

Mission and Art in Japan

Tokyo Center City Church Plant

October 2008

In the summer of 2009, we plan to move into the heart of Tokyo, the largest city in the world. Tokyo has almost twice the population of New York City with four times the population density! The political, business, media and cultural decisions made there affect the whole world. Young Tokyo urbanites have jobs that demand inhuman amounts of time and energy and force many into lives devoid of community. High levels of stress, loneliness, and mental exhaustion lead many to alienation and suicide.

Gospel-centered churches offer the grace-filled community Japanese so desperately desire. Yet with only 0.4% of the population Christian, most Japanese have never met someone who knows the Creator God! There is an obvious need for Japanese churches, especially in the center of Tokyo. The task is overwhelming but the call is clear. Churches need to be planted in Tokyo, and a lot of them!



Rev. Makoto Fukuda, former moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Japan and pastor of a thriving Presbyterian Church in Yokohama, accepted the call to start a church and move to central Tokyo. He moved to Tokyo in August 2008, is attending additional training in New York City this month, and hopes to start worship services by the summer of next year. He has invited us to be part of his team. Rev. Fukuda and his wife Michiru have four children.



This new church planting movement is in participation with Mission to the World, Presbyterian Church of Japan, Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City and other churches.

The first church, under Rev. Fukuda, will focus on the southeast part of Central Tokyo around Tokyo Station encompassing the international financial district of Marunouchi, political center of Kasumigaseki, media concentration around the Shiodome, and residential redevelopment in the direction of Shinagawa, where many young people are moving into the area.

We hope to get back to Japan as soon as possible to help. As of September 15, we are at 59% of our needed support to return. Please prayerfully consider supporting us for our next four year term in Japan. To give, please make checks payable to Mission to the World, make a note for "Lowther #14376," and send to Mission to the World, P.O. Box 116284, Atlanta GA 30368-6284. Please also include contact info for tax purposes.



In Him, Roger & Abi & Aidan & Eastin

What a whirlwind being back in America! After remembering what side of the road to drive on and what language to speak in, we began settling back into life in America. We have visited churches and individuals in Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Missouri and Mississippi. Thank you so much for the 19% in new monthly pledges already committed!

We have moved!

Please send all correspondence to our new address:
75 Clark Place
Memphis TN 38104



Upcoming travels:

October 10-20 Gospel Origins Tour with members of Japanese gospel choirs
October 20-November 12 Missouri, Michigan, Canada
November 15-21 Chattanooga
November 22-24 Memphis
November 25-December 23 East Coast
December 25 Jackson, MS
January 3-30 Alabama, Georgia, Florida
February Concert Tour with Yoshimi Hirota (our trio member from Japan!)



Two good friends came from Japan to spend a week with us! Here are Mrs. Samizo and Mariko having their first-ever catfish!



They helped us throw a small party with all kinds of Japanese food. God has been really working in their hearts lately. Please pray that they will come to worship Him soon!

Prayer Requests:

1. We thank God for answered prayer in providing a house for us in the States. Thank God also for providing Abi's sister, Virginia, who will be living with us to help tutor and watch the children as we travel and perform.
2. Aidan has been diagnosed with a cyst in the center of his head. Please pray for courage for him as he undergoes many tests and for wisdom for the doctors as they discern if and when to do surgery.
3. Praise God for over 19% in monthly pledges raised since June and for the abundance of one-time gifts which brought us out of deficit. Please pray for the additional 41% we needed to return to Japan for another four years. Please pray for our ability to communicate the needs in Japan.
4. October 10-20, a group of 10 Japanese will be coming to America for the "Gospel Origins Tour" to look into the roots and meaning of gospel music, in Jackson, MS, Tunica, MS, and Memphis, TN. Please pray that God would use this trip to reach the hearts and minds of the Japanese people involved. Please pray for Abi as she plans the details of the trip.