

OPERATION JAPAN

Prayer Guide

Third Edition

Evangelical Christians account for less than 0.5% of the population of Japan. But imagine each one sharing his or her testimony with only three people each year. If only one person responded out of each twenty-five who heard the gospel, a 12% annual growth rate would be achieved! In 25 years, the number of Christians would grow to 5% of the population. Pray for the bold witness of God's people!

Japan Evangelical Missionary Association

© Copyright 2005
by
Japan Evangelical Missionary Association
All rights reserved

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, New International Version, copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society.

Operation Japan Publishing Committee
Author and Committee Chairman: Haruo Mitsumori

English Editor: Don Wright
Cover Design: Jim Rew
Printer: New Life Mission
Publisher: Japan Evangelical Missionary Association
c/o OCC Bldg., 2-1 Kanda Surugadai
Chiyoda Ku, Tokyo 101-0062, Japan
Tel/Fax: 03-3295-1949

Printed in Japan

Contents

<i>Using this Book</i>	4	Osaka.....	53
<i>Introduction</i>	5	Hyogo.....	55
<i>Praying for Japan</i>	7	Nara.....	56
Japan	10	Wakayama.....	57
Hokkaido	13	<i>Pray for the Church</i>	58
<i>Students and Youth</i>	14	Chugoku	59
Tohoku	15	Tottori.....	60
Aomori.....	16	Shimane.....	61
Iwate.....	17	Okayama.....	62
Miyagi.....	18	Hiroshima.....	63
Akita.....	19	Yamaguchi.....	64
Yamagata.....	20	<i>An Aging Japan</i>	65
Fukushima.....	21	Shikoku	66
<i>Mass Media</i>	22	Tokushima.....	67
Kanto	23	Kagawa	68
Ibaraki	24	Bhime	69
Tochigi	25	Kochi.....	70
Gumma.....	26	<i>Training for Ministry</i>	71
<i>Music Ministry</i>	27	Kyushu/Okinawa	72
Saitama.....	28	Fukuoka.....	73
Chiba.....	29	Saga.....	74
Tokyo	30	Nagasaki.....	75
Kanagawa.....	32	Kumamoto.....	76
Chubu	34	<i>Ministry to Professionals</i>	77
Niigata.....	35	Oita.....	78
<i>World Relief, Family</i>	36	Miyazaki	79
<i>The Protestant World</i>	37	Kagoshima	80
Toyama.....	38	Okinawa.....	81
Ishikawa.....	39	<i>Christmas and New Year</i>	82
Fukui.....	40	<i>Literature and Evangelism</i>	82
Yamanashi.....	41	<i>Additional Information</i>	84
Nagano	42	<i>Unchurched Cities</i>	84
Gifu.....	43	<i>Japan Churches Abroad</i>	86
Shizuoka.....	44	<i>Japanese Missionaries</i>	87
Aichi.....	45	<i>Crusade Evangelism</i>	88
<i>Radio and TV</i>	47	<i>Korean Church in Japan</i> ..	89
Kinki	48	<i>Temple, Shrine, Festival</i> ...90	
Mie.....	49	<i>Resources in Prefectures</i> ..91	
Shiga	50	<i>Index of Topics</i>	95
Kyoto.....	51		

Using this Book

At the beginning of each prefecture page we have provided specific statistics to facilitate informed prayer. Four types of information are given: 1) cities, towns and villages without churches, 2) the number of churches and the resultant number of persons that each church must reach, 3) the number of church members and the number attending worship, and 4) the number of missionaries. Please use these statistics as you pray for the daily requests. Also, in the back of the book there is additional information relating to each prefecture. Regularly refer to these pages as well while you pray. Important Christian resources are noted, and some of the well-known temples, shrines and festivals are also listed. If you wish to do further research in order to pray more intelligently, detailed information is available on the internet regarding many of these places and events.

Pronunciation

You do not need to pronounce the names correctly for the Lord to understand!

However, if you would like to try, the following will help for the vowels:

Whenever you see:

- “a,” pronounce it as the “a” in father.
- “i,” pronounce it as the “ea” of eat.
- “u,” pronounce it as the “oo” of boot.
- “e,” pronounce it as the “e” of end.
- “o,” pronounce it as the “o” of hold.

In Japanese some vowels are lengthened. An example would be the lengthened “o” which is written either as “ou,” “oo” or ō. For simplification, we have chosen not to include any lengthened vowel indicators.

Japanese Words

Gun Rural district or county.

Ken Prefecture.

Sources of Information:

Church Information Service (CIS) www.church-info.org, E-mail: cis@church-info.org

National and prefectural statistics

Unchurched areas

Number of Protestant churches

Christian Year Book 2004

Information concerning educational, medical and welfare institutions

JEMA Missionary Directory 2004: All missionary-related statistics

Christian Databook 2004: Number of Japanese churches outside Japan

Certain historical information on the early church-planting history in prefectures

In *Operation Japan 2000* the Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox church statistics were given, as well as the statistics concerning both Protestant and Roman Catholic. In this edition only the Protestant statistics have been included. This was necessary because of the lack of space and the difficulty in gathering this information.

Introduction

We thank God for His grace in allowing the publishing of this third edition of *Operation Japan*. JoAnn and I came to Japan in 1969 with a great desire to see Japan brought to the feet of Jesus. We had studied the history of the Church in Japan and knew stories of God's great work in times past, of thousands coming to Christ through the work of the early Jesuit missionaries in the 1500's, and churches being started throughout the land by dedicated missionaries and Japanese leaders in in late 1880's and early 1900's. Many of the post-war missionaries were still around in 1969, and we heard stories of large street corner meetings and of people eager to trust God. So we came to Japan, praying that God would do it again.

We also knew of how each time when it appeared that Japan would soon become a Christian nation, there was a rejection: the Edo persecution, the Nationalistic Shintoism that nearly destroyed the church, and now in our era, the materialism that destroys the vitality of many. So we prayed like many before us, "Lord, send your Holy Spirit's power that will demolish all political, religious and social barriers. This time Lord, may Japan confess you as Lord, and bless the whole world."

It was about ten years ago that the Lord put it on the hearts of a number of us to produce *Operation Japan*. Pastor Mitsumori and others have labored to make these prayer books possible. Our desire has been that this book would motivate people around the world to intercede for the soul of this great nation, that there would be not just 1% who claim to be Christian, but that millions of Japanese would love the Saviour.

Some time in our church-planting career I told the Lord that when 5% of the population became believers, then we would return to America. In November of 2004 our time ran out and we had to return to America—even though probably only 0.5% are actually following Jesus. We have had 35 years of fun, helping to start churches, and doing many other ministries that we weren't especially qualified to do, but Jesus opened ministry doors, and pulled us through them. And how can we begin to list the people who have met Jesus, who have been transformed by Him? We have been blessed to work with wonderful missionary and pastor colleagues. It has been more fun than missionaries should be allowed to have!

Since our return to America, we often have heard two things, one a statement and another a question. So many have said that they have prayed faithfully for us and for Japan. God has raised up good people who also desire that Japan come to Jesus and have used *Operation Japan* as a major tool to pray.

The question that we continually hear is, "Is Japan changing? Has the great movement to Christ for which we have been praying begun? Many are talking about a new openness to the gospel. Are our prayers finally being answered?" My answer tends to be longer than is appreciated. First of all, historically, Japan has approached Jesus at least three times, and each time has turned aside. So I encourage the questioner to pray that this time Japan will not turn back.

Secondly, I answer from our own experience in Japan. God is doing many exciting things in Japan. Churches are growing, lives are changing, and new gospel-centered movements

are taking place right before our eyes. We have tried to share some of these in this book. So I ask again for the questioners to pray as if Japan's salvation rests in their hands.

Thirdly, I introduce some of the facts that appear in *Operation Japan*. There are statistics that point to difficult conditions. In the last three years, the number of baptisms in the nation has decreased by 17%, and the number of children in Sunday School by 4%. Church attendance and membership continue to grow slowly, but the total number of churches decreased last year. So I ask the questioner to pray with great zeal.

And lastly, I end my long answer by reminding the questioner how powerful God is and how He desires the Japanese to put their faith in His Son. Please pray. As you read of the churches, schools, hospitals and broadcasts in each prefecture, please ask God to bind Satan, to fill His Church with His Power and build His Kingdom in Japan.

by don wright, OJ editor

Operation Japan, First Edition 1997 Rev. Haruo Mitsumori, with the help of the Operation Japan Publishing Committee and Don Wright, the English editor, wrote the manuscript, which was then translated into English. We are thankful for God's blessing on this project. The Japanese edition had two printings with a total of 4,500 copies. In Japan, when 2,000 copies of a Christian book are sold, it is a best-seller. The English edition had 3 printings with a total of 9,000 copies.

Operation Japan, Edition 2000 This edition was printed three years later to coincide with the Fourth Japan Congress on Evangelism in Okinawa, June 27-30, 2000. It was printed in Japanese, Korean and English. Again, Pastor Haruo Mitsumori and Church Information Service provided the data and material, and this was translated into English and Korean. Yeong Sang Cho, a Campus Crusade for Christ missionary to Japan from Korea, served as the editor for the Korean edition, and Don Wright under the guidance of the Japan Evangelical Missionary Association again served as the English editor. The English edition was the largest of the three editions with 50 more pages and more detailed information.

Operation Japan, Edition 2005 We are thankful to God for allowing us to publish this third edition of *Operation Japan*. In order to reduce the publishing costs and be more usable for the average Christian, we have reduced the number of pages and streamlined the content, eliminating some of the statistics and some of the hard-to-pronounce Japanese names. Our desire is that thousands of Christians around the world will join us to pray for the salvation of Japan.

May God be greatly glorified, and may Japan come to notice that Great Glory seen in His Son, Jesus Christ.

English Edition Editor: Don Wright has served as a church-planting missionary in Japan with the Baptist General Conference since 1969. He returned to the USA at the end of 2004 and is now serving as World Reach Coordinator with the BGC.

Praying for Japan

Key Prayer Issues in the Church

1. Revival and Unity in the Church

The church is divided into over 160 denominations. There are major divisions among charismatic, evangelical and main-line churches with little communication or cooperation between them. Pray that these barriers will be broken down, and the spirit of John 17:21 be lived out. Pray for revival throughout Japan—that each church will have an effective gospel witness and renewed power in the Holy Spirit.

2. Leadership Training

Pastors need a vision for training dedicated disciples, and the skill to do it. Another concern is that even though the church has been growing at a very slow rate, because of low seminary enrollment and retirements there will be a major shortage of pastors by the year 2010. Ask the Lord to provide such people as described in II Timothy 2:2 for the church in Japan. An encouraging trend is that Bible schools targeting laypeople are experiencing a good enrollment.

3. Discipleship

Application of biblical truth on a daily basis is a great challenge for believers who are continually being pressured to conform to this homogeneous culture. Many baptized Japanese fall away within the first five years. Ask the Lord to impart a grace to His people that will enable them to live out Romans 12:2-20.

4. Revitalized Worship

Many of the conservative churches main-

tain a form-centered worship that lacks the vitality of the Spirit. Ask the Lord to break in and give His people a new song to sing for the praise of His name.

5. Missions

The Japanese church has only begun to be a blessing to the nations. Ask the Lord to grant His Church a vision and burden for the nations of the earth. Japan is remembered among the Asian peoples as the nation that caused great harm and hurt during World War II. Ask the Lord to make the church a balm and blessing to the nations of Asia (Isaiah 49:6).

Key Prayer Issues Outside the Church

Here are some issues facing Japan which directly affect the church. Remember these as you pray.

1. Rise and Fall of Religious Cults

In the past fifteen years or more, Japan has seen a rise in the number of “New Religion” cults, especially attracting Japanese younger people. A common draw is the promise of inner fulfillment through a variety of techniques of meditation, yoga, mind control and asceticism. In 1995, the *Aum Shinrikyo* cult’s sarin gas attacks on the Tokyo subway and in other parts of Japan shocked the nation. Mind control methods used by cults have received wide attention from the media. This is an opportunity for the church to declare the Truth of God’s Word.

Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormons and others are active in Japan. The Jehovah’s Witnesses

Praying for Japan (cont.)

experienced growth through 1998, but they have leveled off at about 220,000 followers (publishers). The Mormons report 114,000 members, while the Unification Church probably has more members than either of the other two groups.

There has been at least one case of a pastor in Kyoto who was arrested for raping a number of young girls. He had demanded total obedience in the church. This man's arrest was given wide coverage in the Japanese press, and it has served to cause churches and pastors to reconsider the issue of authority in Japanese congregations.

2. Secularization of Society.

A survey taken in August 2005 by the *Yomiuri News* indicated that three out of four Japanese do not believe in any religion. In response to the question "Do you believe in any religion?" 23% said yes, and 75% said no. To the question, "Is religion important?" 35% responded positively, and 60% said no.

When asked if they had ever desired to receive help from God or god (*kami ya hotoke ni sugaritai to omotta koto ga aru?*), 54% said yes, and 44% said no. Of those who said they did not believe in any religion (75%), 47% confessed that they had desired this help at some time.

3. De-urbanization

Tokyo and Osaka have experienced a drop in population as city-dwellers flee to the suburbs for better living conditions. Commuting two hours one way to work has become the norm. Huge bedroom towns in the outlying

areas of major cities are virtually vacant during the day. New approaches in evangelism are necessary to reach these communities with the gospel. There is some indication that this trend is reversing, as people move back into large condominium buildings nearer the city centers.

4. Aging Society

The "graying of Japan" is becoming a concern along with a projected decrease of the Japanese work force. Nursing homes have long waiting lists. The demise of the two and three generation household has begun as young families put their elderly in retirement and nursing homes. Christian groups like King's Garden nursing homes are seeking to step into this open door for ministry.

5. Lack of Moral Values Among Youth

Reports in national newspapers of junior and senior high school girls selling their virginity to businessmen for \$500 to \$1000 continue to alarm parents. Church Sunday school attendance continues to decline. Churches find it difficult to hold the youth once they have entered junior high. One evangelical university professor declared that the state of the youth is an indicator of the ineffectiveness of the Church's message.

6. Economic Recession

Due to the collapse of the bubble economy of the 80s, Japan has suffered economic decline in the past few years, with many bankruptcies, unprecedented unemployment, and an increase in suicide among business-

Praying for Japan (cont.)

men whose companies failed. There is an atmosphere of pessimism because of the long recession. Pray that many will turn to God in their time of need.

7. Education Issues

There is growing support for reforming the educational system by deregulation and offering wider choices in curriculum and promoting globalization and information technology. Concern over moral and ethical education is also growing. A recent survey revealed that 76.9% of Japanese people do not speak English, so this is still a need that the church can meet through providing English conversation programs.

Bullying among school children has become a serious social problem in Japan. This problem has caused a growing number of children to stay home and drop out of school.

When You Pray, Remember...

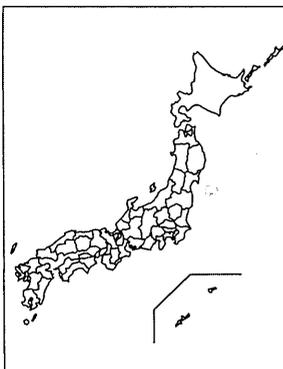
1. Japan is a non-Christian nation with only about 4 out of 1,000 who are members of a Protestant church. Less than half of these members attend a church, and when you include the seekers, there are only 2.1 people in a thousand who attend a worship service. In this context the Lord uses things that may be only indirectly related to the gospel, for example, the Bible being mentioned in a secular novel, a couple being married in a Western "Christian" wedding, children attending a Catholic school, or even studying the Bible with a Jehovah's Witness. Pray that these things will give them a desire to know more of Him.

2. Not all of the institutions listed in the prayer requests are evangelical. Some started out as Christian, but perhaps now have only a remnant of influence remaining. We ask you to pray for these, because the name of Jesus is represented in some way. Our prayer is that the Lord will create an interest in the gospel which will lead people to a saving knowledge of Jesus.

3. As you pray for the Christian bookstores, remember that these are not only serving Christians, but are also evangelistic outposts. The Christian radio and TV broadcasts encourage believers, and have a powerful evangelistic potential as well. Church kindergartens and hospitals can provide major first steps toward Jesus.

4. Japanese Christians need encouragement to be faithful. They are such a small minority. There are many family and cultural pressures to conform in this group-oriented society, making it difficult to stand up for their faith. When we ask you to pray for the fellowship and cooperation of churches and Christians in each prefecture, remember that this is a very important request.

May the Lord strengthen your heart and make you a blessing to Japan and all nations through prayer.



Population	126,824,166	Churches	7,784
Size	372,244 km ²	Ten-Year Increase	237 (3.14%)
Density	340 people/km ²	Churches/person	1:16,293
Capital	Tokyo	Members	557,718
Cities	692	Member per church	72
With no churches	10	Worship attendance	279,227
With only 1 church	86	Attendance per church	36
Towns/Villages	2,406	Baptisms	8,712
With no churches	1,633	Previous year	9,367
With 20,000 pop. & no churches	77	SS attendance	67,647
		Previous year	67,896
		Missionaries	2,222
		Missionaries/person	1:56,820

The Country

Japan is an island country situated off the east coast of Asia in the northwest part of the Pacific Ocean. The territory of Japan includes, from north to south, the Aleutians, the Kuriles, the Japanese Isles, and the Nansei Islands. The four main islands are, in order of their size, Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, and Shikoku. These four islands and 3,000 others form an arc about 3,300 kilometers long. A series of mountains crowd an already narrow landscape, and numerous volcanic ranges run through it, forming intricate and sometimes problematic geographical features. Most of Japan experiences the four distinct seasons of the year.

Japan's official history did not begin until the eighth century. However, it is known that Buddhism came to Japan in the sixth century, and prior to this, around the second or third century written language was introduced from China. By this time, the Yamato clan had become the most powerful clan in the nation, and the chiefs of the clan are considered the ancestors of Japan's imperial family.

Buddhism has had a large influence on the personal and political life of the people.

A major example is the parishioner system established by the Tokugawa government which linked everyone to local Buddhist temples. Ancient folk beliefs, and Taoism and Onmyodo introduced from China, have also left significant marks on the culture of Japan.

The Meiji administration introduced the policy to separate Shintoism from Buddhism, and gave State Shintoism the highest position. The accompanying militarism led the country to its ill fate in World War Two. Syncretistic faith provides the basic spiritual support for most Japanese.

Japan's population is approximately 127 million, but the total number of religious adherents is 220 million. These are roughly divided into the following:

Shintoist	109 million
Buddhist	96 million
Christian	1.5 million
Other	10.5 million

Of the Shinto figure, 90 million are actually registered at a Shinto shrine, and the rest of the number comes from all those who are related to local guardian gods. As for Buddhism, most of the numbers come

from families related to local temples with no consideration for individual faith. The "Other" category is hard to analyze, but the Christian statistics are based on solid confessions of faith. If similar criteria were placed on the Shinto and Buddhist membership, the figure would greatly decrease.

The fact that the 126 million people in Japan make up 220 million religious adherents is not surprising in this country. The celebration of a baby's birth takes place at the Shinto shrine. The wedding ceremony might be Christian or Shinto, and Buddhist priests will be in charge of the funeral. This mixture is just part of the "normal" Japanese life style.

Ancestor worship (not to be confused with the Indian belief of reincarnation), along with practices centered around the equinox and *Obon*, either arose in ancient Japan, or were imported from China and Korea.

The Japanese people, whether Shinto or Buddhist, all join together in ancestor worship. Their language and culture are greatly influenced by this belief. Christians stand on the Word of God which prohibits the worship of ancestors. Responding wisely to the problem of ancestor worship is a key issue for the evangelization of Japan.

