

TOKYO TIMES

ALEX, KATHRYN, ISABELLA & GABRIELLA HUMPHREYS

MISSIONARIES TO JAPAN

Reaching the men of Japan

Otoko. Man. No matter what country or what time period they are the same: created by God to do and to be so much but often falling so short.

It is a mystery to me why the large majority of pastors are men but the majority of church attendees are women. I often wonder why there are not more men coming to Christ in Japan and so recently it has been a growing burden on my heart and a repeated focus of my prayers. **"Lord, save the men of Japan!"**

Japanese males are expected from a young age to be hardworking. Whether it is the hours of study time required to pass their high school entrance exam or the long grueling hours at the office, the emphatic value of their existence is on the steady plodding forward of the status quo. Many of the men I know, including our church members, get to work before 9AM and leave after 9PM. During peak work loads Saturday overtime is not unheard of. So when you ask a Japanese man to take the ONE day off that he has, Sunday, and ask him to come to church it is no wonder that he is reluctant.

And then there is the pressure to conform. Japan is an island nation that has not seen any major movement or fluctuation in its ethnic makeup for over 2,000 years. The Japanese are homogenous, they are alike, and they seemingly want it to stay that way. Many Japanese will admit that they want to be free of the constant pressure to conform and



obey but at the same time they are scared stiff at the thought of being alone, at being pushed out to the edges, secluded from the group. For a man, a desk with a window view is a curse, an anathema. When you get moved to a desk up against the window you become a member of the "madogiwa-zoku", the "window side clan". Hard workers, productive workers are in the middle. They are the center of the group right in the mix of the hustle and bustle. The useless employees, the strange ones, are shunted off to the far edges.

Accepting Christ puts you into the minority; an extremely small minority. It makes you different from everyone else. Many men fear what will happen to them or how they will be viewed by superiors and colleagues if they accept Christ.

And then there are the family issues. Because of the long hours at work many men are strangers to their wives and children. I have recently heard that men

have started saying that they are "scared to go home"! They don't fear their wives or children as much as the fear the estrangement and loneliness that they feel with their own family!

Hearing this kind of thing truly breaks my heart. Personally, my favorite times are spent with Kathryn and our girls. So, I feel all the more that there needs to be focused and intentional ministry to men and their specific cultural needs within Japan. They're are some para-church organizations that do this but unless men are being reached at the local church level I do not feel that they can be effective.

Currently at our church we are holding a men's cell group which meets once a month. We often meet at one man's home, have lunch and fellowship and then close with a "guy" focused devotion. We hope that it will become a great encouragement to the male believers in our church and a comfortable place for their unsaved male friends to encounter Christ!

Please pray for the men of Japan especially those in our congregation.

We truly appreciate all of your support!

But recently our offerings have been down so please pray with us that our finances will be fully provided for.

Also, if you are a supporting church, would you please take a moment to check and make sure that the designated offering is being directed appropriately.

Thank You!!

Current Prayer Needs

Haruka's spiritual growth as a new believer

Our girls growth and protection

Salvation of Japanese men!

God's intervention into Japanese families

Tokyo City Church's finances

Testimony From the Shimizu Church Plant!!

Some of you may not know but three years ago TCC planted a new site, Shimizu City Church (SCC). It has been a lot of hard work for Pastor Kazuo and his family as they push forward into the enemy's territory, but they are starting to see fruit!

Recently Pastor Kazuo's daughter's swimming coach gave her life to Jesus. The lady's name is Haruka. Haruka works as a swimming instructor as well as playing the piano and organ for weddings. In Japan it is very common to have a "Christian" chapel wedding even though few people believe in Christ.

Since Haruka has played many weddings, she has also heard the gospel many times through the music that she plays and the wedding ceremonies that are performed. As a musician she is also very interested in Black Gospel which has been an avenue for her to learn about the Lord.

She gave her life to the Lord in August and just last week she was filled with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit!!

PLEASE pray for Haruka's continued spiritual growth and also pray that she can be a witness to those around her!

Bella having a great time with other missionary kids at the annual retreat.



Truly international: (LR) Filipino, Filipino, Filipino-Japanese, Turkish-Filipino, Turkish, Filipino-Japanese, Filipino, American!



Kathryn and Brie. She is only 7 months old but is already standing!



Address: c/o Cornerstone Church
16010 Annapolis Rd.
Bowie, MD 20715
VOIP Phone: 301.850.1676
Web: livingthedreamjapan.com
Email: alexander.humphreys@agmd.org



ASSEMBLIES of GOD
WORLD MISSIONS