

ADAIR UPDATE



On our way to the
land of the rising sun

"It's on our horizon!"

TWO LADIES FROM TYLER

Robert and I (Roberta) recently met a lovely Japanese woman who first came to the US as an exchange student. She became a believer while living in the home of a Christian family and currently lives with her husband and daughter in Robert's hometown. It's been a treat interacting with her. In an email to me, she said, "I was reading...about Paul's ministry in Athens. People of Athens made me think of my Japanese family and friends. They love discussing ideas and philosophy, but their hearts are not easily open to trust one true God! But I do believe that God's words will not return void and the harvest will be great."

Will you join us in praying for her family and community – that they will grow tired of simply discussing "ideas and philosophy" and that they will hunger for and encounter the person and power of Christ? Will you pray that we (as a couple and as a mission community) will humbly, consistently, and actively provide opportunities for Japanese people to put their trust in our Father God?

Another neat connection is being introduced to a retired missionary to Japan. She and her late husband lived there for 39 years. She has incredible stories and wisdom regarding living in Japan, raising a family, planting a church, discipling new believers, cross-cultural friendship, etc.

I was impressed by her strength, confidence, and faith. She spoke with me about commitment, consistency, and the need for revival in Japan. What an inspiring thing for me, gearing up to move to Japan and feeling overwhelmed by numbers (the 99.8% of Japan that doesn't know Christ, the amount we need to raise to live there, the years it will take to learn the language and culture), to hear her pray for Japan.

She desires to see revival occur there in her lifetime – but even if she doesn't, she believes in the faithfulness of God and his love for Japan. We are thankful for opportunities to stay connected to and learn about ministry in Japan even while in east Texas.



Getting Close?

At the time of this writing, we are a little over a quarter of our monthly need away from being able to depart. Japan, here we come!

The picture above is from this summer when we finished taking down a building with a Japanese church.

WHY ARE WE GOING?

Why Japan? Why Now?

When talking about Japan, people usually mention the strong export economy, the stoicism of the people, or something to do with ninjas and anime. Others consider the remarkable recovery of Japan following World War II to become one of the largest economies in the world. Additionally, others discuss the images of people calmly waiting and the order following the March 11th triple disaster (earthquake, tsunami, nuclear) compared to the unhealthy responses from some of our own people following natural disasters.

With all of these positive characteristics of Japanese society, there is a natural tendency to equate economic health and polite, controlled people with a society that is spiritually healthy.

Great Need

Japan is a country of almost 130 million people with a church that represents less than 1% of the population. In my (Robert) experience in Japan, most people have never known a Christian let alone have a chance to respond to a clear presentation of the Gospel. The common response to the question of “What do you think of Jesus?” is “I don’t.” Japanese religion (a blend of several faith systems) is generally nominal and lacking in hope or providing purpose for one’s life.

Post Disaster Trauma

The response of the people and government to the earthquake has been amazing. Most areas where buildings are still standing already have utilities and the semblance of life returning to normal. The material need is being taken care of well.

At the same time, there is little spiritual and emotional help for the people. A fear of burdening neighbors and friends who are also grieving causes people to refrain from sharing their loss. Their faith system does not offer hope for the future or an answer for where God is in the disaster. This summer we had people tell us that they had lost siblings and children. Others wrestled with the question of why the disaster happened or what the fate is of the souls of those who perished. Christian community can provide relational support, Scripture provides truth about where God is in the midst of incredible pain and loss, and the Holy Spirit can comfort and heal the damage that has been caused.

Idolatry and Ancestors

Shortly after the earthquake, one friend posted on Facebook asking all her friends to pray to her deceased grandmother to protect her family. In response to the disaster, someone who had not considered herself to be “religious” clung to the only thing she knew. While Japanese people tend to be nominal about their religious beliefs, the disaster has had the effect of causing some people to cling more firmly to traditional religion.

Making Disciples

Japan needs disciples. The guy in the picture is a friend from my previous term in southern Japan. Several years ago, he was



One of the <1%

involved in a serious traffic accident and had to return to his family home to recover. While there, he was discipled by one of our pastors and began to mature in his faith.

Fast forward a few years, and he is now a key young leader in the church. He serves in the church and looks for creative ways to share his faith with his friends and co-workers.

Catalysts

For those of you like myself who haven’t had a chemistry class in a few years, a catalyst is a substance that speeds a reaction without being consumed. In the same way, Roberta and I will serve in a role where we encourage and help to equip Japanese Christians to reach their communities for Christ.

This will take the form of joining a team of Japanese Christians to plant a church in an area where one doesn’t currently exist. In the wake of the events of March 11th, now is the time to partner with the church to bring the love and hope of Christ in the midst of extreme sadness. Thanks for helping us get there!

Partner

To partner financially:

www.sim.org/giveusa then click

“support a missionary” (#038207)

Or by mail: SIM USA

P.O. Box 7900

Charlotte, NC 28241-7900

Memo: R&R Adair Support #038207

Specific Prayer Points

- Patience and persistence in this season of preparation
- Finding the right language school options for Roberta
- A smooth transition of financial partners to SIM
- Our partner church in Japan - for good team dynamics, common vision, friendship, etc.

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