Number of Births Decline Jan-June

TOKYO - The number of newborn babies registered, including those abroad, between January and June this year came to 560,958, down 4,900 from a year earlier, a population survey report by the health ministry showed Wednesday.

The number of registered deaths in the six-month period through June was about 530,000, the survey said. The birthrate of Japanese women in 2003 fell below 1.3 for the first time to 1.29, which is expected to affect Japan's pension scheme, preliminary health ministry statistics showed earlier. (Kyodo News) Japan Today Internet (August 25, 2004)

In Japan, the Crime Rate Also Rises

Once Japan was among the safest countries in the world for its own citizens, travelers and business people. Now, however, that feeling of personal safety is evaporating, being replaced by deep anxiety about crime and global terrorism.

A government survey released in July, 2004 showed that 55.9% of people think Japan is "not safe," while only 39.1% believe it is. Even Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has been forced to concede, "We cannot say Japan is the world's safest country anymore."

Although by international standards Japanese crime levels are still relatively low, the massive 150% upsurge in the past 10 years has created a real sense of crisis. Such a huge increase in a relatively short time has overwhelmed the system, leaving both the victims and the police unable to cope.

1 Pray for the salvation of Japan. May the 126 million Japanese people in 47 million households come to the Saviour! Pray that in some way each home will have some contact with the gospel this year. Pray that at least 10% of the throngs who will visit the temples and shrines this morning will be led to attend a church sometime during this new year.

2 Pray for Japanese living abroad (over 911,000 in 2003). This figure includes long-stay and permanent residence. The largest number is in the USA, 331,677, the second largest is China with 77,184. Pray for the Japanese churches in different parts of the world. Many who come to faith in Christ abroad often experience difficulty when they return to Japan. They struggle to fit in, but many drift away. Pray that those who have found faith abroad, or have become interested in the gospel, may be able to be integrated into churches in Japan. Pray for those who are helping these returnees.

3 Pray for the approximately 1.9 million foreign people living in Japan. From Korea there are 625,000, from China 424,000, from Brazil 268,000. Probably more are Christian than the percentage of Japanese. However, many are only nominal Christians. Others come from countries that are closed to the gospel.

There are approximately 2000 Protestant missionaries serving in Japan, and many more who come for short ministries. Ask the Lord for a special blessing for each of them as they work here. May they be effective servants of Christ.

4 Pray for the Japanese Christians, for the

279,000 Protestants who regularly attend worship and for the 560,000 church members, that each may grow and be obedient to the Lord. Church membership is only 0.44% of the population. As we pray for the churches to grow spiritually and numerically remember that since 1995 Protestant church membership and worship attendance have only slowly increased. In 1995 there were 537,945 members, and in 2004 there were 557,718. In 1995 the worship attendance was 268,217, and in 2004 it was 279,227, which means only a 0.5% annual increase in membership, and only a 0.4% for attendance. Especially pray for worship attendance to increase.

Remember to pray for the non-Christian family members also. Most Christians are the only ones in their families who believe.

5 The Bible teaches us to "pray for the king." Let us pray for the salvation of the emperor and his imperial family. Pray that this year they may read the Bible, and be attracted to the King. Pray for the salvation of this country's "leaders in high positions", for Cabinet and Diet members, local councilmen, and other government employees. Pray that the few Christian politicians and government workers might represent Jesus well.

6 Pray for the effective ministry of the several hundred Japanese missionaries who are now laboring around the world for Christ. Ask the Lord to raise up more people to go. As these missionaries return to Japan for deputation and rest, may their example of dedication stir up each local church to have a burden to reach their own communities.



Population	5,650,573	With no churches	113
Size	78,416 km ²	With 20,000 pop. &	
Density	72 people/km ²	no churches	4
Capital	Sapporo	Churches	397
Cities	34	Churches/person	1:14,233
With no churches	2	Members	22,603
Akabira	15,159	Members per church	57
Utashinai	5,666	Worship attendance	12,194
With only 1 church	4	Attendance per church	31
Towns/Villages	178	Baptisms	377
		SS attendance	2,191

The Prefecture

Hokkaido is the largest of all the prefectures. The island has many volcanic plateaus, and forests thrive on the mountain slopes.

Hokkaido leads or is in the upper ranks of all the prefectures in most aspects of agriculture, forestry, fishing and mining. In recent years, due to the energy revolution and changing industrial needs, Hokkaido has been facing a slowing economy.

The Ainu people in Hokkaido, known to ancient Japan as the Ezo, are believed to have been located throughout Japan's islands during the Jomon era. They are also believed to share the same ancestry as the Japanese. In the Kamakura era, many Japanese migrated to Hokkaido.

In many ways Hokkaido is a fertile receptor for the gospel. In contrast to the rest of Japan, the culture is not tied to a long conservative history. On the other hand, the strong influence of past nationalistic Shintoism is felt through the Hokkaido Shrine. Revival of Shinto festivals can be seen throughout the island.

In 1861, a Russian Orthodox priest, Nicolai, landed at Hakodate. Christianity was still prohibited in Japan, so he spent his time studying the country. Tokyo was the center of his ministry, but the work also expanded

to Hokkaido and Tohoku.

Protestant work began in Hokkaido in January of 1874 when M. Harris, an American Methodist missionary and W. Denning, a British missionary arrived in Hakodate. That year two people were baptized and then two more in 1876, forming the Hakodate Church.

Dr. William Clark's work beginning in 1876 has also been a great Christian influence in Hokkaido. His famous motto, "Boys, be ambitious for Christ!" has inspired countless numbers of young people. Thanks to many postwar foreign missionaries, a solid foundation for the gospel has been established.

7 Pray for the churches without pastors, and for those facing hardships because of the severe winters, the population decline and economic difficulties.

8 Pray that the gospel may spread to the remote areas through the TV broadcasts of *Life Line* (Sat. 5:30 a.m.), and the radio ministry of *Light of the World* (Sun. 6:20 a.m.).

9 Remember the several camping ministries that they be effectively used by God. The manager of the Hokkaido Nippon Ham baseball team, Trey Hillman, is a Christian. Pray that his witness will touch many sports fans.

10 There are five Protestant schools here

Hokkaido

with close to 25,000 students, and over 6,000 children in 61 kindergartens and 10 day-care centers. Pray that the gospel will be clearly felt in these schools. Ask God's blessing on the Hokkaido Bible Institute with 32 students and CFNJ Bible School with 35 students.

11 Several larger Christian hospitals in Sapporo, along with social ministries seek to represent Jesus here. Pray that each staff member will sense God's presence today.

12 Pray that churches will be started in the

many needy areas. Akabira and Utashinai are cities with no churches. Their populations have been slashed because of the closing of the coal mines. As you pray, see page 84 for more information. Also note their web sites.

Of the four cities with just one church, Noboribetsu is especially needy with a population of over 54,000. Among the 178 towns and villages, 113 have no churches. Four of these towns have populations of over 20,000; the largest is Otofuke with 42,032.

January 13~16

The number of children is drastically decreasing despite the country's wealth and prosperity. Along with this decrease, more and more children have become busy on Sundays with school, cram school and sports. Most churches are struggling to find ways to reach these children, as the percent of children in SS has decreased 3.8% from 2002 to 2005.

The second Monday of January is a holiday called Coming of Age Day. It is a day when those who have become 20 are honored at the city hall, shrines and some churches.

13 HiBA (High School Born-Againers) began in Japan in 1951 and focuses on evangelism and discipleship among Japanese high school students.

Kirisutosha Gakusei Kai (KGK), similar to InterVarsity) was begun by Japanese Christian students in 1947, and is active on about 250 college campuses, ministering through Bible studies, prayer meetings, summer camps, etc.

14 Japan Campus Crusade for Christ (JCCC) is directed by Kazuyoshi Kurihara. There are 88 missionaries and 47 Japanese staff active in Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Sendai,

The Youth

Fukuoka and Okinawa. They target major universities to win, build and send disciples. They also have a ministry for young working adults, and a developing Family Life ministry. Summer teams from other Asian countries and the US distribute evangelistic material in cooperation with local churches to reach unchurched areas of Japan, while church resource staff develop partner networks for outreach with Japanese churches.

15 Navigators is a discipleship-centered group with 39 Japanese and 26 foreign staff working in ten different cities throughout Japan. The ministry includes working with students, business people and families. Summer programs bring in university students from other countries to assist in campus evangelism.

16 Youth with A Mission (YWAM), an international missionary organization, is active in the Tokyo and Osaka areas with various programs including youth ministry, discipleship training, and church-planting. YWAM had 82 career and short-term missionaries in Japan in 2005.



Population	9,750,366	Members	24,785
Size	66,885 km ²	Member per church	46
Density	146 people/km ²	Worship attendance	13,857
Cities	63	Attendance per church	26
With no churches	1	Baptisms	497
With 1 church	7	Previous year	511
Towns/Villages	335	SS attendance	3,646
With no churches	245	Previous year	3,689
With 20,000 & no churches	7	Missionaries	101
Churches	539	Missionaries/person	1:100,519
Churches/person	1:18,090		

The Tohoku area is twice the size of the Kanto district, but the population is less than 1/3 of Kanto, slightly smaller than Tokyo itself. Except for larger cities such as Sendai and Koriyama, local industries cannot fully support the economy, thus people in their prime of life leave home to work elsewhere. Fukushima is the only prefecture whose church-per-population ratio is better than the national average.

Historically speaking, the Tohoku area very early was touched by Catholic Kirishitan. Then in the Meiji era the Russian Orthodox Church aggressively evangelized the area, and the results still remain. Since the Meiji era, Tohoku has produced many capable church leaders and we pray that future leaders will continue to emerge from here.

17 "They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold" (Psalm 19:10). Pray for the people of the Tohoku region that they

come to know the Living God and to desire and treasure Him more earnestly than all the things of this world.

Pray for the 539 Protestant churches in the six prefectures. The number of churches has increased by 27 in the last ten years. Praise the Lord for this advance. The number of baptisms a year is decreasing. Pray for more.

Each year Gideon ministries distribute thousands of Bibles throughout the area. Pray that many will be attracted to Jesus through His Word.

18 Seven of the unchurched towns have populations of over 20,000. Pray that a special strategy will be developed to reach the remote mountain villages.

Pray for the 101 missionaries working in Tohoku. With a declining number of missionaries, declining population, and slow response to the gospel, the ministry can be discouraging.

Ayako Miura

In 1964 Ayako Miura wrote the award-winning *Freezing Point*, a novel dealing with original sin. She then went on to write more than 80 novels and essays, including popular introductions to the Old and New Testaments. Her autobiography, telling of her conversion to Christ while in a TB sanitarium for 13 years, is also well-known. Her writings are also very popular in the secular world, and many tell of her books creating a thirst in their hearts to learn about Jesus. Mrs. Miura went to be with the Lord in 1999, but her witness lives on through her writings.



Population	1,479,358	Churches	75
Size	9,606 km ²	Churches/person	1:19,725
Density	154 people/km ²	Members	3,486
Capital	Aomori City	Members per church	46
Cities	8	Worship attendance	1,918
Towns/Villages	59	Attendance per church	26
With no churches	47	Missionaries	24
With 20,000 & no churches	1		
Hiraka	22,658		

The Prefecture

Aomori's eastern side enjoys milder winters and light snowfalls, but the western side experiences heavy snow.

Aomori is famous for apples, producing up to half of the nation's crop. The lack of heavy industries along with the hard weather force many to seek employment in the bigger cities during the winter. The prefecture has struggled to revitalize depressed areas.

The traditions and customs still have a powerful hold here. Even in a city like Misawa, with many American military bases and Japanese self-defense forces, very little has changed.

The Nebuta Festival (Aug. 3-7) is one of the three major festivals of the Tohoku area and attracts many tourists. Mount Osore is famous for the many spiritual mediums. Mt. Iwaki is also an important Shinto site for worship, and the folklore known as Oshirasama has deep roots in the people's faith.

At the beginning of the Meiji era, Yoichi Honda was sent to study in Yokohama. He met J.H. Ballagh, became a believer and was baptized in 1872. He returned to Hirosaki with John Ing in 1874 and established a training school (To'o-Gijuku) there. Twenty-two people were baptized the next year, and the first church in Aomori was formed.

Juji Nakada, the founder of the Holiness

Church, was an influential Christian leader from Aomori.

19 Pray for God's blessing on each of the 75 churches, that they will overcome the religious obstacles and severe climate, and that Christians will daily experience His power. Note the various statistics representing real people, churches and organizations which need your prayers.

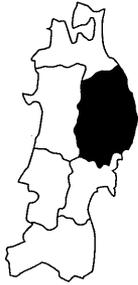
20 Pray for good cooperation among the churches throughout the prefecture, especially through Misawa Christian Cooperative Evangelistic Fellowship and the Aomori Evangelistic Broadcasting Fellowship.

21 Camping ministry at Aomori Christian Center. *Life Line* (Sat. 6:00 a.m.) on Aomori TV. May God touch many through the camping program and the TV ministry.

22 A total of 2,688 students are attending Protestant educational institutions, along with 913 children attending 12 Protestant kindergartens and five day-care centers.

23 There are few Christian health and social ministry services. Pray that many in the midst of failing health will look to the Creator for help.

24 Pray for Hiraka town with over 20,000 people and for Nakatsugaru-gun and Shimokita-gun with no churches. Sannohe-gun has only one church for over 83,000 people.



Population	1,405,060	With no churches	36
Size	15,277 km ²	With 20,000 & no churches	2
Density	92 people/km ²	Takizawa	52,323
Capital	Morioka	Yamada	21,180
Cities	13	Churches	56
With only 1 church	5	Churches/person	1:25,090
Kuji	37,847	Members	2,306
Esashi	33,836	Members per church	41
Ninohe	27,397	Worship attendance	1,248
Tono	27,387	Attendance per church	22
Rikuzen Takada	26,018	Missionaries	1
Towns/Villages	46		

The Prefecture

Iwate prefecture is second in size to Hokkaido, and is the second least densely populated prefecture, a prime example of a declining population area. The middle of the prefecture is called Japan's Tibet. The jagged coastline of the Pacific Ocean, along with the mountains, leaves little room for population concentration.

Life here has never been easy due to the severe cold weather and poor economy making the average income 11th from the bottom in the nation. These difficult conditions have produced many renowned figures including scholars, politicians, novelists and artists.

In 1879 Tamenori Yamazaki from Doshisha University returned home to Mizusawa to do evangelism. Through his influence, Seiji Katagiri studied at Doshisha and became an evangelist for the United Church. He returned home and carried out evangelism in the area. In 1887, the Kanegasaki Church was formed. A Baptist church was founded in 1880 in Morioka by T.P. Poate. Rev. Tosaji Obara is an example of the many fine Christian leaders from Iwate. He became a leader in the United Church of Christ's Holiness no Mure, and pastor of the Tokyo Yodobashi Church.

25 Pray that the churches located in declining population areas would be encouraged and maintain their important ministries. Pray for the faith of church members who have moved to larger cities for education or work.

26 Pray for the one missionary serving in Iwate—that she will be encouraged and be effective in her ministry. The Seisen Theological School is a two-year program which began in 1969.

27 Zenrin Kan, a Christian center and book store in Morioka, and the *Light of the World* (Daily 5:15 a.m.) are two important resources for 56 churches.

28 Pray that the 2,830 students at Morioka University and the 600 at Sukore will become interested in reading the Bible.

29 Pray that God's love will be seen through the ministries to the handicapped at Oku Nakayama Gakuen (40 people), Chiisaki Mori no Sato (40 people), and Sanai Gakusha High School (51 students).

30 Pray for new church starts in the five cities with only one church. Takizawa and Yamada towns have populations of over 20,000 with no church. Shimohei-gun has a ratio of only one church for over 50,000 people.



Population	2,350,026	With 20,000 & no churches	
Size	7,285 km ²	Kogota	20,087
Density	323 people/km ²	Churches	136
Capital	Sendai	Churches/person	1:17,280
Cities	10	Members	7,460
With only 1 church	1	Members per church	55
Iwanuma	42,966	Worship attendance	4,474
Towns/Villages	59	Attendance per church	33
With no churches	36	Missionaries	50

The Prefecture

The central area of Miyagi has many hills, with a relatively mild climate for the Tohoku area. Miyagi's wide plains and mild weather have resulted in its larger population. Marine industry is ranked high nationally. Agriculture is also a very productive industry.

The area has been stable since the Tokugawa era. Sendai is designated as a special governmental city, and now has a million people. Rapid growth is changing the local culture, encouraging a more materialistic way of life.

Zuigani, located on Matsushima island, is the largest Zen temple in the Tohoku region. The people of Miyagi have weaker feelings toward religion than the other areas of Tohoku, and consequently Buddhist and Shinto influence is not quite as strong. The influence of the many mission schools, especially in Sendai, has helped people be more open to the gospel.

The Sendai First Baptist Church was started by Baptist missionary T.P. Poate in 1880. The following year the Sendai Church was started by early Christians like Katayoshi Oshikawa and Kametaro Yoshida.

Much missionary work has been done in Tohoku since the War, and a number of groups use Sendai as their headquarters. The Conservative Baptists reached out from Sendai into other parts of Miyagi, Yamagata,

and Iwate, establishing a seminary and a publishing ministry.

31 A Bible correspondence school begun in 1953 by the Conservative Baptists is teaching 100 students around Japan. There are three ministry training institutions here, and each struggle with low enrollment. Pray that many church leaders will emerge from these schools.

1 Sendai Student Center and Morisato Camp. Sendai Life Center and Sendai Christian Book Store provide Christian literature and serve churches in more remote areas.

2 Tohoku Broadcasting airs two radio programs, *Lively Light of the World* (Sat. 5:10 a.m.) and *True Salvation* (Sun. 5:20 a.m.). Pray that seeking hearts will hear these programs.

3 Tohoku Gakuin has 15,200 students and one third of the students attend daily chapels. May the Holy Spirit open the hearts of many today. Two other schools have an additional enrollment of over 7,000.

4 There are vital ministries being carried on in hospitals and welfare facilities. As you pray for the Christian staff, ask that the family members of those in residence will see Jesus.

5 There are 36 towns and villages with no churches. Kogata town with over 20,000, and also the whole Oshika-gun have no churches.



Population	1,173,722	With 20,000 & no churches	
Size	11,612 km ²	Tenno	22,578
Density	101 people/km ²	Churches	60
Capital	Akita City	Churches/person	1:19,562
Cities	9	Members	2,459
With only 1 church	1	Members per church	41
Kazuno	38,734	Worship attendance	1,305
Towns/Villages	60	Attendance per church	22
With no churches	49	Missionaries	4

The Prefecture

Highlands run through the middle of the prefecture, creating two different regions, the inland side and the ocean side. Although Akita has warmer temperatures than the Pacific Ocean prefectures, it is often hit by heavy winter snows. Until recent years, Akita enjoyed a solid economy with forestry, rice farming, mining, crude oil and natural gas industries. Now there is a decline in these primary industries.

Heavy winter snow is a deterrent to productivity, but an expressway and the *Shinkansen* (Bullet Train) have decreased the feeling of remoteness. Families and relatives are closely knit. Loyalty to their prefecture is surpassed only by that in Okinawa.

Temples and shrines deeply influence the people. Old traditions and customs are also important in this conservative area. These often interfere with becoming a Christian.

Two missionary couples from the American Disciples began Protestant evangelism in Akita in 1888. Also in 1888 Mr. Takeuchi came from Hirosaki and established Akita Methodist Church.

The Catholic work of starting mission schools and ministering in the rural areas has helped to give Christianity a better image.

There is growing demand for western-style Christian weddings even in the rural areas. Christian facilities for the elderly also help to

make people more receptive to the gospel.

