MISSION: I'M POSSIBLE

TOO many people, TOO steeped in ancient belief, TOO busy, TOO wealthy, TOO afraid of religion, TOO education driven, TOO pressured socially, AND ME? TOO little time, TOO little language, TOO little influence, TOO few resources....

IT'S ONLY POSSIBLE WITH GOD

Some say Japan is mission impossible. But God is calling out a people for himself from this land. Each one is possible to Him! Consider Mrs. N...

"That house is a lost cause!" I thought, and hesitated putting a church flyer in its mailbox. The home was virtually in the shadow of a powerful Buddhist temple. Who could have known that a few weeks later a woman would walk into our worship service and say, "I'd been thinking about Christianity when I received a flyer from this church." As we'd later find out, she lived in that very house! Coincidence? No! God? Yes!

Mrs. N examined Christianity with us seriously, but seemed to be troubled by things. Then one day a breakthrough. "Kevin, I've been trying to understand Christ with just my head," she said, "but I know now that I need to accept Him with my heart...by faith." From the house I assumed was lost to the clutches of Buddhism, God had been calling His child, Mrs. N, for a long time. In our living room, as we led her in prayer, He welcomed her to himself as she placed her faith in Jesus!

But spiritual forces do not give up their grip on Japan easily. As Mrs. N tried to move forward in her faith, her family pushed back. When she decided to be baptized, her brother threatened to cut her off from family burial: "You will be a skeleton in a closet!" Still, Mrs. N resolved to trust the God that does impossible things. I recently joyfully baptized her.

Japan has been called the missionary graveyard. *"Humanly speaking, it [missions in Japan] is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God!"* Mark 10:27 NLT

Greater Tokyo population: 40 million+
Percent Christian: 0.5%

If God's heart breaks over one lost sheep, how grieved he must be over Japan's ninety-nine! And how might he want us to respond?

"Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession." Psalm 2:8

REACHING THE OTHER 99

church planting with you to reach the 99% in Japan

"I have many people in this city." Acts 18:10

Our Vision with you

our church plant

us

Connect with us

www.LavermansInJapan.com

Serving with WorldVenture and you in Japan WORLDVENTURE.COM

skype: lavermansinjapan [or] 219-232-5321
email: lavermansinjapan@mac.com

4-14-24-1 Futago, Takatsu-ku
Kawasaki-shi, JAPAN 213-0002

www.LavermansInJapan.com/signup

Stay in touch! Sign up for news. Videos, photos, much more online.

Kevin & Kaori Laverman

CHURCH PLANTING in KAWASAKI, JAPAN

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Isaiah 52:7

OUR VISION

If Japan ever needed good news before, it sure needs it now. A devastating earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis triple punch in March 2011 has broken the spirit of Japan, the suicide rate tops 30,000 each year, new worries of a Tokyo mega quake and tensions with Asian neighbors have all created an environment of fear and uncertainty. Japan may be an economic powerhouse, but it is spiritually bankrupt. A staggering 99% have no knowledge of the peace, good tidings, or salvation of which Isaiah speaks. Their prosperity is but a thin veneer over a gaping spiritual emptiness.

Japan has historically been stubbornly resistant to the gospel message, but recent events have opened a door of missions opportunity. Japanese unbelievers are willing to give Christianity a hearing. They have seen the steady outpouring of Christian compassion after the tsunami. They are searching for something to give them stability and hope in life. And, when explained the good news with love and patience, they do respond in faith to Christ! Our challenge in Japan is not the size or difficulty of the task, but a faith to move workers and resources to respond to this opportunity.

We envision...

...the people of Yokohama and Kawasaki forever transformed by the love of Christ, and gathered in dynamic, ever-multiplying local church communities.

We are committed to...

…the evangelism, church planting, and leadership development tasks — in partnership with many people and the local church — to make this happen.

"I for Japan. Japan for the World. The World for Christ. And All for the Glory of God." ~ evangelist, Kanzo Uchimura, 1895

OUR STORY

Both Kevin and Kaori grew up in Christian homes and accepted Christ at a young age. But Kevin's home was in the suburbs of Chicago, while Kaori's was in the mountains of Yamagata, Japan. While a student at Moody Bible Institute, God challenged Kevin's heart for missions. Kevin and Kaori met in 1990 during his short-term missions work at Zao Baptist Church in northern Japan. They married in the States in 1993 and have one son, Justen.

The Lavermans were appointed by WorldVenture for career service in 1997. Through the support of many churches and individuals, they left for Japan in 1999. After Kevin completed language studies in 2001, the family moved to the Kawasaki area to begin a new church.

OUR WORK

Kevin and Kaori believe the local church is God's primary means for long-term spiritual impact in Japan. In 2001, they began Denen Grace Chapel in their living room with a few people, and a bit of faith that God would bless this group. Among one of the world's hardest-to-reach peoples, God built his church. Slowly and steadily, people came to this group of Christians, and were led to faith in Christ, baptism, and leadership responsibilities in the church.

Currently, Denen Grace Chapel meets in a private hall on Sundays and numbers around 40. Small group Bible studies are held in member homes on weekdays. Outreach events and evangelistic Bible studies are offered to non-Christians. A gospel music workshop and English Bible classes are particularly effective. Kevin often leads volunteer trips with church members into the tsunami-impacted area of northern Japan.

The church recently called a Japanese pastor. The Lavermans are now partnering with Pastor Izumi Kondo and transitioning toward a new work, a daughter church plant in the area out of Denen Grace Chapel.

Bio Facts

BIRTHDAYS:
Kevin (1/18), Kaori (5/31) Justen (7/30/96)

EDUCATION:
(Kevin) Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, IL
Trinity Evang'l Divinity School, Deerfield, IL

(Kaori) Tokyo Christian College, JAPAN

LANGUAGE STUDY:
International Christian University, Tokyo

YEARS IN JAPAN:
Feb 1999 ~ present

SENDING CHURCH:
First Baptist Church Lansing, Illinois (CBA)

Kaori's Story

I'm the result of mission work in Japan. My family and I became Christians because a missionary with WorldVenture came from the States to my hometown in the 1960's. The gospel was shared and we accepted Christ. My parents became the core of a new church in Yamagata, Zao Baptist Church, where I later served as staff.

Now, I'm continuing the impact by working with Kevin to start churches and reach my own people. My name, Kaori, means "fragrance" in Japanese. I hope to be the "fragrance of Christ" to my country.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Get involved in the vision for Japan!

We want to plant more churches,
Reach more Japanese for Christ,
Raise more disciples and leaders
BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP

EDUCATE

Our best supporter is an educated one. Teach others in your church, small group, or family about God's work overseas. Perhaps you could focus on Japan, or adopt us as your missionaries. Be creative and help inspire the next generation to go or get involved in missions!

INVEST

Our work is supported entirely by the faithful gifts of churches and people. Please consider being a part. It's really easy to give by mail or online. Details are on our website.

PRAY

Your feet may never touch Japan, but you can make a difference here on your knees. See our website for tools to guide your prayer for us and Japan. Sign up there for our news-letter or email updates. Cut out and post the list of prayer requests.

COME

You can come! We can use short-term ministry teams and individuals with a burden for helping in Japan. Don't know what you could do? Get some ideas from our website.

ENCOURAGE

The work here far from home is often hard and lonely. We need your encouragement! How? Letters, care packages, emails, and, when we are home and visiting with you, a lot of TLC! See our website for needs.

NETWORK

Introduce us to people in your network. You may know someone with a burden for missions in Asia, someone living or moving to our area in Japan, or someone who can help us in a specific way.

See helpful links and more ideas:

www.LavermansInJapan.com/help