries faced many hardships, they saw a steady rate of church growth during the post-war recovery years. The denomination remains small, however, currently with 27 churches. The number of missionaries peaked in the 1950s and 60s, and at present we (Dean and Linda Bengtson) are the only full-time missionaries in Japan with LBIM.

We spent our first number of years in Akita city, and moved to Sendai for our children's education several years before 3.11. As God arranged things ac-



ording to his plan, we were in the early preparation stages of a new ministry when the disasters struck, and were able to begin relief work almost immediately. Through a series of circumstances and connections, we began volunteering in Ishinomaki city and later moved there.

God has continued to supply in amazing ways over the last five years. Our volunteer work has progressed through many stages including: delivering emergency supplies, mudding out houses, and working with Samaritan's Purse to rebuild them. We've also held

outdoor barbecues and Christian concerts for people living in the area. God has sent volunteers from all over Japan and the world to help with physical relief work and heart care.

As the area has gradually recovered, we have moved primarily into music evangelism and small group gatherings, with an emphasis on friendship evangelism. Amazingly, we still have a steady stream of volunteers from a variety of places. Many Christian artists still donate their time and talent, and our sister

church in Taiwan also sends a large team every year. With their assistance, we recently held our third annual English day camp for the neighborhood children. As more young families move into the area, we hope to find more ways to share Jesus with the kids and their parents.

Last year God provided a ministry house for us to rent, and the donations to furnish it. We hold many of the events there and have room for the musicians and volunteers to stay. Our current ministry is called Ishinomaki House of Hope (石巻希望の家), which we see as a most fitting name for the work God has led us into and continues to provide for. **JH**