6 Pray for the development and growth of the 60 Protestant churches in the prefecture. As you read the statistics for Akita, allow the Lord to give you a prayer burden for the many people represented by these numbers.

7 Pray that people will respond to the two weekly radio programs in areas where there are no churches.

8 Pray that today someone seeking God will find help at the CLC Akita Book Store. The store provides encouragement for Christians and a witness to non-Christians.

9 There are several Catholic schools in the prefecture. Pray that Protestant schools would also be started and be used to spread the gospel. There are eight Protestant kindergartens and five day-care centers with 1,148 children.

10 Tenno town with a population of over 20,000 and no church, Kazuno city with 38,000 and only one church should be special prayer targets. Senboku-gun, with its four towns and villages, has only one church for over 56,000. Yuri-gun with 29,000 has no church, and Yamamoto-gun has only one church for 50,000.

11 National Founding Day

The Evangelical Association Opposed to Government Support of the Yasukuni Shrine and other groups will hold meetings today to discuss freedom of religion.



Population	1,225,990	With 20,000 & no churches	
Size	9,323 km ²	Kahoku	21,437
Density	132 people/km ²	Churches	73
Capital	Yamagata City	Churches/person	1:16,794
Cities	13	Members	4,503
With no churches	1	Members per church	62
Obanazawa	21,534	Worship attendance	2,273
Towns/Villages	31	Attendance per church	31
With no churches	26	Missionaries	6

The Prefecture

This prefecture is covered by mountains which impede the development of adequate roads and train lines. Inland winters are cold with heavy snow, and summers are hot. Agriculture and forestry are the mainstays of the prefecture. Production of cherries and pears is the highest in the nation.

As with the rest of Tohoku, people here are conservative and strong in endurance. They also possess deep compassion and a firm sense of obligation, traits which make for strong faith when a person becomes a Christian. The deep-rooted village culture with its powerful personal relationship base makes a strong pressure against the Christian, pressure that is rarely experienced in larger cities.

Buddhism and Shintoism play an important part in the people's lives. Generally speaking, traditional Buddhism is considered the family religion and controls the community daily life. Folk religion with mediums, spells and curses is also part of community life.

In 1880 Methodist missionaries started the Tendo Methodist Church, the Yamagata Church in 1882, and the Yonezawa Church in 1885.

There is a trend for the younger generation to try to return to or remain in the major cities, such as Yamagata City, Yonezawa and Shinjo. This should be a fruitful opportunity for the gospel.

12 Pray that these 4,503 believers will lead their families to Jesus.

13 With no access to Christian TV or bookstores, pray that the 75 churches will creatively evangelize the prefecture. There are two weekly radio broadcasts.

14 House of Prayer Toriumi Chapel, built by the Sakata Christ Church at Yuza; Conservative Baptist Miko Memorial at Yonezawa; Ohira Hotel and Narisawa Pension, both at Zao Hot Springs.

15 There are two Christian schools in the prefecture with a total of about 1000 students. The large majority of the students are pre-Christians. Pray for a spiritual movement that would touch each student.

16 There are several ministries for the mentally disabled, and one 50-bed facility for the elderly. Pray that the family members will be impressed by the love of Christ shown in these ministries.

17 Obanazawa is the only city in Tohoku that still lacks a church. Shion Christ Church in nearby Murayama city has had an outreach in Obanazawa, but a church has not yet been established there. See page 84.

Higashi Tagawa-gun, Nishi Tagawa-gun and Akumi-gun have 12 towns and villages and 130,000 people with no churches. Mोगami-gun with seven towns and villages and over 50,000 people has only one church.



Population	2,116,210	Churches	139
Size	13,782 km ²	Churches/person	1:15,225
Density	154 people/km ²	Members	4,571
Capital	Fukushima City	Members per church	33
Cities	10	Worship attendance	2,639
Towns/Villages	80	Attendance per church	19
With no churches	51	Missionaries	12
With 20,000 & no churches	1		
Yanagawa	21,123		

The Prefecture

Enjoying a rich geographic diversity that includes mountains, valleys, volcanoes, marshes, lakes, and the ocean, Fukushima is home to various climates as well. It is an agricultural prefecture, with a wide variety of produce. Forests cover 70% of the area, making the prefecture the fourth largest forest region. The Aizu area receives much snow in the winter due to the effect of the Sea of Japan.

Shintoism and Buddhism are deeply rooted in the culture with folk religion and traditional local customs also playing a major role.

The area has produced leaders in a number of fields, such as Hideyo Noguchi in medicine. Satoshi Moriyama and Kajinosuke Ibuka were outstanding Christian leaders.

Ibuka, the eldest son of the Aizu clan, moved to Tokyo where God convicted him of his hate for the Satsuma and Choshu clans, and he repented and trusted Christ. He became a pastor, helped establish the Christian college, Meiji Gakuin, and later became its president.

Oshikawa from the Yokohama Band began the Sendai Seminary in 1880, and this became a base for beginning the ministry in Fukushima that same year. In 1885 the Shintatsu church was formed.

18 Pray that the Lord will give the 139 churches a great vision to reach the whole

prefecture with the gospel. The average attendance for the churches here is the lowest in Japan, only 19. Pray for encouragement.

19 Christian camps and retreat centers like Sosei Group in Fukushima and Canaan Mura in Iwaki. There are three Christian book stores. Pray that believers will be strengthened by these literature ministries.

20 *Life Line* (Sat. 6:00 a.m.) shown on the Fukushima UHF channel. The radio broadcast *True Salvation* (Sat. 5:30 a.m.). Gideons have branches in Fukushima, Iwaki, Koriyama and Aizu. In 1998 they distributed over 14,000 Bibles.

21 Seiko Gakuen (high school) has daily chapels for their 790 students. Pray for the chapel time today that hearts will respond to His love.

22 "You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat" (Isaiah 25:4). Pray that the people of Fukushima experience the reality of a loving and caring God and that they turn from their false gods and embrace the Lord.

23 Pray for the 51 towns and villages that have no churches. Higashi Shirakawa-gun has only one church for over 40,000, and Kawanuma-gun has close to 40,000. Pray for the city churches that border these areas, that God will give them a vision for this great need.

Satellite broadcasting, cable radio and TV are making it easier for Christian programming. Also the internet has become an effective tool for many churches. In 2002 about 45% of the population had used the internet during the

year, but by the end of 2003 it had increased to 81%. The average Japanese spends 2.34 hours a day watching TV, listening to the radio, and reading newspapers or magazines.

24 Church web sites have become one of the primary ways that pre-Christian Japanese find their way to local churches. The search web site Mission Japan reports that 5,583 churches have registered with them and that over 2,300 of these churches have their own web site. Some Japanese are going to the internet to find ways to commit suicide. Others are finding life and salvation.

Although not as popular as in the pre-internet era, 77 churches are listed in the *Christian Yearbook 2004* as having a telephone message ministry. This too can be a tool for introducing Jesus.

25 Pray that through the radio and TV broadcasts throughout Japan Christians will be strengthened and people will be led to local churches. The *Japan New Media Missions Association*, which with the support of Yodobashi Church in Tokyo is actively preparing for a satellite broadcasting ministry.

26 Pray for the work of *Life Line*. It was begun by evangelical Christians, and has expanded to become a broader tool for helping people with various needs, even suicide prevention. Many of the volunteer staff are Christian.

27 Pray for the work of *Friendship Radio*,

with nationwide 24-hour programming through a cable radio system. Pray that many will be touched by this ministry.

Life Line Ministry

"It seemed that I had a good marriage, but it failed. Then as the Japanese economy got worse, so did my life. The man I was living with went bankrupt. He tried to work hard to start his business up again, but instead he died. I lost the home I was living in, and his son disappeared with all the money that was left.

"Feeling alone and helpless, I headed for the famous suicide cliffs. I knew that if I jumped into the ocean, my miserable life would end immediately. But I was afraid. As I approached the cliffs, I saw a sign, 'If you need help, call *Life Line*.' I called the number, and soon a Christian pastor arrived and took me to a nearby church. Indeed it was a *Life Line*. I not only found help for continuing my life here, but I also found eternal life."

Pray for the many Japanese who contemplate suicide. Pray that churches and programs like *Life Line* will be used to bring eternal life to those in despair.

Radio Ministry

"When I was in my twenties, I listened to cable radio all the time. One day I happened to tune into Friendship Radio, and heard a Christian program. Through that program I became interested in Christianity. I wrote in to the station, and they introduced me to a church in my city. It was there that I found Christ as my Savior."



Population	40,685,474	Members	226,923
Size	32,412 km ²	Members per church	87
Density	1,255 people/km ²	Worship attendance	116,971
Cities	164	Attendance per church	45
With only 1 church	10	Baptisms	3,683
Towns/Villages	282	Previous year	3,923
With no churches	152	SS attendance	29,548
With 20,000 & no churches	19	Previous year	29,391
Churches	2,600	Missionaries	984
Churches/person	1:15,648	Missionaries/person	1:41,347

The Kanto area includes the whole Tokyo metropolitan area. It accounts for 10% of the total national land area and 31% of the population. Centralization of population in and around Tokyo creates a number of problems. The same can be said for church concentration. The number of churches per population in the 23 wards of Tokyo is high. It will continue to grow higher because Tokyo's population has been decreasing since 1988. The population of the suburban cities and adjacent prefectures is increasing, but the number of new churches has not been able to keep up.

This population shift causes many Christians to transfer to different churches. Those who once belonged to the historic churches in Tokyo proper are moving out and attending suburban churches. The number of towns and villages with no churches has been decreasing, but there are still 152 towns and villages without churches.

28 There are now 2,600 churches in the seven prefectures of Kanto. This is 23 less than 6 years ago. Adding the growing population, this means that there was one church per 15,139 in 1999, but now there is only one church for every 15,648. This decreasing rate is an important prayer concern.

The number of baptisms and children in Sunday School continues to fall in the Kanto area. Pray that each church will be revived and filled with His Spirit.

29 Pray for the ten cities which have only one church each. Pray for the 152 towns and villages which presently have no churches, and especially for the 19 with populations of over 20,000.

There are millions of Japanese in the Kanto Plains area who are living in utter darkness, facing eternal death. Pray that His Word will become a lamp unto millions of feet and a light unto their paths.

Birth Rates

Japan's birthrate has fallen to a new record low of 1.29 during 2004. "The falling birth rate threatens to leave Japan with a labor shortage in decades to come as well as eat away at the country's tax base. The national pension system, which relies on current workers to support the elderly, will also be strained as the birthrate declines." (Associated Press, 2004-6-11) Pray that churches in Japan will see this problem as a great opportunity to show God's love and salvation.



Population	2,991,804	Towns/Villages	61
Size	6,094 km ²	With no churches	33
Density	491 people/km ²	With 20,000 & no churches	6
Capital	Mito	Churches	168
Cities	22	Churches/person	1:17,808
With only 1 church	3	Members	7,848
Iwai	43,174	Members per church	47
Hitachiota	40,562	Worship attendance	4,740
Kasama	30,189	Attendance per church	28
		Missionaries	45

The Prefecture

The northern area's predominant geographic feature is the Yamizo Mountain Terrain. The south is quite flat and includes Japan's second largest lake, Kasumigaura. Ibaraki is second only to Hokkaido in cultivated land area with its strong agricultural industry.

The rule of Mito, one of three major Tokugawa clans, greatly influenced the cultural foundations of Ibaraki. This philosophy has molded the spiritual life of the people, with an emphasis on Confucian morals, and the importance of education. The area from Tsuchiura south serves as a commuter town for Tokyo, and rapid population growth is creating a very different atmosphere from the north.

Ibaraki has the least number of people claiming to have religious beliefs, and fewer believe in Buddhism than in any other prefecture. Communities have a strong sense of cohesiveness, leaving little room for individual faith.

In 1878 the Tokyo Methodist Church had started a ministry in Inba-gun in Chiba, and a missionary and Japanese Christians from that work crossed over the Tone River and established several preaching points along the way to Mizukaido.

Liebenzeller Mission, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and others have faithfully carried out work here.

1 Pray that the people of Ibaraki will come to know that there is no security except in Jesus and that their temporal and eternal hope lies in Him (Matthew 8:20) .

2 Four radio programs on Ibaraki Radio are sharing the gospel, and in Tsuchiura and Tsukuba churches are cooperating in providing cable TV programs for evangelism.

3 Ibaraki Christian Gakuen with 2,760 students—pray that this school will remain faithful to the gospel. Pray that the Hakujuji Nursing School will send many faithful Christian nurses to hospitals around Japan. Hakujuji General Hospital is one of the few Christian medical facilities.

4 Pray for the many who have no faith. Kashima and Inari Shrines are two well-known Shinto worship locations.

5 Facilities for the elderly: Tsukuba King's Garden with 50 beds, Hakujuji Home and Aiyuen with their long history of service, and others.

6 Ami is the largest unchurched town in the prefecture with 46,873 people. The other five larger unchurched towns, Chiyoda, Ina, Makabe, Ishiege, and Yachiyo have a combined population of over 120,000.



Population	2,006,717	With 20,000 & no churches	2
Size	6,408 km ²	Tanuma	29,413
Density	313 people/km ²	Ishibashi	20,340
Capital	Utsunomiya	Churches	106
Cities	12	Churches/person	1:18,931
With only 1 church	2	Members	5,055
Moka	62,613	Members per church	48
Otawara	54,904	Worship attendance	2,800
Towns/Villages	37	Attendance per church	26
With no churches	19	Missionaries	21

The Prefecture

This prefecture contains many famous hot springs and beautiful scenic spots. It experiences drastic seasonal and daily temperature changes and often suffers crop damage from frost, wind, lightning, and hail storms.

Agriculture is the main industry in Tochigi, but secondary industries are gradually being developed.

Tochigi scores highest in having no worries about natural disasters. The people are known to be conservative, modest, rather non-confrontive, and have a relatively strict ethical code.

After the Toshogu Shrine, which had been built to worship Ieyasu Tokugawa, was transferred to near Nikko, the whole area became a sacred religious area. Because of this historical background the people of Tochigi possess strong religious convictions, often tied to material blessing.

In 1873 the prohibition against Christianity was removed, and the next year believers from the Yokohama Church established preaching points at Utsunomiya and Nikko, resulting in Utsunomiya Church being established in 1885. In Sakuyama a bank manager provided a place for a Methodist missionary to stay, and became a Christian. In 1886, 14 of his family members were baptized and became the first Methodist church in Tochigi.

7 Pray that today someone will meet Jesus through these radio broadcasts: *Walking with Jesus*, *Joyful Good News*, and *Path to Zion* broadcasts.

8 Missionary Training Center has up to 40 Japanese missionaries preparing for cross-cultural ministries around the world. Asia Gakuin (Asia Rural Institute) trains missionaries for rural areas. Often up to 35 people are in training at one time.

9 At least 12 Protestant kindergartens and four day-care centers are sharing the gospel with close to 2,000 children and their families.

10 Approximately 50 people regularly train at the Child Evangelism School (CEF). Pray God's blessing on the literature ministry of Christian Book Center and the Logos Book Center, and on the 286 bed Hiki Hospital as the staff witnesses and provides a chapel ministry.

11 Over 200 people every day are being touched by Christian staff in facilities ministering to the handicapped and elderly of Tochigi prefecture. Pray for special strength for the staff and their effective witness.

12 Praise God that the number of churches, members, attendance, baptisms and SS all improved. Pray for the towns of Tanuma (29,413) and Ishibashi (20,380) with no churches and Moka and Otawara (each with over 50,000) with only one church.



Population	2,022,780	Yoshii	25,644
Size	6,356 km ²	Azuma	21,733
Density	318 people/km ²	Churches	119
Capital	Maebashi	Churches/person	1:16,998
Cities	11	Members	6,199
Towns/Villages	58	Members per church	52
With no churches	33	Worship attendance	3,359
With 20,000 & no churches	4	Attendance per church	28
Nitta	29,906	Missionaries	18
Kasakake	27,461		

The Prefecture

GUMMA HAS MANY MOUNTAINS, LIKE Mt. AKAGI, Haruna and Myogi. Typical of mountainous inland areas, temperatures are extreme both in summer and winter.

Agriculture used to dominate Gumma, but now industrial development is growing rapidly. The many mountains limit rice production, but it is ideal for raising silkworms, making Gumma the nation's highest producer of silk thread. Many towns stretching along the southern section of the prefecture are becoming centers for electronic and chemical industries.

As throughout Japan, traditional values and culture are deep-rooted. Foreigners make up 10% of the town of Oizumi, located in the south, giving it the highest ratio of foreign population in the nation. The majority are from Brazil.

In 1874 Jo Niijima returned from the USA and began teaching Christianity in his hometown, Annaka, in Gumma. Niijima encouraged Danjo Ebina, a Congregational pastor who would later become the president of Doshisha University, to come and begin evangelism throughout the area. As a result, in 1878 the Annaka Church was established.

Many Christian leaders were born in Gumma, such as Kanzo Uchimura who

founded the Mukyokai (Non-Church) movement, and Jo Niijima was founder Doshisha University.

13 Both *Life Line* (Sun.) and *Harvest Time* (Sat.) TV programs are available here. Pray that whole families will become Christians through these ministries.

14 More than five camping and retreat centers are ministering here. Many churches from the surrounding prefectures and Tokyo benefit from these facilities. May the Holy Spirit refresh and fill each Christian who comes to these facilities.

15 Over 5000 children and young people are attending Christian schools and kindergartens. For most of them this is their first and primary contact with Christianity. Pray for open hearts.

16 "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being" (Hebrews 1:3). Pray for the people of Gumma to recognize that Jesus is the Son of the living God.

17 Orphanages: Jomo Airin-sha Chigyō Home and Komochi Yama School with 56 children. Maebashi Home for Mothers & Children with 20 families. Pray for the several welfare facilities ministering to the elderly.

18 There are 33 towns and villages with no churches. Niita-gun has no churches and includes Kasakake with 27,461 people. What a needy area!

Church hymns in Japan tended to be Western and classical high-church songs until Ugo Nakada translated many of the songs used in Britain and America at the end of the 19th century, giving the church in Japan gospel songs as well. With the influence of the postwar evangelical missionaries and the changing Japanese culture, Christian folk songs became popular, and Japanese themselves began to write similar songs.

The *Sambika* was published in 1954 and the *Sambika 21* in 1997. These hymnals contain many of the high-church worship songs. The *Seika* was first published in 1958 and was recently updated as the *New Seika*. It includes more gospel and praise songs, as well as some newer Japanese hymns. In addition to these two standard hymnals, many praise and worship books are being published, with

a growing number of original praise songs being written by Japanese.

Outside the church, Christian music has opened up two doors of opportunity. One is through the classics with Bach; the other is centered in a Black Gospel music boom.

Classical music of the church, such as Handel's *Messiah* and Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, has always been popular in Japan, but recently there has been an increased interest in Bach and his Christian message. Many Japanese students travel to Germany to study Bach with the masters, and some are coming to know Jesus in the process.

Also the popularity of Black Gospel music has birthed gospel choirs all over Japan. The Halleluja Gospel Family is a growing network of about 20 gospel choirs with over 500 members (80% non-Christian).

19 Pray for *Christian musicians* who serve as soloists and instrumentalists, and for the many groups, choirs, bands and orchestras. Pray that many more will dedicate themselves to music ministries.

The *Evangelium Cantrai* serves churches through concerts they conduct throughout the country. They also seek to introduce biblically-based music in the churches.

20 The *Euodia Ensemble* seeks to spread the sweet aroma of Christ through their music ministry.

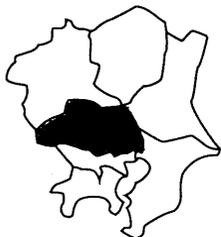
Recording uses music as a tool for evangelism by sponsoring concerts, music seminars, music production and sales.

21 *Tokyo Christian Choir* is a Christian group that receives training and performs for special concerts, such as presentations of *The Messiah* at Christmas.

22 *Word of Life Press Ministries'* Life Productions division produces recordings by Japanese Christian musicians, administers the Living Praise song book and sponsors evangelistic concerts.

23 Pray for the many Japanese studying classical Christian music, and for those who are learning Black Gospel from Christian teachers. Pray that their eyes will be opened.

24 The purpose of *Christians in the Arts Network (CAN)* is to encourage, connect, equip and mobilize musicians (and artists of all genres) to be creative leaders of a movement turning people to the worship of Jesus Christ in Japan and beyond. CAN's projects include an annual Worship Seminar, "Alleluia Seminars" for local churches and Christian Leadership Training Center.



Population	6,980,889	With no churches	27
Size	3,797 km ²	With 20,000 & no churches	6
Density	1,839 people/km ²	Churches	389
Capital	Saitama City	Churches/person	1:17,946
Cities	41	Members	22,829
With only 1 church	2	Members per church	59
Hasuda	64,339	Worship attendance	13,593
Hatogaya	55,291	Attendance per church	35
Towns/Villages	49	Missionaries	156

The Prefecture

Saitama covers a rather narrow area, stretching more than 100 kilometers from the east to the west. The western region is a series of high mountain ranges while the east is marked by hills and highlands.

Saitama's percent of cultivated area is one of the highest in the nation, even though the percent of full-time farmers is relatively low.

The flat lands occupying much of the prefecture are being urbanized, creating the feeling that it is simply an extension of Tokyo. There is a noticeable cultural difference between the highly urbanized east and the west which suffers from a severe population exit.

Mountain farming villages still maintain religious beliefs deeply rooted in folklore and superstition. On the other hand, many people in the urban areas participate in "new religion" activities.

In 1872 Kyuemon Kojima from Sugito in Saitama visited Yokohama to sell his silk products and there he heard the gospel from missionary Hepburn. In 1875 he received baptism from Ballagh, and brought a number of Bibles back home to open his own home for evangelism. In 1879 the Wato Church, the first church in Saitama, was formed.

25 The planting of new churches is scarcely keeping up with the rapid population growth. Pray that Saitama churches will catch the vision for aggressive church planting. Even though the number of churches has not increased much, the number of members and attendees is increasing. Pray that as the churches grow, their vision for evangelism will also increase.

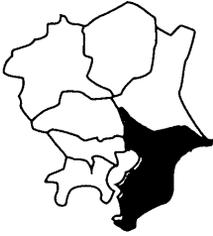
26 Television Saitama broadcasts *Life Line* (Sat. 8:00 a.m.), *Harvest Time* (Sat. 8:30 a.m.), and *Invitation to Happiness*. Pray for salvation decisions and effective follow-up.

27 Over 6,600 students are attending Seibo Gakuen, Urawa Lutheran Gakuin, Sei Gakuin and Rikkyo Gakuin. May each student experience the meaning of grace and lordship.

28 Omiya Central General Hospital with 266 beds. The home page for the two Kitamoto City clinics, Gospel Clinic and the South Gospel Clinic shares a clear gospel testimony.

29 "I will obey your word" (Psalm 119:17). May the Christians of Saitama be revived and obey His Word today.

30 The cities of Hasuda and Hatogaya have only one church each. There are 27 towns and villages with no church. Washimiya, Matsubushi, Kamisato, Kawajima, Menuma, and Yoshimi are the largest of these.



Population	6,001,032	With 20,000 & no churches	1
Size	5,156 km ²	Churches	329
Density	1,164 people/km ²	Churches/person	1:18,240
Capital	Chiba City	Members	19,718
Cities	33	Members per church	60
With only 1 church	2	Worship attendance	10,906
Asahi	40,335	Attendance per church	33
Katsuura	22,788	Missionaries	116
Towns/Villages	46		
With no churches	29		

The Prefecture

This prefecture has many old river beds and dried up lakes in the north, highlands in the middle, and hills in the south. The percent of farm land in Chiba ranks third in the nation. The Keihin Industrial Belt stretches along the shoreline with landfill projects, making it a major hub for heavy and chemical industries.

Chiba has been the least culturally developed district in the greater Tokyo area. However, with the opening of the New Narita International Airport rapid growth is taking place.

Narita Fudo Shrine, famous for its New Year's worship, attracts large crowds every year. Other famous sites include Katori Shrine in the north, the Tanjo Temple commemorating the birthplace of Nichiren Shonin (father of the Nichiren sect), and the Hokekyo Buddhist Temple which safeguards Shonin's belongings.

In 1872, the year the first Japan Protestant church was established in Yokohama, Ballagh received an invitation to evangelize in Chiba. The following year Christians from the Yokohama and Tokyo churches held meetings at Yokaichiba.

Hoden, now part of Funabashi City, was a stopover on the freight route between the Tone River and Edo. It was there that the prefecture's first church was begun in 1872.

31 Four TV programs share the gospel each week. Pray that many who are seeking help will tune in and receive God's salvation.

1 The ministries at the HiBA camp and the Agape no Sato. Ask the Lord to raise up more retreat and camp centers here that would also effectively minister to the millions in Tokyo.

2 Tokyo Christian Gakuen at Inzai is making a significant contribution to the evangelical movement by training believers for ministry. It is made up of Tokyo Christian University (160), Tokyo Christian Theological School (44), and Kyoritsu Christian Research Center (25).

3 Kujukuri Home Hospital with 189 beds providing clinical services, a nursing home and rehabilitation facilities. Pray that many will see Jesus in the loving ministry of each person working here.

4 A variety of ministries are reaching out to those who have been involved in prostitution, to needy women and children and the mentally disabled. Pray that all will clearly demonstrate God's love.

5 Sanbu (20,176) is the largest of the 29 towns and villages in Chiba with no churches. Since population will continue its rapid increase, aggressive church planting is needed.



Population	12,082,143	Churches	991
Size	2,187 km ²	Churches/person	1:12,192
Density	5,525 people/km ²	Members	118,298
City Office	Shinjuku	Members per church	119
Cities	26 and 23 wards	Worship attendance	57,359
Towns/Villages	13	Attendance per church	58
With no churches	5	Missionaries	498

The City

Tokyo, the capital of Japan, is one of the largest cities in the world. It is governed by two administrations: the eastern half is divided into 23 wards, and the western half is called the Tama district. The area is divided into the higher hills of the west, and the heavily populated eastern section.

During the Tokugawa era, Edo (later renamed Tokyo) grew into a city of a million people, the first ever of that size in the world. Perhaps this phenomenon prevented true modernization of the city. The conservative practices and beliefs commonly held throughout Kanto still exist among farming and mountain villagers in the Tama district.

There are many famous temples and shrines in the metropolitan and suburban areas, such as the historic Okunitama Shrine in Fuchu, Jindai Temple in Chofu, and Mitake Shrine. Meiji Jingu shrine always tops the list for being the most popular shrine during New Year's.

Eight members of the Yokohama Church started the first Tokyo church in Tsukujikashi town in 1873. As a result of the enthusiastic evangelism of Christians opening their homes for meetings, the Reinanzaka and Nihonbashi churches were also started.

6 There are approximately 651 churches located in the wards of Tokyo, but many of

their members live in the suburbs, or have moved away, with only their names remaining on the membership lists. Pray for these churches to have an effective ministry for the gospel. The total number of members is decreasing, but worship attendance has been rising from an average of 52 per church in 1999 to 58 in 2004.

Many of the smaller churches struggle especially because of the high cost of meeting places, and the busyness of the big city.

7 Pray for the Christian Diet members, and for groups dedicated to pray for the government and for politicians. Pray for the Tokyo and Hachioji Easter Rallies, the North Tokyo and West Tokyo Pastors Fellowships, and other groups throughout the area.

8 CLC Ochanomizu Book Store, Oasis Book Center in Shinjuku, Kyobunkan in Ginza, Avaco Book Center at Waseda, and other Christian book stores. A number of Christian radio and TV programs are available, but usually they are broadcast during the early morning hours.

9 Intercede for the more than 25 Christian schools with about 105,000 students—that they will always focus on the gospel truth. Several of the largest schools are: Aoyama Gakuin with 25,800 students, Rikkyo with 22,200 and Meiji Gakuin with 15,400. Pray that the schools will be able to hire Christian

Tokyo

teachers and staff. There are at least 119 Protestant church kindergartens and 50 day-care centers in Tokyo with 16,900 children hearing about Jesus every day.

10 “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says” (James 1:22-25). Pray for the 57,000 people of Tokyo who attend Christian worship. What a powerful influence they would have if they became doers of the Word!

11 Remember the many Christian social welfare programs. Pray for the day laborers who sleep at rooming houses in the Sanya district and other ghetto areas. Pray that the close to 30,000 homeless living in makeshift shelters will respond to the gospel, and be able to return to normal life. Remember those

who share the gospel as they serve by offering food and shelter to the homeless.

12 The multi-faceted ministry of Ochanomizu Christian Center (OCC) serves as a hub for the evangelical movement. The 9-story building is located in a busy part of Tokyo, surrounded by many colleges and universities. Its rooms and halls provide facilities for many evangelistic outreaches, a language school ministry, and offices for a number of para-church organizations.

13 Four islands of the Izu island chain are without churches. Toshima, Kozushima, Mikurajima and Aogashima, with a total population of about 1,500.

Tamagawa Seigakuin Example

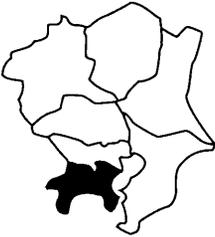
Tamagawa Seigakuin is an all girls junior and senior high school located in Setagaya-ku. There are 1,060 students. Students have a 20-minute chapel every morning. The faculty is 80% Christian. Junior high students are required to attend a local church every Sunday. About 10-15% of the senior high girls attend church regularly. On average, 15 students are baptized each year. Students also have one hour of Bible class each week.

Meiji Gakuen University Survey

A survey conducted at the university for the graduating class of 2002 indicated that 34.7% became more interested in Christianity during their time at school. Only a few are actually baptized. Pray that the 34% will have many other exposures to the gospel after university.

The Homeless in Sanya

A government estimate in 2003 lists the number of homeless in the nation at 25,000, but many believe that it is probably several times higher. They are concentrated in Tokyo's 23 wards and the cities of Yokohama, Kawasaki, Nagoya and Osaka, but are found throughout the nation. The Salvation Army and a number of other churches are seeking to creatively reach out to them. One of the most visible among those ministering is Pastor Haruko Morimoto and the Seikawa (Holy River) Christian Evangelical Church in Sanya. She has ministered in that area for 29 years, has served over 1.2 million meals, and baptized nearly 3,000 people. A number of churches have meetings and serve meals in local parks, and the Tokyo Chuo Church has over 500 homeless attending their worship services. Pray for those who daily share the gospel and lend a helping hand.



Population	8,600,109	Churches	498
Size	2,414 km ²	Churches/person	1:17,269
Density	3,563 people/km ²	Members	46,976
Capital	Yokohama	Members per church	94
Cities	19	Worship attendance	24,214
With only 1 church	1	Attendance per church	49
Minami Ashigara	44,321	Missionaries	130
Towns/Villages	18		
With no churches	6		

The Prefecture

Other than the mountainous areas found in the west, most of Kanagawa consists of tableland and hills. While the climate of the areas from the Sagami Bay to the Miura Peninsula is mild, the mountain areas suffer from cold temperatures and heavier rain.

Yokohama is the port city which opened its door to the outer world at the end of the Tokugawa era, and is the second largest city in the nation. The backbone of the economy consists of a variety of industries centered around the Keihin industrial district.

Kanagawa is the birthplace of Japan's cultural reform. Because of its international seaport and foreign influence, many progressive influences can be seen. On the other hand, there exists a strong local mentality due to the desire to be different from Tokyo. The people in the inland areas are still conservative and hold on to old traditions.

Tsurugaoka Hachiman Shrine dates back to the 12th century. The outdoor statue of Buddha, called Dai Butsu, (1252) is gigantic and impressive, and Hase Kannon, the Goddess of Mercy statue, is 500 years older than that.

This is where the Protestant Church began, with that spiritual impact reaching throughout Japan. In 1859 the first Protestant missionaries arrived, even though Christianity was still

officially banned. In January, 1872 a prayer meeting made up of missionaries, English-speaking lay people and several Japanese students was started. This prayer meeting continued for over two months and resulted in the confession of faith and baptism of nine students. Eleven people became the charter members of the first Protestant church in Japan, organized on March 10, 1872.

14 There are a number of churches in the Yokohama and Shonan areas, where there is less resistance to the gospel. Many of these are the first churches started in Japan, while others were planted by postwar evangelical groups in the last 50 years. Pray that these various groups will sense the unity of Christ in the gospel.

15 A family in Yokohama celebrates a heritage of five generations of Christians. The first Christian in the line was also one of the first Protestant Christians, who became one of the first pastors. There are now 25 living believers in the family. Pray that every Christian parent will also see the next generation following Jesus.

Pray for "Harbor View of Christmas," a special evangelistic outreach in which 100 churches cooperate. There are usually 600 people who come to hear this gospel presentation.

Kanagawa

16 Even though there are many resorts in Kanagawa, there are few Christian camping and retreat facilities. Pray for Motoyu Tamagawa Inn in Atsugi, Tanzawa Home in Kiyokawa, and others.

17 The many well-known Christian schools: Ferris Women's School with 3,150 students, Kanto Gakuin with 16,350 (jr. high through college), Meiji Gakuin University Yokohama Campus, Aoyama Gakuin University Atsugi Campus, Toyo Eiwa Women's University with 2,872 students in Yokohama, and others. There are 63 Protestant kindergartens and 27 day-care centers here with 10,600 children.

18 Pray for the many children and adults who attend English conversation classes at churches and Christian schools throughout Japan. For most it is their first time to read the Bible. Christian general hospitals: Kinugasa Hospital with 299 beds and Neo Gospel Clinic.

19 Christian social welfare facilities such as Yokohama Training Center for the Blind (started 114 years ago) with 35 in training now, Japan Minakami School in Yokohama, and orphanages Elizabeth Sanders Home with 100 residents and Shiroyama School with 55 students.

20 One of the six unchurched towns and villages, Kiyokawa Village, covers a wide mountainous area. Even though it has no church, a Christian ministry called Tanzawa Home is located there. The other five towns have fairly easy access to churches in adjacent areas. Pray that these areas will also have churches within their borders.

21 Pro-Life Japan (PLJ) provides various services including abortion prevention, medical attention for the mother's health, support at childbirth, and adoption placement. April 23 is set aside as "Sanctity of Life Day" in many churches.

The Bible—The Answer for the Future

"I worked hard to make myself into a successful person. I even consulted a fortune teller concerning making my signature seal which I needed for business. He told me that I needed to change a number of things in my life. I did whatever he told me to do. I bought a cemetery plot, joined the Rotary Club, had my whole family say prayers to a certain goddess every morning and evening, and followed his counsel faithfully. He taught me many things, even concerning the end of the world.

"One day I heard someone talk about a great war at the end of the world. I was deeply interested and asked who the fortune teller was that predicted these things. I found out that it wasn't a fortune teller, but was written in the Bible. So I bought a Bible and read it from morning till night. I was eager to learn more about the Bible and about a life that pleases God.

"A Christian sent me a cassette tape of a sermon. I knew that if I could talk with the man on the tape, he would answer my questions about the Bible. So I got his phone number and called him. He showed me that I was a sinner and that Jesus was the Savior. As a result, I became a Christian. My wife and three daughters also became Christians after they saw the change in my life."



Population	21,565,682	Churches	1,077
Size	66,312 km ²	Churches/person	1:20,024
Density	353 people/km ²	Members	59,686
Cities	145	Member per church	55
With no churches	2	Worship attendance	32,338
With only 1 church	32	Attendance per church	29
Towns/Villages	468	Baptisms	1,016
With no churches	330	Previous year	1092
With 20,000 pop. & no churches	25	SS attendance	7,630
		Previous year	7,760
		Missionaries	254
		Missionaries/person.	1:84,904

Chubu area is in the center of Honshu Island. It does not represent any particular political, economic or industrial boundary. It is difficult to describe this district briefly due to its vast area and different land features: plains and mountains; city areas around Nagoya and the mountain farming villages of the Chukyo area; the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Japan.

There is a striking contrast between the Tokaido Belt area and the three Hokuriku prefectures—Toyama, Ishikawa and Fukui—which face the Sea of Japan. These three prefectures have less than 200 churches, with only 8,675 church members. On the other hand, Shizuoka and Aichi prefectures on the Pacific side have 546 Protestant churches, with 34,366 church members. These statistics are deceiving, because Aichi has fewer churches per population than Ishikawa, but more than Toyama.

22 Pray that the 1,077 churches in the Chubu area will grow and reach out into new areas in ways that will meet the unique

needs of each community. Pray that twenty new churches will be started in this, the most under-churched area of Japan. Niigata and Ishikawa prefectures have had a very low number of new churches started during the last ten years. Actually Niigata has decreased by three churches and Ishikawa by two.

23 “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head” (Matthew 8:20). Pray for the people of Japan that they will come to know that there is no security except in Jesus and that their temporal and eternal hope lies in Him.

Pray that churches be started in the 330 unchurched villages and towns. There is an urgent need for churches in 25 villages and towns with populations over 20,000. The Pacific Ocean side with its warm climate and convenient transportation systems make it an ideal location for Christian retreat/camp facilities.

Stressful Life

More than half of Japan’s households describe living conditions as strenuous, a national household survey has found. In the 2003 national livelihood survey conducted by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, 53.9 percent of surveyed households said life was “strenuous,” the highest percentage ever recorded to date.

Mainichi Shimbun, Japan, May 29, 2004



Population	2,455,996	Yoshida	25,477
Size	12,112 km ²	Nakakambara	20,625
Density	203 people/km ²	Shiozawa	20,583
Capital	Niigata City	Churches	94
Cities	21	Churches/person	1:26,128
With only 1 church	6	Members	4,430
Towns/Villages	77	Members per church	47
With no churches	67	Worship attendance	2,441
With 20,000 & no churches	3	Attendance per church	26
		Missionaries	23

The Prefecture

Niigata is the fifth largest prefecture in the nation. The heaviest snowfalls in the nation are recorded in this area. Thirty kilometers into the Japan Sea sits Sado Island, the eighth largest island in Japan.

Niigata is second only to Hokkaido in the amount of rice it produces. Heavy snowfall limits the possibility of outdoor work, so many people seek work in the bigger cities during the winter.

The people have received spiritual support from the Buddhism which came to Japan over 700 years ago. One Buddhist form was taught by Nichiren, who was once exiled to Sado Island. The other was introduced by Shinran and called Jodo Shinshu. It teaches that man cannot be saved by his works or prayers, but only by the mercy of Amida.

Samuel Brown received an invitation to teach in a local government school in 1869, but was dismissed because he taught the Bible on Sundays. In 1875 T. Palm with the cooperation of Oshikawa and Yoshida, carried on a medical ministry. (Palm and his wife chose Niigata because there were no other missionaries there.) That year he lost his wife and baby in childbirth. Mary's death was influential in bringing the first person in Niigata to faith, and leading to approximately 100 being converted and the first Niigata church begun.

24 A 2000 survey showed that 13,000 families were watching *Life Line*, a Christian TV broadcast. They had 328 responses from non-Christians, 48 enrolled in a Bible correspondence course, three introduced to a church, and one baptized.

25 Pray that Niigata Life Center and Seiko Book Store will bless many and also be financially stable.

26 Niigata Bible School with 16 students has twice as many as three years ago. It has endured hardship for years, yet has nurtured and raised up many Christian workers.

27 Keiwa Gakuen School with 1,200 students. There are at least 18 Protestant kindergartens and six day-care centers with 2,300 children in the prefecture.

28 The city of Ryotsu with over 17,000 people had no church, but merged with Sado City in 2004. Agano, Mitsuke, Tsubame, Shirone, Itoikawa and Tochio have only one church each, a total of over 230,000 people with only six churches.

29 Especially pray that churches will soon be started in Yoshida, Muramatsu and Shiozawa towns, each with over 20,000 population. Santo-gun with four towns and villages and over 29,000 has no church.

Pray for the many who suffered because of the October 23, 2004 earthquake. There were 21 fatalities, 1,900 injured and 60,000 unable to return to their homes

30 The Japan Evangelical Association's (JEA) *Relief and Development Commission* makes special appeals to the JEA churches to help in domestic and international relief efforts, and distributes the monies through evangelical organizations in the area.

1 *World Vision Japan's* ministry includes providing disaster relief, a child sponsorship program and soliciting child support for poor and needy children in third world countries.

2 *Food For The Hungry* sends Christians to these countries to assist in relief and development programs. It also sponsors English conversation classes in Japan, including teaching materials that inform students about poverty.

3 *Diaconia Centers* in Sakura, Chiba and Nagano prefecture provide various Christian volunteer activities and counseling services to those suffering from alcoholism and abortion trauma. The centers also work with students who have dropped out of school.

Mothers' Counseling Center at the Ochanomizu Christian Center was founded as a support system for mothers from dysfunctional families, teaching them to raise their children with kindness and mercy in a

God-loving family environment.

4 *Church School Growth (CS Seicho)* center publishes *Seicho*, a comprehensive Sunday School curriculum, as well as camp curriculum, the Living Bible (Japanese) and books for children and family life. It sponsors Joy Joy Camps for elementary and middle school children and is part of Word of Life Press Ministries.

Japan Child Evangelism Fellowship and its training institute holds *Hikari no Ko Kai* (Children of the Light) evangelistic rallies, and Sunday School teachers' training seminars to help local churches in their ministries.

5 *Bible Club Association for Junior High Students (Chugaku Seisho Kurabu Kyo-ryokukai)*, sponsored by Scripture Union, teaches the truths of the Bible to junior high school students, leads them to faith, and encourages them to read the Bible daily.

Family Focus Japan, a sister organization of Focus On The Family, serves churches by strengthening families and proclaiming the gospel through the medium of family issues, by means of a radio broadcast, seminars, videos, books and a magazine. Tim Cole, TEAM missionary, serves as director.

Child sex victim rate skyrockets

Children in Japan fell victim to violent sex attacks about once every 3 1/2 hours on average last year, a *Mainichi* survey of Japan's prefectural police forces reported.

Violent sex attacks on children have soared by 70 percent over the past decade, according to the results of a poll on 46 of the country's 47 prefectural police forces. Police figures showed that last year more than 2,600 children of junior high school age or younger fell victim to rape or indecent assault. The figure is about 70 percent greater than the 1,530 reported in 1994, the last time a similar survey was carried out by police.

Mainichi Shimbun, May 12, 2005

In Japan there are 7,784 Protestant churches (Church Information Service, 11/04), 1,027 Roman Catholic churches, and 73 Russian Orthodox churches (*Christian Yearbook Nenkan*, 2004). There are over 160 different Protestant denominations and church associations, with the largest group being the Japan United Church of Christ (*Kyodan*) with 1,731. Two groups, Japan Baptist Convention and the Anglican Church, have over 300 churches and ten have over 100 churches. These thirteen groups represent two-thirds of all Protestant churches.

Besides their various denominations and conferences, Protestant churches in Japan associate with broader fellowships such as the *Nippon* (Japan) Council of Churches (NCC) with members including mainline denominations such as the United Church

of Christ, Episcopal, Evangelical Lutheran, Baptist Convention (*Renmei*), Baptist Union (*Domei*), Korean Christian Church and others. Their evangelical counterpart is the Japan Evangelical Association (JEA). It is part of the World Evangelical Alliance, and at the regional level the Evangelical Fellowship of Asia (EFA). If the evangelical churches within the NCC are included, probably more than half of the Protestant churches in Japan can be called evangelical.

In 1996 the Nippon Revival Association (NRA) was formed to pray and seek for a revival in Japan. The members tend to be Charismatic or Pentecostal.

Approximately half of the missionaries in Japan are associated with the Japan Evangelical Missionary Association (JEMA).

6 *Ochanomizu Christian Center* in Tokyo provides meeting rooms and office space for JEA, JEMA and many evangelical ministries in addition to its student outreach. Ochanomizu Bible Institute, which trains lay Christian leaders, also uses the Center.

7 *Japan Evangelical Missionary Association (JEMA)* is made up of 1,210 missionaries and 44 mission organizations. Pray for spiritual power and faith as they minister in many resistant situations.

8 *Japan Evangelical Association (JEA)* represents 1,521 churches, 306 evangelistic preaching stations, 54 church associations, and 38 para-church groups. Kiyoshi Gushiken serves as General Secretary. There are six commissions which serve the association: Evangelism, Missions, Relief, Social Issues, Theology, Women and Youth. In August 2003

JEA sponsored the Global Missions Youth Conference with 2,600 people attending. A number of the youth dedicated themselves to full-time ministry. Pray for JEA as they plan for the next youth rallies.

9 *Kansai Mission Research Center (KMRC)* gathers and distributes data concerning mission work in Japan and the world, conducts seminars and publishes literature to assist the church in its mission.

10 *Japan Evangelical Theological Society* does research and seeks to help the church grow strong in an evangelical understanding of the Word of God.

11 *Tokyo Mission Research Institute (TMRI)* is dedicated to the research of issues that hinder or stimulate the building of a solid Christian church in Japan. They sponsor study programs, research and publishing.



Population	1,118,661	Towns/Villages	26
Size	4,247 km ²	With no churches	18
Density	263 people/km ²	With 20,000 & no churches	2
Capital	Toyama City	Churches	41
Cities	9	Churches/person	1:27,284
With only 1 church	4	Members	1,551
Himi	57,016	Members per church	38
Uozu	46,568	Worship attendance	1,055
Shinminato	37,200	Attendance per church	26
Namerikawa	34,248	Missionaries	11

The Prefecture

The rough terrain of the Tateyama Mountains in the east has made outside access next to impossible. Heavy snowfalls in the mountains provide vital water reservoirs. The water seldom causes floods in the flat lands below. In fact, unusual dryness and gusty winds can create dangerous fire conditions.

Most of the prefecture's cultivated land is wet rice fields. The backbone of the economy, however, has been shifting to heavy and chemical industries.

The percent of Buddhist followers is the highest in the nation. Huge numbers of people believe and follow Shinran's teachings. In contrast to other places, they do not practice Buddhism so much for material gain, but for deeper spiritual reasons, seeking to escape the corruption of this world.

In 1880 the United Church of Christ established a church in Kanazawa, Ishikawa prefecture. T.C. Wynn, who had been active in that church, brought four people with him as he crossed over to Toyama, and on August 13th held the first evangelistic meeting in Toyama City. The two-day meeting was attended by 800 people. The Methodist work began in 1890, with a preaching station established the following year.

12 Because of the powerful Buddhist influence and small number of churches, it is important that a strong sense of trust and unity among the churches be developed. Toyama's church attendance and membership statistics are among the lowest in the country.

13 There are no Christian book stores, training/camping facilities, Christian schools or medical services in the prefecture. Pray for *The Light of the World* (Sun. 7:10 a.m.) and *Bible Talks* aired on North Japan Radio.

14 "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation" (1 Peter 2:2). Pray the churches will experience a great hunger to grow in faith, and bring others to Jesus.

15 In answer to many prayers there is now a church in Namerikawa. A church building was constructed in March, 2004, and evangelism has begun. Praise God.

16 Pray for the four kindergartens and three church-affiliated day-care centers with 650 children. Pray for the witness of Christians working in secular welfare programs.

17 There are no churches in 18 towns and villages in the mountain areas of Tateyama and Gokayama. Osawano and Yatsuo are towns with 22,000 people and no church. Himi, Uozu, Shin Minato and Namerikawa have only one church each.



Population	1,175,071	Towns/Villages	30
Size	4,185 km ²	With no churches	21
Density	281 people/km ²	Churches	57
Capital	Kanazawa	Churches/person	1:20,615
Cities	9	Members	3,323
With only 1 church	3	Members per church	58
Kaga	67,253	Worship attendance	1,928
Kahoku	35,411	Attendance per church	34
Suzu	20,073	Missionaries	4

The Prefecture

There is much rain in winter and summer, and excluding the shoreline, the area experiences heavy snowfall. Noto Peninsula produces dry field crops and fruits. The fishing industry is successful because of good seaports on the Noto Peninsula.

Ever since the Sengoku era, people's lives have been stable. People are conservative and somewhat negative, partly due to the wintry cold, heavy snow, and a lack of sunshine. Ishikawa is called "Kingdom of Buddhism," and it is very common to see people attending weekly Buddhist sermons and Sunday schools. Their belief is blended with ancient Shintoist and primitive folklore beliefs, with the various regional religious festivities reflecting this syncretism.

In the 16th century when Christianity began to be suppressed, Ukon Takayama was placed under house arrest. Against all odds, he continued his Catholic mission, starting a church and a theological school. Over 1,000 people were converted during 25 years of ministry until he was exiled to Manila.

In 1879 T.C. Wynn was sent to Kanazawa as a middle school English teacher. While teaching English he received special permission to begin a preaching meeting. After six months of evangelism seven people were baptized. The following year a building was constructed and the first church in Hokuriku was organized.

18 Pray that the *Harvest Time* TV broadcast (Sat. 5:30 a.m.) will bring many to Jesus. Over 10,000 people listen regularly to the *Light of the World* (Sun. 6:35 a.m.) aired on Hokuriku Radio.

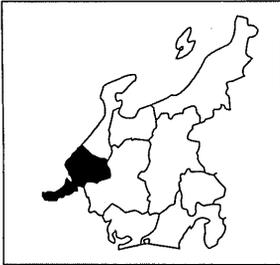
19 Pray for the Noto Bible Church whose facilities are used for a retreat center, accommodating sixty. The cities of Kaga (67,253), Kahoku (35,411) and Suzu (20,073) have only one church each.

20 Pray for CLC Books Kanazawa Store. Another book store, Fukuin Kan, which was started in a Methodist church, continues in Kanazawa, with publishing work in Tokyo.

21 Hokuriku Gakuin with 1,400 students (jr./sr. high school, women's jr. college at Kanazawa) was founded in 1885; it remains as the only Christian school in Hokuriku. Pray that they will be faithful and continue to prosper. Also remember the 16 church-affiliated kindergartens and seven day-care centers with 2,000 children.

22 There are some clinics operated by Christians, but no larger hospitals. Pray for children's welfare facilities such as Baiko Children's Home with 80 children at Kanazawa, and Shio Children's Home with 45 children at Shio.

23 In the last 10 years the number of churches in Ishikawa has decreased by two. Pray that each church will reach out in love to those around them.



Population	824,824	Towns/Villages	26
Size	4,189 km ²	With no churches	18
Density	197 people/km ²	Churches	42
Capital	Fukui City	Churches/person	1:19,639
Cities	8	Members	1,750
With only 1 church	2	Members per church	42
Awara	31,631	Worship attendance	888
Katsuyama	27,892	Attendance per church	21
		Missionaries	5

The Prefecture

Complex mountain ranges run from the north-east to the southwest. A ragged shoreline in the northwest creates a unique natural beauty. This prefecture experiences heavy snow in the winter and rain all year round, making the weather as complex as its geography.

Despite its small size, Fukui ranks among the highest in rice production. The textile industry is also strong. Over 90% of the nation's eyeglass frames come from Sabae city. Possibly because of being close to the Kansai area, Fukui is more open to cultural change than the other two Hokuriku prefectures.

There are more Buddhist temples per population here than any other prefecture in Japan. Traditional Buddhist influence is so great that even Soka Gakkai has few believers.

The son of a samurai family and member of the first graduating class of Doshisha University, Shigeyoshi Homma, was led to the Lord at the school, and in 1879 he set off to evangelize in Gifu and Fukui. He was assisted by Kinoshige Matsuura who had become a believer while in Kobe. After becoming a Christian, he inherited the family public bath business, but had to give it up because of local prejudice against his faith. So he turned his home into a Christian lecture hall. From 1880 the United Church sent an evangelist every year to minister there, and in 1886 the church was established.

24 Pray for the pastors and wives of the 42 churches—that they would be effective leaders, and that there would be a strong sense of God's love throughout each fellowship.

Pray that each of the 888 believers will win one person to Christ this year. In 2004 there was only one baptism in the whole prefecture.

25 There are no Christian training or camping facilities, Christian medical or welfare facilities, nor schools. Awara (31,631) and Katsuyama (27,892) have only one church each.

26 Pray for the ministry of Fukui Christian Book Store and the radio programs aired by Fukui Radio: *Light of the World* aired for five minutes daily (6:40 a.m.), *What's Gospel* (5:30 p.m.) and *Beyond the Sunset* (5:40 p.m.) aired every Sunday.

27 Pray for the teachers and children at the nine church-affiliated kindergartens and two day-care centers. 910 children are learning about Jesus every day at these 11 locations.

28 Pray for the many people of Fukui who this week will attend a traditional Buddhist funeral. Pray that they would sense the Creator-God's existence, and seek Him.

29 Pray for churches to be started in the 18 unchurched towns and villages. In Niyugun with three towns and villages and a total population of 37,000, only Shimizu town has a church.



Population	882,678	With no churches	32
Size	4,465 km ²	With 20,000 & no churches	1
Density	198 people/km ²	Kawaguchiko	23,825
Capital	Kofu	Churches	60
Cities	8	Churches/person	1:14,711
With only 1 church	3	Members	3,234
Tsuru	33,413	Members per church	54
Yamanashi City	32,064	Worship attendance	1,523
Enzan	26,478	Attendance per church	25
Towns/Villages	48	Missionaries	7

The Prefecture

Yamanashi straddles the fosse magna (great earth ditch) which divides Honshu Island into its eastern and western halves. The central area is sandwiched in by Mount Yatsugatake to the north and Mount Fuji to the south. Weather in the basin area is very cold in the winter and hot in the summer.

Mountains which surround most of the prefecture have forced people to have a strong sense of community. This sense of intimacy between family and friends is the strongest in the nation.

While completing his Buddhist training, Nichiren himself remained secluded in Minobu in the south. The Nichiren Buddhist headquarters was later established there.

In 1877 a school in Minami Koma invited Canadian Methodist missionary, C. S. Eby, as a special lecturer. This resulted in an English school, called Yamanashi Eiwa Gakuin. The next year his whole family moved to Kofu, and on July 7th he opened a preaching station. The missionary went by horseback throughout the prefecture, starting 20 different preaching stations and seven churches.

A number of denominations have churches in Kofu City, but rural villages have a very limited number of church facilities. With the modernization of the railroad and highway connecting to Tokyo, people's attitudes are gradually changing.

30 Seisen Ryo Dormitory seeks to provide young people with hope, food and health. Three cities with only one church each are Tsuru (33,413), Yamanashi City (32,064) and Enzan (26,478).

31 Christian retreat facilities: Japan Torch-bearers Yamanakako Center, Tokyo YMCA Yamanakako Center, Zion Bible Camp (Lake Yamanaka), and several others.

1 Pray for *Gospel Time*, on Yamanashi Radio (Sun. 6:15 a.m.).

Pray God's blessing on the seven missionaries and their families here, as well as those laboring throughout Japan, for the unique pressures they may be experiencing.

2 Historic Yamanashi Eiwa Gakuin School, and its 2,044 students, Christian Nature High School with 28 students. There are also several Christian vocational schools, six Protestant kindergartens and three day-care centers with 805 children.

3 Shimizu St. Luke's Clinic founded in 1950 at Takane and the social ministries at Donguri Ranch with 10 participants; Hosanna Garden for the visually impaired; and Home of Light with 30 children who are mentally disabled.

4 There are 32 towns and villages without churches, Kawaguchiko (23,825) being the largest. In Minami Tsuru-gun there are six towns and villages with a total population of close to 50,000, and only one church.



Population	2,200,896	Churches	151
Size	13,585 km ²	Churches/person	1:14,575
Density	162 people/km ²	Members	6,904
Capital	Nagano City	Members per church	46
Cities	18	Worship attendance	3,673
Towns/Villages	99	Attendance per church	24
With no churches	74	Missionaries	66
With 20,000 & no churches	1		
Minowa	24,710		

The Prefecture

NAGANO PREFECTURE IS THE FOURTH LARGEST PREFECTURE. In the west are the three mountain ranges called the Japanese Alps. The prefecture is centered around agriculture, with the highest percent of the population engaged in agriculture in the Kanto and Kinki areas.

From the Sengoku era into the Edo era Nagano was divided into smaller governmental divisions. Although it was finally reunified after many centuries, Nagano prefecture is still characterized by many different local distinctives. Nagano is known for its emphasis on educating children. Despite the fact that Zenkoji Temple is seen as the symbol of Nagano, fewer people believe in life after death than any other prefecture.

Shin Inagaki from the Ueda Fief went to Yokohama in 1872 to learn English, and there met J.H. Ballagh. He returned to Ueda and began a Bible study and prayer meeting in his home. He also helped start a prohibition movement, among other evangelistic efforts. The following year in August, 16 people were baptized and in October, 19 more. So the first church in Nagano was organized in Ueda with 37 members.

Although there are several Christian medical facilities, there is only one Christian school, the Catholic Seisen Girls High School and Jr. College at Nagano City.

5 There are a number of Christian camps and pensions here, such as Megumi Chalet.

The peak camping season begins the end of July, but pray for preparations that this year many will be refreshed and many will come to Jesus.

6 Christian book stores: Ueda Bible Center, Yutakana Inochi Bible (Matsumoto). Pray for radio programs: *The Light of the World* (Sun. 7:10 a.m.) and *True Salvation* (Sun. 6:20 a.m.) aired on Shin-etsu Radio. *The Gospel Hour* is televised on Sunday at 5:45 a.m.

7 Chaldea Kai Ueda Izumi Garden, a facility for 30 mentally disabled patients and Kobokan Kutsukake Children's Home with 30 children. The children's home began in 1919.

8 There is only one small Catholic school in the whole prefecture. Pray for the 16 church-affiliated kindergartens and four day-care centers that are ministering to 1,800 children.

9 Christian medical facilities: San-iku-kai Toyono Hospital with 60 beds; Shinsei Hospital with 151 beds and its affiliated ministry for the elderly; and Aiwa Hospital with 43 beds at Nagano. Pray for other Christian physicians, and their witness.

10 Pray for the 74 unchurched towns and villages. Higashi Chikuma-gun with its 10 towns and villages has a population of 50,000 with no churches. Shimoina-gun has 17 towns and villages, 70,000 people and only two churches.

	Population	2,106,917	With no churches	46
	Size	10,598 km ²	With 20,000 & no churches	5
	Density	199 people/km ²	Churches	86
	Capital	Gifu City	Churches/person	1:24,499
	Cities	19	Members	4,128
	With no churches	2	Members per church	48
	Motosu	34,795	Worship attendance	2,279
	Mino	24,511	Attendance per church	27
	With only 1 church	7	Missionaries	11
	Towns/Villages	60		

The Prefecture

Although Gifu is the nation's seventh largest prefecture, it ranks second as most uninhabitable. The north and east are mountainous, while the south has broad plains. Due to its vast forest and mountains, there is a thriving forestry industry.

Despite its colorful history, the people of Gifu are conservative and very content with their way of life. They are also very independent and hard working.

Gifu ranks fourth for fewest people who believe in life after death, but it also ranks fourth for the number of Buddhist believers, following the three Hokuriku prefectures.

In 1887 British missionary A.F. Chapel came to the prefecture to teach English in a middle school. Through his witness 27 believers formed the first church in 1890. That same year a preaching point was established at Ogaki, and in July, meetings were held in a theater where over 10,000 heard the gospel. This resulted in 22 different preaching points throughout the Ogaki area.

Fredrik Franson from Sweden had a strong burden for Japan, and established the Scandinavian Alliance Mission (now TEAM). They chose the Hida area for their missionary field because it was one of the most remote places in Japan.

11 "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks

a rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:29). Pray for pastors and missionaries as they share this powerful Word.

12 Christian retreat facilities: Abram's Inn, Nagoya YMCA Hiwada Kogen Camp, Nao Christian Sanso, and others.

13 Pray that today Christians will have opportunity to share Jesus with those around them in their neighborhoods, workplaces or schools.

14 Gifu Seibi Gakuin with 2,583 students (Seibi Girls High School and Chubu Women's Jr. College) is the only Christian school in Gifu. Ask God to bless the four church-related kindergartens and one day-care center with a total of 620 children.

15 Gifu Kunmo Society (providing training for the visually impaired) whose facilities include a braille library and Aimo Hall. There are 1,300 people using these services. Also pray for the Japan Children's Foster Home with 80 children and 26 staff in Gifu City.

16 Pray for Mino and Motosu which have no churches. See page 84 for more information.

Pray for the five towns with populations of over 20,000: Tarui, Ikeda, Ono, Ginan, and Godo, and seven cities: Seki (75,323), Hashima (66,953), Toki (62,567), Gujo (49,719), Minokamo (47,728), Gero (39,356) and Yamagata (31,464) with only one church each.



Population	3,773,140	Towns/Villages	47
Size	7,779 km ²	With no churches	20
Density	485 people/km ²	With 20,000 & no churches	2
Capital	Shizuoka City	Churches	231
Cities	22	Churches/person	1:16,334
With only 1 church	3	Members	13,368
Atami	42,289	Members per church	58
Omaezaki	35,069	Worship attendance	6,784
Tenryu	22,517	Attendance per church	29
		Missionaries	38

The Prefecture

The eastern side of the prefecture consists of the Izu Peninsula and Suruga Bay. The west has a simple shoreline stretching from Omaezaki to the Atsumi Peninsula.

Due to its transportation systems, natural resources, and population, Shizuoka ranks in the top ten for its overall economy. It is the nation's top producer of tea, and the fishing industry has the largest catch of tuna in the nation.

Religious awareness among the people of Shizuoka is slightly below average. They show an interest in materialism, and do not strongly rely on the gods or Buddha.

An American educator from the Christian Church came as a teacher to the Shizuoka School in 1871, and even though Christianity was still forbidden, he invited students to his home for a Bible study on Sundays. In 1874 a Canadian missionary also came to the area. Through his Bible classes 11 were baptized the first year, and the Shizuoka Methodist Church resulted as the first church in the prefecture.

Shizuoka and Mishima cities were main areas of missionary activity during the early years of the Meiji era, and Izu was an important target for the Alliance Mission. After the War, the Immanuel General Mission carried out extensive mission work in the prefecture and now has nine churches in the area.

17 Christian book stores: Shizuoka Seibunsha, Shizuoka Life Center, and Hamamatsu Christian Book Store Ozora. Pray for *Life Line* (Sat. 5:00 a.m.) on TV and *Gospel Hour* (Sat 5:00 a.m.) aired on Shizuoka Radio.

18 Christian camping facilities: Tozanso in Gotemba, Amagi Sanso (room for 400 people) in Amagi Yugashima, Lake Hamana House of God in Kosai, Hamana Fukuinso in Mikkabi, and others.

19 The gospel first came here through an educator-missionary. Pray that God will continue to touch students through the four Christians schools with 4,300 students, and the 29 kindergartens and day-care centers.

20 Seirei Welfare medical work with three hospitals and a total of 1,700 beds and two clinics: Koyama Fukusei Hospital with 60 beds, ministering since 1889, and Sanikukai Tokai Clinic.

21 More than 650 elderly are living in four different Christian facilities. Pray that through the loving service here whole families will be attracted to Christ.

22 Three cities have only one church each: Atami, Omaezaki and Tenryu. Pray that churches will be started in the 23 towns and villages with no churches. Yoshida (27,999) and Daito (20,942) are especially needy.

	Population	7,027,499	Towns/Villages	55
	Size	5,152 km ²	With no churches	34
	Density	1,364 people/km ²	With 20,000 & no churches	11
	Capital	Nagoya	Churches	315
	Cities	31	Churches/person	1:22,310
	With only 1 church	4	Members	20,998
	Bisai	58,390	Members per church	67
	Tokoname	50,456	Worship attendance	11,767
	Iwakura	46,175	Attendance per church	37
	Takahama	39,083	Missionaries	89

The Prefecture

Eastern Aichi occupies the southern tip of the Kiso Mountain Range with plains on the east and west. The west occupies the southern half of the Nobi Plain. The climate is mild with much rain. Winter brings very dry weather.

Aichi has the fourth largest population in the nation. With Nagoya midway between Tokyo and Osaka, it has become an economic and cultural force in Japan. Agriculture is a leading industry with a gross product that ranks sixth in the nation.

Aichi's roots directly connect with the Tokugawa clan, with Mikawa noted as the clan's ancestral location of origin. One of the three Tokugawa brothers ruled from the Nagoya Castle on Owari.

Many people of Aichi have feelings of uncertainty about life, possibly because of their bent towards realism. There are few traditional large-scale festivals in spite of the large number of Buddhists. During the War the popularity of Atsuta Shrine was second only to the Ise Shrine. Many worshippers still gather there during New Year's.

In 1875 Eikichi Ohara from Aichi came in contact with a Southern Methodist missionary in Yokohama, was baptized, and returned home. The following year the

missionary came to his home town to start a preaching outreach which resulted in the Nishio Church. Christian ministry started in Nagoya in 1877 and two years later the church was organized.

23 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:13). Pray for those who are hearing the Word, but have not yet taken the final step of calling on His Name. Also pray that Christians will be able to lead their families to Jesus.

Pray for Tokai Bible Theological Institute (28 students), an interdenominational school which trains local Christians for the ministry. The institute celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2005.

24 There are at least six pastors' fellowship groups that meet in the prefecture. An example is the South Nagoya Early Morning Pastors' Prayer Time, meeting the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 a.m. Up to 13 pastors gather to ask God's blessing on Japan, Nagoya and their churches.

Christian book stores in Nagoya: CLC, Life Center and Seibunsha. Also pray for the Toyohashi Life Center. Pray for radio programs: *Invitation to Christ* and *Bible Stories* aired by Chubu Nippon Radio.

25 There are a number of Christian schools here. Praise God for each pre-Christ-

tian who will hear the Bible today. Ask the Holy Spirit for special help for the Christian (continued from page 45) teachers and staff. Schools include Kinjo Gakuin with close to 6,500 students, Nagoya Gakuin (1,975 students), Ryujo Women's Jr. College (427 students), all in Nagoya; Nagoya Gakuin University (4,780 students) in Seto and the high school (1,975 students) in Nagoya City; and YMCA/YWCA-affiliated vocational schools. There are 26 Protestant kindergartens and nine day-care centers with 4,580 children.

26 Christian medical facilities: Aichi International Hospital (52 beds) and its hospice facility with 20 beds. Pray that many will turn to Christ in this hospice and similar facilities around Japan. Also remember the ministry of Agape Clinic and Itsuai Home for 56 children.

27 Pray for the Christians in the four cities with only one church each: Bisai, Tokoname, Iwakura, Takahama. Pray that today they might be led to start a Bible study or some kind of outreach to their neighbors.

28 There are 34 unchurched towns and villages in Aichi. Chita-gun has five towns with 150,000 people and only the church in Take-toyo town. There are 11 unchurched towns with over 20,000 population, the most of any prefecture. They are Higashi Ura (47,124), Yatomi (36,573), Nishiharu (33,294), Agui (24,540), Isshiki (24,445), Mihama (24,348), Miwa (23,976), Saori (23,213), Minamichita (22,624) Kira (22,237), and Oguchi (21,211). Also remember the areas around Nagoya where the population is growing rapidly, but church-planting is falling behind.

Freedom from Guilt

"I came from Japan to America one year ago with my husband who works as a researcher. I teach Japanese for a language school. There are no Christians in my family. When I was a child, I sometimes prayed to escape from a sense of guilt. But at that time, I was not sure to whom I was praying.

"Last January 28th, I met a Christian friend here. It was my first chance to talk about God. When I told her about my struggle with guilt, she started to weep without judging me. That surprised me. I realized to whom I should be praying and that night began to believe in God.

"The people at church taught me the Bible. When I discovered that Christ had become sin to take away my sin, I realized how indebted I was to him. I had done nothing for him, yet he freely removed my guilt and gave me peace of conscience.

"Christ gives me joy too. When my husband and I came to Boston, we had to find an apartment. For several months, we stayed in a cramped hotel room, not knowing how long we would have to stay there. I was not upset, however, because I believed God would give us what we needed at the right time. We not only found a nice apartment, but I also found a good job as a Japanese instructor."

In Japan the first radio broadcast took place in 1925, and in 1951 a privately owned radio station aired the nation's first private broadcast; in 1969 FM radio became available. The first television service in black and white began in 1953, and color television was launched in 1955, with UHF starting in 1968, and satellite broadcasting in 1990. According to a 2001 survey Japanese 15 years and older averaged two and a half hours a day watching TV, listening to radio and reading newspapers and magazines.

The first Christian broadcast was the *Lutheran Hour* in 1951, and the next year Pacific Broadcasting Association began airing *The Light of the World*. The first Christian TV broadcast was a 13-week series in 1960. The first Christian satellite broadcast was in 1998 with *The Minoru Okayama Hour*, and the next year the Yamato Calvary Chapel began their broadcast.

29 Pacific Broadcasting Association (PBA) produces and airs a variety of Christian programs via radio and television. It includes the TV program *Life Line* which can be seen in 12 prefectures throughout Japan. The *Light of the World* broadcast is heard by one million people daily. Please ask the Lord to water the gospel seeds that are being sown via radio and television.

30 Pray for the Japan Center of Far East Broadcasting Co. (FEBC), the largest Christian radio ministry in the world. Many Japanese programs for evangelism and Christian life are produced, and then broadcast back into Japan from FEBC stations abroad.

Several TV broadcasts are utilizing satellite broadcasting.

1 Pray for Harvest Time Ministry and director, Rev. Kenichi Nakagawa. This weekly TV program has been on the air since

1986. The program is now broadcast on 13 regional stations in Japan, two stations in the U.S., one satellite station and an Internet-TV station. Approximately one million people see the program weekly.

2 The Yamato Calvary Chapel has created one of the most powerful church media ministries in the country with *Calvary Chapel Hour* airing Sundays from 7-8 p.m. on SKY PerfecTV and several radio broadcasts.

Bible Broadcasting Network in Japan (BBN) began in 2001. Approximately 5,000 hits are made daily to the BBN homepage and 1,000 of these listen to the broadcast. There are four full time Japanese staff members who produce their own program in collaboration with PBA: Harvest Time Ministries, Christian Reformed Media Ministry, Japan Gospel Mission and Ibaraki Gospel Church. Many are being saved through this work.

FEBC Letter

The following letter came from Japan to the FEBC office. "Please forgive me that it took me months to write this letter. Still I had to write you this 'thank you' letter to each speaker: ... It's been already 10 years since I came to know about FEBC's broadcast. During those years, I don't know how many times I have wanted to kill myself. And how often you have encouraged me and comforted me. I want to thank you from the depth of my heart."



Population	22,508,107	Churches	1,522
Size	33,093 km ²	Churches/person	1:14,789
Density	680 people/km ²	Members	123,178
Cities	108	Member per church	81
With no churches	1	Worship attendance	58,357
Mie Pref. Inabe	45,302	Attendance per church	38
With only 1 church	3	Baptisms	1,684
Towns/Villages	273	Previous year	1,801
With no churches	166	SS attendance	13,005
With 20,000 pop. & no churches	8	Previous year	13,058
		Missionaries	355
		Missionaries/person	1:63,403

The Kanto area has the highest population density in Japan, followed by Kinki. The population is centered around Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe, while many declining population communities can be found around the Kii Peninsula and the Chugoku Mountain region.

Until Tokyo became the capital city of Japan at the beginning of the Edo era, the Kinki district was the cultural center of the country for more than 10 centuries. Kyoto once housed the Imperial Court. Osaka was the city of trade/commerce.

Nara prefecture has been one of the more difficult areas for ministry due to the people's conservative nature. Surprisingly, during the past 10 years, more churches have been started in Nara than in any other prefecture in Kinki, except for Kyoto. This is due to Nara becoming an easy commute to Osaka, and to foreign missionaries seeing the need and concentrating their efforts in Nara.

The Kinki Broadcast Ministry Association (*Kinpoden*) was founded in 1972, and has not only been effective in promoting the radio ministry, but it has also been used to forge a strong cooperative spirit among evangelical churches. Tokai Radio broadcasts the daily *Light of the World* and several other programs to part of the Kinki region.

3 Pray for pastors, their wives and families in the region and throughout Japan. The families need as much prayer as the pastors.

Several years ago a church was finally started in the difficult city of Tenri, at last establishing a church in each of the cities in the Kinki District. However, since Tenri has a population of 70,000, two more churches are needed to bring it to the national average. There are eight towns with a population of over 20,000 without a church. Among these, over the past five years, the population of Komono in Mie has grown by 3,000, and Yumesaki in Hyogo by 2,000.

4 Early on the morning of January 17, 1995 an earthquake of 7.2 magnitude rocked Japan's sixth largest city, Kobe, and the surrounding area. Over 5,000 died and one fifth of the city was left temporarily homeless. Approximately 100 churches were damaged. Most churches suffered over the next years as they saw many members move to different locations. Those who stayed struggled financially and spiritually. The earthquake provided an opportunity for Christians around the world to demonstrate love in action. Pray that God will especially meet the needs of these churches, and that through the churches many will discover the gospel's firm foundation.



Population	1,857,773	Towns/Villages	52
Size	5,773 km ²	With no churches	40
Density	322 people/km ²	With 20,000 & no churches	3
Capital	Tsu	Churches	83
Cities	14	Churches/person	1:22,383
With no church	1	Members	4,979
Inabe	45,302	Members per church	60
With only 1 church	2	Worship attendance	2,517
Kameyama	39,178	Attendance per church	30
Toba	24,494	Missionaries	12

The Prefecture

This is a long narrow prefecture, with the western side being very mountainous. Ise Plain is the only flat land in the prefecture. Weather is generally rather warm and humid. However, the southern Kii Peninsula experiences heavy rainfalls.

Except for the heavy industries around Yokkaichi and Tsu, the whole area centers on agriculture and forestry. A sound fishing industry and Mie's world-famous cultured pearls are sustained by excellent seaports.

The Ise Shrine has long been one of the most famous in Japan. It is here that the imperial ancestors are enshrined, making it the central place of worship. Mie and Shiga prefectures have the highest percentage of Shinto believers in western Japan.

In 1878 the first Japanese home missions association was begun in Osaka by the Congregational churches. Two years later they sent their first lay evangelist to Mie where he preached the gospel in Ichishi-gun, Matsusaka, Tsu and elsewhere.

Yujiro Nakamura came to faith in England where he had been studying. He returned to Mie and was able to lead 50 people to faith and baptism, establishing them into the first Congregational church in 1888. Nakamura later became a cabinet minister for the Imperial Agency.

5 Pray for the pastors and leaders in the 83

churches—that they may lead their churches well. Last year the number of baptisms decreased from 87 to 63, and SS attendance decreased from 599 to 420.

6 *Harvest Time* (Sun. 7:30 a.m.) and *Life Line* (Sat. 7:30 a.m.) televised by Mie Television and two radio programs sponsored by Shalom Promotion and aired by FM Mie.

7 Aino Gakuen Agricultural High School with 63 students in Aoyama and the Holy Cross Welfare Vocational School with 111 students at Komono. There are eight Protestant kindergartens and two day-care centers with 420 children.

8 Christian facilities for the elderly: Two Holy Cross Homes at Komono with 90 and 100 beds, and King's Garden Mie with 120 beds at Kisei.

9 The ministry of Hakusan Agape Prayer Center. Pray that a Christian book store may be established so that people have easier access to Christian publications, without having to travel to Nagoya.

10 Inabe city with over 45,000 people was formed by the merger of three towns with no churches. See page 84 for more information.

Pray that additional churches will be started in the areas around Kuwana and Tsu, where the population is growing significantly. Komono (38,555), Toin (25,891) and Meiwa (23,052) towns have no churches.



Population	1,353,893	With 20,000 & no churches	
Size	4,017 km ²	Hino	22,979
Density	337 people/km ²	Churches	74
Capital	Otsu	Churches/person	1:18,296
Cities	8	Members	3,893
With only 1 church	1	Members per church	53
Ritto	57,957	Worship attendance	2,123
Towns/Villages	42	Attendance per church	29
With no churches	25	Missionaries	25

The Prefecture

Lake Biwa, Japan's largest lake, takes up 1/6 of the prefecture. Extremely heavy winter snowfall hits the north, but the south is mild with sparse rainfall.

Even though it is close to the ancient capital of Kyoto, surprisingly, old traditions and customs are valued less in Shiga than in any other prefecture. Shiga has the third largest Buddhist population in the nation and many temples such as the Hieizan Enryakuji Temple, the head temple of the Tendai sect, one of the main schools of Buddhism.

In 1868 Yujiro Nakajima from Shiga went to Yokohama to study medicine under J.C. Hepburn. He came back as a believer and in cooperation with several others started a Bible study. That led to the baptism of 12 people and the beginning of a church in 1879.

Arriving in 1905, William Vories organized the Omi Christian Mission, Omi Christian Charity Foundation, several YMCAs, and a hospital in Omi near Lake Biwa. He also established the Omi Brotherhood Co. to support the evangelistic ministry.

After the War, WEC International was able to establish 11 churches and preaching points throughout the prefecture.

11 Over the last five years the number of churches has decreased from 76 to 74. Cry out to God for this prefecture, and as you pray for the various ministries here, pray in faith that He would do a mighty work.

12 Christian camping facilities: Kosei Home for Prayer, Oku Biwa-ko Camp with room for 60, and others.

13 Christian schools: Omi Kyodai-sha School with 1,452 students in Omi Hachiman founded by the Omi Brotherhood Co., and Seisen College with 280 students in Hikone. Intercede for the ministries of the eight church-affiliated kindergartens and four day-care centers with 1,231 children.

14 Christian medical facilities: Vories Memorial Hospital with 160 beds, named after the founder of Omi Brotherhood Co. and founded in 1918, and Omi Airin Home Imazu Hospital with 80 beds. Pray for their success in spreading the gospel.

15 Christian welfare facilities: Shiyo Gakuen at Notogawa for 36 severely mentally disabled patients, Seiko Garden for 50 physically disabled and Seifu Home for 90 elderly.

16 Ritto city (56,915) is especially needy with only one church. There are 25 towns and villages with no churches, of which Hino with 22,979 people is the largest.



Population	2,565,424	Churches	201
Size	4,613 km ²	Churches/person	1:12,763
Density	556 people/km ²	Members	15,708
Capital	Kyoto City	Members per church	78
Cities	13	Worship attendance	6,951
Towns/Villages	26	Attendance per church	35
With no churches	13	Missionaries	49

The Prefecture

All of Kyoto is an intricate land formation that has created a series of small basins, such as the Kyoto Basin. This basin and the area to the south experience large temperature fluctuations from summer to winter.

Kyoto, the old capital of Japan, draws millions of tourists every year. Kyoto is full of temples and shrines. Of the Buddhist groups whose activities cover more than one prefecture, nearly 40 have their headquarters in Kyoto. However, it is surprising to note that the percentage of Buddhists is about half that of Toyama and Ishikawa prefectures.

In the late 1500s Catholic Christianity spread through Kyoto and its surrounding areas, and at the peak of the movement the church was even stronger in Kyoto than in Kyushu.

In 1875, with the cooperation of the Congregational Church Mission, Jo Niijima began Doshisha English School in Kyoto. At that time the Meiji government was encouraging the study of Western education as a means to becoming a more modern culture. In spite of a growing Buddhist resistance, the positive influence of Niijima and missionary J. Davis attracted many students in the area, so that in 1876 three churches began in Kyoto.

During the prewar period Kyoto churches made important contributions to the national

Christian activities. This continued after the War, with the first two Japan Congresses on Evangelism sponsored by the Japan Evangelical Association being held in Kyoto.

17 Pray that each of the 201 churches will be filled with God's love for the lost. Ask the Holy Spirit to encourage each leader in these churches. Although the average membership number is high, the average attendance is only 35.

Pray for *Harvest Time* (Sat. 6:25 a.m.) televised on KBS Kyoto and the radio program, *Miraculous Counselor* (Tue. 5:00 a.m.), as well as *What's Gospel?* (Sun. 12:00 a.m.).

18 Pray for the following ministries: Japan Christian Academy Kansai Seminar House, Kyoto YMCA Retreat Center, CLC Books Kyoto Store, Jordan Co. Kyoto Branch Store, The Gospel House Kyoto and Kyobunkan Kansai Center.

19 Doshisha University with its 34,800 students has an excellent reputation throughout Japan. In the late 1800s many of the school's graduates went throughout Japan starting some of the first churches in the various prefectures. Now, even though the students who attend the school are aware that it is a Christian institution, few show interest in the gospel. Pray that God would do a mighty work on the campus and raise up many new evangelists, pastors and missionaries.

(continued from page 51)

20 Pray for Christian medical facilities: Japan Baptist Hospital; its nursing school (60 students) and facility for the elderly with 86 beds, and Saeki Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinic.

21 Pray for Maizuru Futaba Home for 70 children; facilities for the mentally disabled; including Shirakawa School for the mentally disabled and Hinadori School; and Doho Home for 30 people in Uji. The Kyoto Nursery Training School trains 360 potential teachers.

22 "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

In Kyoto one is gripped by the myriad temples and shrines. There are 1,600 temples and 400 shrines. Stunning architecture is overshadowed by countless idols and great spiritual darkness. Pray God's Light will consume and destroy the great entrenched darkness in this area.

The Funeral

Mr. M. had little interest in religion. When his Christian daughter died suddenly, the family called on the church to help. The church made all the arrangements for a Christian funeral, the first Christian funeral in the family. Mr. M. was impressed with the difference in the funeral that was so full of hope, in contrast to the typical Buddhist funeral. "I want to have a Christian funeral for myself," he commented. As a result he started to attend church regularly to find out about his daughter's faith.

For many Japanese a Christian funeral is their first exposure to the gospel, and their first chance to enter a church. They soon see the contrast between the gloomy atmosphere of the Buddhist funeral and the Christian one where people actually sing with hope. Pray that Christian funerals will be a means of opening up the hearts of family and friends to Christ.

Western Weddings

Some missionaries say that the wedding ministry in Japan is the most effective mass evangelism method today. Here is the reason they are saying that. Of the 750,000 weddings performed yearly in more than 3,000 wedding chapels and other locations, up to 75% or 562,500 are Christian or Western services. With an average of 50 guests per wedding, this means that in a year up to 268 million people come in contact with God's Word. They sing two Christian hymns, hear two prayers and a short Bible message.

Pray that many will become interested in the gospel and attend a local church as a result of wedding ministries. May they come to know the God who loves them.



Population	8,651,977	Churches	566
Size	1,893 km ²	Churches/person	1:15,286
Density	4,571 people/km ²	Members	51,527
Capital	Osaka	Members per church	91
Cities	33	Worship attendance	25,208
Towns/Villages	11	Attendance per church	45
With no churches	5	Missionaries	84
With 20,000 & no churches	1		
Mihara	39,188		

The Prefecture

Osaka prefecture has mountains on three sides with the west side facing Osaka Bay. Osaka has a very mild climate.

Since medieval times Osaka has been built on commerce. The percentage of people engaging in agriculture is second lowest in the nation. Osaka and Tokyo have contrasting cultural backgrounds. Tokyo was based on the “samurai” culture, whereas Osaka had a “merchant” mentality. The latter culture has resulted in a way of life that emphasizes present benefits and realism.

The percentage of Buddhist believers is higher here than in either Kyoto or Hyogo. However, the number of people saying that they depend on religion for spiritual support is the second lowest in the nation.

C.M. Williams of the Protestant Episcopal Church moved from Nagasaki to Osaka in 1869 and carried on services in English for the foreigners there. The next year he began services in Japanese for those attending his English school. O.H. Gulick and others of the Congregational Church came to Osaka in 1872, and the following year began Sunday worship services. This resulted in five Japanese receiving baptism in 1874, and along with two from other churches they formed the first church in Osaka.

23 “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth” (John 17:17). Pray that the 25,208 people in Osaka attending worship will be bold in the truth of His Word. Pray that the many members who do not attend church will be revived by this Word.

Christian broadcasts: *Life Line* (Sun. 7:00 a.m.) and *Harvest Time* (Sat. 7:00 a.m.) seen on Sun Television, and various radio programs aired on Mainichi Radio, Asahi Radio and Radio Kansai.

24 Christian retreat centers: Lutheran Training Center at Nose, Hotel The Luther and Osaka YMCA Kaigijo. Christian book stores: Osaka Life Center, Osaka Christian Book Stores, and others.

25 There are over 20,000 students attending the six different Christian schools; 99% of the students are not Christians. The 31 church-related kindergartens and 40 day-care centers have 7,200 children.

Also pray for the churches with an active ministry to college students. An example is the Nagase Christ Church whose building is right next to the main campus of Kinki University with 20,000 students. During the spring and fall the church sponsors a full week of “Gospel Cafe,” inviting the students for fellowship and an inexpensive dessert.

26 There are 1,500 beds in the Christian

(continued from page 53)

medical facilities in Osaka. Most of the people who receive medical treatment are not believers, so pray that the Christian staff will have energy to represent Jesus well. Pray that their impact will encourage people to find their help from the Great Physician.

27 There are many Christian welfare facilities: Salvation Army working with

mothers and children, with room for 60; Osaka Suijo Rinpo Kan working with close to 200 children and the elderly; the Kamagasaki Christian Kyoyu Kai ministering to the underprivileged, and others. There are at least nine Christian facilities for the elderly.

28 There are five towns and villages in Osaka-fu with no churches. Mihara with close to 40,000 people is especially needy.

Returnees

In the late 1800s Yujiro Nakamura came to Jesus Christ while studying in England. He came back to start the first Congregational church in Mie in 1888. Pray for the many Japanese studying abroad.

Of the more than 500,000 international students yearly studying in the United States, approximately 60,000 are Japanese. About 190,000 more Japanese are traveling, working, training and researching throughout America, with additional numbers in many other countries. Over 182,000 high school students traveled abroad in 2003.

Christians around the world are responding to this window of opportunity by sharing their lives and faith with these sojourning Japanese. Of those returning to Japan each year, it is estimated that over 1500 Japanese are returning having been deeply impacted by the gospel while abroad.

Here are five important ministries seeking to help the returnees.

In 1996, under the leadership of JEMA and JEA, the Returnee Christian Network In Japan (RCNJ) was initiated. RCNJ endeavors to connect Japanese returnees with local evangelical churches and missionaries throughout Japan. In the nearly three years of active ministry, RCNJ has been able to have a part in linking over 500 returnees with Japanese churches.

Japanese Christian Fellowship Network (JCFN) was established by Japanese students at Urbana 90. This group is helping to prepare Japanese as they return to Japan. They also sponsor events in Japan to encourage those who have already returned to Japan.

Equipper Conference takes place in the U.S. at the end of December, and is sponsored by a number of organizations to help equip Japanese Christians in their return.

The Reaching Japanese For Christ ministry sponsors the yearly RJC Conference (February) in Seattle, Washington to help English-speakers working with Japanese, and seeks to provide a network for those ministering in North America.

Elsewhere, Britain has the highest population of overseas Japanese within Europe. Pray for the work of JCL (Japan Christian Link, formerly JEB) among Japanese expatriates in Britain. Pray that those returning home impacted by the gospel will be well linked into good Christian fellowship in Japan that will help them grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

See page 86 for more information concerning Japanese churches around the world.



Population	5,566,566	Inami	32,667
Size	8,381 km ²	Yumesaki	21,623
Density	664 people/km ²	Churches	435
Capital	Kobe	Churches/person	1:12,797
Cities	23	Members	38,259
Towns/Villages	62	Members per church	88
With no churches	36	Worship attendance	17,227
With 20,000 & no churches	3	Attendance per church	40
Taishi	33,256	Missionaries	125

The Prefecture

Although the northern half of Hyogo has no flat areas, the southern half is blessed with the Harima Plain. The southeastern region is a complex land formation which caused the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake in January, 1995, bringing mammoth destruction to the area.

Due to the large population of Kobe, both the gross agricultural product and those involved in farming amount to only 3%. Hyogo has thriving steel and shipbuilding industries.

Kobe, along with Yokohama, has a long history as an international port, allowing many foreign influences to be assimilated into the culture. Despite this, rural Hyogo is filled with communities still bound by old traditions and folklore beliefs.

After the ban on Christianity was lifted, many missionaries came to Hyogo and began establishing churches and mission schools. In 1870 D.C. Greene from the USA Congregational Church began evangelism in Kobe in the area designated for foreigners. His translator, Einosuke Ichikawa, was arrested and died in jail. In 1873 when the prohibition against Christianity was lifted, a preaching station was established. It became a church the following year when 11 were baptized; one of these was Ichikawa's wife.

29 Kobe had one of the best ratios of church to population in the nation, and a number of these church buildings were damaged or demolished in the 1995 earthquake. Pray that the churches will continue to bring hope and help to the area.

30 Christian retreat/camping facilities: Nosegawa Bible Camp, Rokkosan YMCA, Kansai Gakuin Sengari Seminar House, Inagawa Camp, Kobe YWCA Kaikan, Aogaki Camp, and others.

31 Hyogo, with 37,000 students and at least nine schools, is second only to Tokyo for the most students in Christian schools. Pray that many of these students will come to a saving knowledge of Christ.

1 Christian medical facilities: Palmore Hospital with 94 beds, Kobe Adventist Hospital with 116 beds, Agape Kabutoyama Hospital with 198 beds, Kobe Kaisei Hospital with 214 beds, and others.

2 Christian welfare facilities: Jesus Dan, Seirei Welfare Jigyodan, and others. Christian book stores: Covenant, Kobe Christian, Nishinomiya Seibun.

3 Taka-gun has four and Shika-gun has two towns, each with 30,000. Taishi and Inami towns have approximately 33,000 people with no churches.



Population	1,439,040	Churches	86
Size	3,691 km ²	Churches/person	1:16,733
Density	390 people/km ²	Members	5,099
Capital	Nara City	Members per church	59
Cities	10	Worship attendance	2,514
Towns/Villages	37	Attendance per church	29
With no churches	24	Missionaries	51

The Prefecture

The Nara Basin occupying the northern half of the prefecture is the only flat land, and provides a home for the majority of its population and industry. Mount Odaigahara experiences the nation's highest precipitation, over 4,000 mm annually. Nara has the least amount of habitable land in the nation. Forests occupy 80% of the land.

Nara served as the nation's capital twice, during the Asuka and then the Heijo eras. This highly developed culture is a source of pride for the prefecture. There are numerous historic temples and shrines in Nara whose festivals can be traced back to ancient times.

An awareness survey does not indicate a strong interest in religion, but the percentage of people who believe in life after death is the second highest in the nation.

Pastor Jinzo Naruse who later founded Japan Women's College, came to Nara in 1880, and in 1884 organized the first church. The Congregational Church and the Episcopalians were also early in beginning evangelistic work in the prefecture.

After the Meiji era, Japanese Christians and foreign missionaries aggressively pursued their mission and established churches despite hardships and obstacles. A number of new churches are being started around

4 Pray for the smaller churches which labor within a hard traditional environment. Ask God for laborers to begin new churches in the rapidly growing areas.

5 There are no Christian book stores in the prefecture. Pray for *Life Line* (Sun. 7:00 a.m.) and *Harvest Time* (Sun. 7:30 a.m.) shown on Nara Television.

6 Kansai Bible Institute recently moved to Ikoma with a new ministry vision. Since its beginning in 1961, 400 students have graduated, with 200 now active in the ministry.

7 There are no Christian medical or welfare facilities, with the exception of one Catholic nursing home. Pray especially for those suffering from cancer, who heard about Jesus in Christian schools.

8 The Nara Evangelistic Association meets six times a year and plans two large meetings every year. Pray that this unity and cooperation will attract many to receive salvation.

9 We desire churches to be started in the 24 towns and villages which do not have churches. This is especially difficult in mountainous areas where the population is declining, such as the 11 towns and villages in Yoshino-gun. Totsukawa village is larger than the 23 wards in Tokyo but has only 5,000 people. Pray that new ways will be found to bring the gospel to this difficult area.



Population	1,073,434	Churches	77
Size	4,725 km ²	Churches/person	1:13,941
Density	227 people/km ²	Members	3,713
Capital	Wakayama City	Members per church	48
Cities	7	Worship attendance	1,817
Towns/Villages	43	Attendance per church	24
With no churches	23	Missionaries	9

The Prefecture

Wakayama has little flat area. Forests occupy approximately 80% of the prefecture. It is known to be the most conservative prefecture in the Kinki district. The people still practice the traditional community system called miyaza, wherein families are closely tied to local temples.

Mount Koya in the northern part of the prefecture is known as a sacred place of the Shingon sect founded by Kobo Daishi. The people in south Wakayama appear relatively open-minded, but this has not led to an openness to Christianity.

In the spring of 1881 Cumberland missionary, A.D. Hail, and Komazo Obata took an evangelistic trip into Wakayama from Osaka. In November Hail's brother came and held the prefecture's first evangelistic meeting in the inn where he was staying. During the next two years the Hail brothers were able to assist in organizing seven churches. Their work has been continued by the Japan Evangelistic Band. Since the War, the Baptist General Conference has planted a number of churches along the coast.

10 The Wakayama Zion Church not only houses the only Christian book store in the prefecture, but also reaches out to the community with a variety of ministries. Pray that each church in the prefecture and nation

would creatively minister to their communities with love and the gospel.

11 Pray that seeking people will see the two TV broadcasts this week, and pray that Buddhist influences that center in Mount Koya would not negatively influence these seekers.

12 There is only one Christian school here, a Catholic women's jr. college. Pray that a Protestant school will also be established. Please remember the Christian teachers working in secular schools. There are 11 church-related kindergartens and four day-care centers with 1,100 children.

13 Ai no Garden Clinic in Kami Tonda, work of the Shin'ai Group, a social welfare foundation. Pray that more Christian welfare facilities may be established.

14 Pray that the gospel may reach towns and villages around Mount Koya and other mountainous areas where there are presently no churches.

15 WWII Commemoration Day. Today is the anniversary of the defeat of Japan in the War, the day that Korea was liberated from the Japanese. South and North Koreans are the largest group of foreigners in Japan. Approximately 530,000 are registered, making up 40% of all foreigners. Pray for the 655 Korean missionaries in Japan. Most are serving as missionary pastors of Japanese and Korean churches.

August 16~18 Pray for the Church

16 Pray for leaders of different denominations and fellowships. Pray that leaders will be spiritually mature, not ministering from a sense of competition. May the many denominations in Japan be a great blessing to the country. Leadership responsibility for many denominations and churches is being passed on to the next generation. Pray that they will have God's vision for the future, and grace to step into these new responsibilities.

White Fields Inc. (Kokunai Kaitaku Dendo Kai-KDK) began in 1958, financially supporting Japanese pastors who are starting new churches. Over the years they have assisted over 230 church starts. This support lasts for four years. It currently supports about 10 pastors who are in the initial stages of planting a church. Please pray for these pastors.

17 Pray for leaders of the different parachurch groups. Remember those groups that are especially struggling to accomplish God's will with limited finances. Pray that God will raise up those who will financially support these groups, and that new workers will feel led to minister with these groups.

The ministry of *Every Home for Christ (EHC)* seeks to touch all of Japan through distribution of evangelistic tracts to every home in the country, which they have done four times. The tract with a CD called "You Were Born To Be Loved" was produced in June, 2005, and it is hoped that 1,000,000 will be distributed by the end of the year.

The Japanese ministry also raises support for EHC ministries in some of the other 90 countries which have similar ministries. Recently they have entered into cooperative

ministry efforts with Campus Crusade to target large areas of the country for pamphlet distribution.

18 Pray for Christians who have become separated from their churches. In each prefecture note the gap between the average church membership and attendance. Nationally there are 557,718 members and only 279,227 attend worship. Since the worship figures also include non-members, it is safe to say that less than 50% of the Christians attend worship. Often they suffer from doubts and temptations and become targets for other religious groups. Pray that they will be led back into fellowship.

Church Information Service (CIS) tabulates population, number of Protestant churches, membership, etc. In 2004 it received approximately 250 requests for help in locating areas for church planting and requests for church referrals. Also there were 50 non-Christians who asked for an introduction to a local church.

19 This fall many evangelistic meetings are taking place. Pray that the seekers attending the churches will make salvation decisions, and also that many new people will attend these meetings and become regular attenders.

Church Planting Institute (CPI), part of the Japan Evangelical Missionary Association, is a network of over 100 mission agencies and denominations working toward indigenous gospel-driven church planting movements in Japan. Over 1,500 missionaries and Japanese have attended the annual conference and share this common vision of an evangelized and a transformed Japan.



Population	7,706,341	Churches	484
Size	31,911 km ²	Churches/person	1:15,922
Density	241 people/km ²	Members	26,272
Cities	48	Member per church	54
With no church	1	Worship attendance	12,406
Akitakata	34,214	Attendance per church	26
With 1 church	6	Baptisms	376
Towns/Villages	245	Previous year	445
With no churches	178	SS attendance	3,275
With 20,000 pop. & no churches	4	Previous year	3,345
		Missionaries	63
		Missionaries/person	1:122,323

The Chugoku region has two distinct sides, the Sanyo (Pacific Ocean side) and Sanin (Sea of Japan side). While population on the Sanyo side is growing, it is decreasing on the other side. Tottori, on the Sanin side, with no population growth has one of the best Protestant church per population ratios (one church per 13,659 people), while Hiroshima, on the Sanyo side, has the worst in Chugoku (one per 18,048).

In the past ten years the number of churches has decreased by eight. During that time Hiroshima has lost seven churches, and Yamaguchi has decreased from 95 churches to 90 during the past five years. None of the prefectures has shown an increase in the last decade.

20 More churches are needed here! Pray that at least 50 churches out of the 484 will accept the challenge to start one new church in the next five years. The immediate need is for the cities of Hiroshima and Okayama with their population growth. Prayer is also needed for those individuals, groups, and churches making efforts to minister to the depleting mountain communities and establish churches there. The Inland Sea

areas are also in need of the gospel.

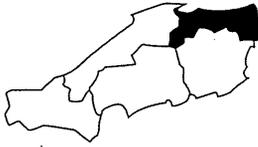
There are five Protestant schools, 55 kindergartens and 25 day-care centers with a total of 14,000 children and young people who are being exposed to the Bible. Pray for these and the thousands who studied in these schools in the past.

Radio broadcasts for the area includes *Light of the World, Voice of Hope, True Salvation*.

21 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Pray for the people of the Chugoku region who are bearing heavy burdens today. May they hear Jesus' invitation to come to Him.

Peace has been a leading concern for the people in the Chugoku district due to the fact that Hiroshima was a victim of the atomic bombing. May the peace brought by Jesus Christ be given to every individual of the Chugoku area! This peace can never be destroyed.

Pray that the Chugoku District Missions Fellowship will continue to stimulate good fellowship and cooperation among the churches.



Population	614,650	Churches	45
Size	3,507 km ²	Churches/person	1:13,659
Density	175 people/km ²	Members	2,145
Capital	Tottori City	Members per church	48
Cities	4	Worship attendance	1,014
Towns/Villages	35	Attendance per church	23
With no churches	25	Missionaries	2

The Prefecture

Tottori is the nation's least populated prefecture. Along the shoreline are stretches of beautiful sandy beaches and sand dunes. Summers bring heavy rainfall, and winters offer few sunny days and heavy snowfall.

Due to its small population Tottori has the lowest gross agricultural production in the nation, but it has the biggest fishing haul among the prefectures on the Sea of Japan side, and is fourth in the nation. The people of Tottori are known to be very conservative. Tottori prefecture has a higher percentage of Buddhist followers than any other prefecture in the Chugoku region except Hiroshima, and the least percent of Christians.

In 1879 Motoyoshi, a student at Doshisha, visited Tottori for 40 days of service during his summer evangelism. This work was followed up by Congregational missionaries and Doshisha students, which resulted in a church at Kurayoshi in 1889 and one in Tottori City in 1890.

In the latter years of the Meiji era, Toyo Senkyokai (later renamed Holiness) actively ministered in Yonago. This ministry was launched by the famous missionary B.F. Buxton, headquartered in Matsue, and impacted communities throughout the Sanin district.

22 Christian broadcasts: *True Salvation* (Sun. 6:45 a.m.) and *Lutheran Hour* (Daily

5:10 a.m.) aired on Sanin Radio, and *Light of the World* (Daily 6:25 a.m.) on FM Sanin. Since there are no Christian book stores in the Sanin district, pray that ways may be found to meet the need for good literature for Christians and seekers. Pray for the 2,145 church members and 1,014 people who attend these churches.

24 Pray for YMCA Yonago Medical Welfare Vocational School, begun in 1994—that it may offer excellent Christian education. Pray for Christian teachers as they seek to express the Christian love-care-serve with kindergartens and three day-care centers with 950 children hearing about Jesus every day. Pray that today the children will talk to their parents about this Jesus.

25 Ask God to especially encourage the small number of believers to share Jesus with their families.

26 Christian welfare facilities: Tottori Children's Home with 45 children at Tottori City (began in 1906), and Aikokai Home for Mothers and Children at Goke.

27 Pray for the people who live in the 25 towns and villages with no access to a local church. Tohaku-gun (in the midst of the mountains with 63,000 people in five towns and villages) and Saihaku-gun (with 47,000 people in four towns and villages) have several churches, but that number is completely inadequate.



Population	752,534	With no churches	38
Size	6,707 km ²	With 20,000 & no churches	1
Density	112 people/km ²	Hikawa	27,809
Capital	Matsue	Churches	49
Cities	8	Churches/person	1:15,358
With only 1 church	3	Members	1,849
Oda	33,423	Members per church	38
Hirata	29,134	Worship attendance	842
Gotsu	25,013	Attendance per church	17
Towns/Villages	51	Missionaries	5

The Prefecture

Shimane's narrow shape, squeezed between the mountain ranges and the shoreline, creates many steep hills, leaving little room for agriculture. While the east has heavy rainfall, the west enjoys relatively warm temperatures and rainy summers. Shimane is one of the least populated prefectures.

The Izumo Shrine has a powerful influence on Shimane's religious climate. Second only to Tottori, the people of Shimane have stronger feelings toward ancestors than any other prefecture. They also have a strong sense of obligation toward family and neighbors, which coupled with traditional beliefs, has hampered people's responsiveness to the Christian faith.

A British missionary, Bishop Evington, established an evangelistic meeting in Osaka in 1879. Then in 1882 crossed over the Chugoku Mountains by horseback to preach the gospel in Shimane. In 1885 he carried on several weeks of special meetings at Matsue that brought 600 people every night to hear the messages. Three years later the Matsue fellowship became the first Shimane church.

At about the same time that the Anglican work was starting, the United Church began evangelizing in the western part of Shimane, resulting in a church at Tsuwano in 1892. This ministry was strengthened by the arrival of B.F. Buxton in 1891.

28 With the average worship attendance being only 17, the lowest in Japan, thank God for each person, and pray for spiritual and numerical growth.

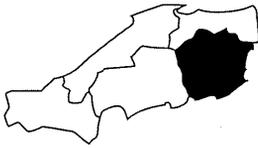
29 There are no Christian retreat centers, camps, book stores, hospitals, clinics or welfare facilities in the prefecture. Pray that more work will begin to strengthen and encourage Shimane's Christians. Pray that the Christian programs aired on Sanin Radio will be utilized to their fullest in Shimane as well.

30 Christian Aishin High School with 60 students is the only Christian school in the prefecture. Even though there are only two church-related kindergartens and six day-care centers, ask God to raise up Christian leaders from among these 570 little ones.

31 Pray for the witness of Christian medical workers and those serving in social services. May the Christian staff model Jesus today.

1 Less than 900 people worship here each Sunday. May God bless each sermon and Bible study.

2 Pray that the 38 unchurched towns and villages will have access to the gospel through nearby churches. God has a multitude of ways through which He works when we pray. Especially intercede for Oda, Gotsu and Hirata cities with only one church each. Hikawa town has over 27,000 people and no church.



Population	1,957,269	With 20,000 & no churches	1
Size	7,111 km ²	Mabi	23,377
Density	275 people/km ²	Churches	141
Capital	Okayama City	Churches/person	1:13,881
Cities	10	Members	8,501
With only 1 church	1	Members per church	60
Takahashi	22,535	Worship attendance	4,019
Towns/Villages	68	Attendance per church	29
With no churches	46	Missionaries	17

The Prefecture

Okayama has successfully shifted from agriculture to a manufacturing base, but is still a healthy agricultural producer, the best in the Chugoku region.

In ancient times the transportation system connecting the two great cultures of Kyushu and Kinki ran through Okayama, exposing the area to both worlds. An awareness survey indicates that more people here enjoy work and feel spiritually and mentally fulfilled than in any other prefecture in the nation.

The Kibitsu Shrine in Okayama City is a famous religious site, but even more famous are some of the religious leaders this prefecture has produced: Honen (founder of Jodo Buddhism) and Eisai (founder of Rinzai Buddhism) to name a few. Noted Christian leaders from this prefecture include Gunpei Yamamuro (founder of the Japan Salvation Army) and Kosuke Tomeoka (founder of Katei School).

Protestant ministry began when in order to assist the Okayama Health Department, Congregational medical missionary W. Taylor visited the prefecture in 1875 and carried on evangelistic work along with his medical ministry. Tsurin Kanemori, a Doshisha student, spent his summers back home doing evangelism. With the help of other students and several missionaries the Okayama Church was organized in 1880.

3 "For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life" (Proverbs 6:23). Pray for the people of Okayama that the Light of God would bring spiritual understanding to their minds. Takahashi city and Mabi town are in need of additional churches.

4 Hiruzen Bible Camp (room for 100) and the Youth Center (room for 60). The CLC Christian book store in Okayama City provides an important service for the whole prefecture.

5 The ministry of the *Voice of Hope and Lutheran Hour* (Daily 5:15 a.m.) aired on Sanyo Radio.

6 There are six church kindergartens and three day-care centers with 900 children. Pray for the seed that is being sown, and for the seed planted in the hearts of these students who are now living throughout Japan.

7 Okayama Hakuikai Hospital with 132 beds and a branch hospital with 102 beds, has been serving the community for over 100 years. An affiliate nursing home, Adams Home, has 122 residents.

8 There are 46 unchurched towns and villages here. Most of these are situated in the Kibi Highlands or the Chugoku Mountain Range where populations are decreasing, but Asakuchi-gun with five towns and a total population of close to 60,000, located along the Sanyo Highway, has only one church.

	Population	2,869,555	With no churches	39
	Size	8,476 km ²	With 20,000 & no churches	2
	Density	339 people/km ²	Kaita	28,839
	Capital	Hiroshima City	Kurose	24,522
	Cities	13	Churches	159
	With no churches	1	Churches/person	1:18,048
	Akitakata	34,214	Members	9,526
	With only 1 church	1	Members per church	60
	Hatsukaichi	89,257	Worship attendance	4,584
	Towns/Villages	51	Attendance per church	29

The Prefecture

Hiroshima has both the most land and the largest population in the Chugoku and Shikoku regions. The leading industry is commerce and manufacturing, with automobile, steel and clothing industries ranked fifth nationally.

From the Meiji era to the end of World War II, the city of Hiroshima prospered as the center of Japan's military industry. The great devastation caused by the atomic bombing pushed Hiroshima to become a force for world peace with its motto, "No More Hiroshima."

Itsukushima Shrine, one of the three most beautiful views in Japan, is now more popular as a tourist site than as a place of worship. Hiroshima has the highest percent of Buddhist believers in the Chugoku district.

In 1879 Tomekichi Nakajima, a first-year student from the United Church seminary, was sent to Hiroshima. In spite of strong Buddhist persecution, the Hiroshima Church was established in 1883.

There is a significantly lower number of churches per population in the rural communities than in the city. Many small, hard-to-reach mountain communities are unchurched. Church planters in cities like Hiroshima struggle to keep up with the population increase.

9 Pray for Akitakata city with no church and Hatsukaichi city with only one church, also for the Kaita and Kurose towns with over 20,000 people and no church. See page 84 for information concerning Akitakata.

10 *Light of the World* (Daily 5:40 a.m.), *Voice of Hope* (Sat. 5:30 a.m.), and *True Salvation* (Sun. 5:15 a.m.) aired on Chugoku Radio.

11 CLC Books and Seibun Book Store provide resources for Christians and non-Christians alike. However most Christian book stores struggle financially.

12 Christian schools: Hiroshima Women's School with 3,300 students, YMCA's several technical schools, Fukuyama YMCA International Business School, and others. There are 28 Protestant kindergartens and 10 day-care centers with 4,400 children.

13 Pray for Kawamura Hospital (73 beds), Salvation Army Aiko Home, Tsuda Home for Children, Kure Jiai Home for 30 women, Hiroshima Seiko Gakuen for visually handicapped and Seikei Jusanjo, ministering to 80 who are physically disabled.

14 Most of the 51 unchurched towns and villages lie in the mountainous regions. Yamagata-gun with two towns and 30,000 certainly need at least one church. The small islands in the Inland Sea are also especially needy.



Population	1,512,333	With no churches	30
Size	6,110 km ²	Churches	90
Density	248 people/km ²	Churches/person	1:16,804
Capital	Yamaguchi City	Members	4,251
Cities	13	Members per church	47
With only 1 church	1	Worship attendance	1,947
Mine	18,495	Attendance per church	22
Towns/Villages	40	Missionaries	24

The Prefecture

The 700 meter wide Kammon Channel separates Yamaguchi and Kyushu Island along with islands such as Yashiro Island, a larger one. Yamaguchi is susceptible to damage caused by wind and rain storms. It is blessed with good fishing ports such as Shimonoseki.

In ancient times Yamaguchi was part of the Kyushu cultural district, receiving considerable influence from China. This gave the prefecture a fairly high level of culture.

A recent survey showed that 70% of Yamaguchi believes that the emperor should be given the utmost respect. This is the highest in the nation. An equal percent believe that the old customs and traditions should be valued. This ranked fourth nationally. And yet they only show an average interest in religion. These attitudes, coupled with their strong group feelings, make it difficult for them to make individual decisions for the gospel.

Christian work in Yamaguchi was begun by St. Francis Xavier himself. He was given an open door by Lord Ouchi, which led to many conversions.

Yamaguchi's Protestant ministry began in 1879 when Shozaburo Aoyama, a graduate of the United Church Seminary in Tokyo, moved to Shimonoseki where he carried on evangelism in the midst of persecution, and organized a church that same year.

15 Pray that the Lord will be richly glorified in each of the 90 churches this week. Pray for the pastors and church leaders the same way you pray for your own leaders.

16 Pray that Christians will be encouraged to grow through the ministry of *Light of the World* (Daily 5:15 a.m.) on Yamaguchi Radio.

17 Pray for the Christian schools: Baiko Women's Gakuin with 1,400 students at Shimonoseki has been offering Christian education for over 100 years. Also remember Seiko High School with 600 students at Hikari. For many families their first contact with Christianity is when their child begins to attend one of the 13 church-related kindergartens and three day-care centers. A total of 1,300 children attend.

18 There are no Christian medical clinics and hospitals. Pray that the Christian medical workers will be able to share Christ's love in the midst of their work.

19 Pray for the Kame no Ie ministry, providing five apartments as well as training for the severely disabled to help them lead independent lives. Pray for the Christian staff as they model Jesus' love.

20 Pray for the 30 unchurched towns and villages, that they would hear the gospel. As we pray, the Lord works in amazing ways to show His love to those who are seeking Him.

There is an increasing number of elderly people in this modern society. In 1980, 9% of Japan's population was 65 years and older. In 1990, the number increased to 12%, and in 2005 to 19.8%. Aging is a social problem that affects every aspect of Japan from the nation's economy to Christian ministries.

With the increasing number of elderly people there will be greater opportunity to share the gospel. As people approach the aging phase of their lives, they often seek spiritual peace. Thus, the ministry potential for Christian nursing homes and hospice services will be greatly increased. According to the Christian Yearbook 2004, in 2000 there

were 187 Christian facilities for the elderly, and this increased to 196 in 2003. This is only .6% of all facilities for the elderly. Pray that more Christian facilities will be built.

The growing number of older people is also reflected in the pastors. Of the present full-time ministers in Japan 40% are over 60 years old, and close to 70% are over 50. A large percentage of these will retire in several years, greatly decreasing the available number of pastors. There are not enough younger pastors to fill these vacant spots. Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will raise up new workers. Also pray that lay leaders will be trained to meet this need.

21 Pray for Japanese women who struggle with low self-esteem in the midst of a society that places extreme demands upon them.

Pray that God will show them how precious they are to Him. Pray that they would be changed by the power of His love for them.

The Lord is using the Women's Commission of the Japan Evangelical Association to encourage women in their faith and ministry. They sponsor seminars and retreats to enable women to more effectively minister in their families, churches and society.

22 Discrimination against the disabled is a problem in Japanese society. Christianity has for years taken the lead in ministering to them. Pray that throughout this society people may be accepted with equal rights.

23 Respect for the Aged Day is a holiday in Japan in the middle of the month. Pray for the witness of Christians to their older family members

Pray for the *Japan King's Garden Association* with nursing home facilities at Tsukuba, Kawagoe, Mie, Tokyo, Miyagi, Sendai, Kanazawa and other places. There are 27 Christian nursing homes affiliated with the Japan King's Garden Association. These carry on a variety of ministries for the elderly: visitation service, day-care, nursing home facilities, etc. Several Tokyo facilities have up to 40 pastors who take turns with daily chapels and Bible studies. The Soka King's Garden opened in 2003, and in the first six months ten people confessed Christ as Saviour and five were baptized.

24 The *Evangelical Medical Fellowship (EMF)* serves as a support group for evangelical Christians in the medical field. Its work includes coordinating seminars and overseas training trips.



Population	4,159,143	Members	17,078
Size	18,801 km ²	Member per church	54
Density	221 people/km ²	Members per pop.	4.1:1,000
Cities	32	Worship attendance	7,585
With only 1 church	2	Attendance per church	24
Towns/Villages	170	Attendance per pop.	1.8:1,000
With no churches	111	Baptisms	191
With 20,000 pop. & no churches	1	Previous year	207
Churches	314	SS attendance	1,570
Churches/person	1:13,246	Previous year	1,619
		Missionaries	19
		Missionaries/person	1:218,902

Shikoku is the smallest and least populous of the four main islands of Japan. It is connected to Honshu by ferry and air, and by the Great Seto Bridge network. Most of the population live in the north. The larger southern area of Shikoku is mountainous and sparsely populated.

During the Meiji era, missionaries from the Southern Presbyterian Church (USA) ventured into the remote mountain villages to share the gospel. Many leaders of small villages became Christians and the ministries grew.

The Shikoku area has the best ratio of churches per population of any other area in Japan. And all four prefectures have a better ratio than the national average. Ehime and Kagawa are second and third in the nation for the largest number of churches per population in the nation. However, the number of churches in the district has actually decreased by two in the last ten years.

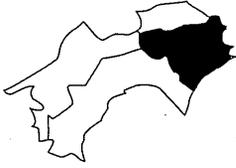
In recent years, a number of new churches have been started by TEAM missionaries led by Ralph Cox. Starting from zero in Takamatsu in 1954, TEAM missionaries

have expanded church planting into nine West Japan prefectures. Over 50 churches have been planted. Thirty-five of these have their own buildings and are in the hands of Japanese pastors. Most of this growth has taken place since 1970 from a base of seven small churches.

25 Pray for many pilgrims who come to Mt. Tsurugi and Mt. Ishizuchi to worship the god, Kōmpira, protector of sailors and fishermen—to know that what they seek can be found in Christ.

Pray a special blessing of encouragement on the 17,000 Christians in the Shikoku district! Pray that through the Shikoku All-Christian Retreat many Christians will be Spirit-controlled and active witnesses.

26 Pray that the 111 unchurched villages and towns will hear the Word and that believers will join church fellowships. One unchurched town is Kagawa in Kagawa prefecture with a population of 24,802. There are two cities which have only one Protestant church: Iyomishima in Ehime and Tosa in Kochi.



Population	823,304	Churches	51
Size	4,145 km ²	Churches/person	1:16,143
Density	199 people/km ²	Members	3,195
Capital	Tokushima City	Members per church	63
Cities	4	Worship attendance	1,314
Towns/Villages	46	Attendance per church	26
With no churches	31	Missionaries	4

The Prefecture

Tall mountain ranges hedge Tokushima's north and west sides. Rice fields occupy the lower region of the Yoshino River and much of the remaining land is used for vegetables and flowers. Industrial development is taking place around Tokushima and Naruto.

Since the Edo era, Tokushima has had a thriving economy. Women in the work place have made a major economic contribution, and Tokushima has more female company presidents than any other prefecture. The people of Tokushima value family name and status more than any other prefecture, and feel spiritually connected to their ancestors.

Although Tokushima's Ryusen Temple in Naruto is the first stop on an 88-temple pilgrimage of the Shikoku district, there are not many traditional Buddhist followers here. This is due in part to the influence of Soka Gakkai and sectarian Shintoism, with their emphasis on material blessings.

In 1880, after starting a preaching station in Osaka, Anglican Bishop H. Evington visited Tokushima, resulting in three baptisms. In 1884 along with the baptism of seven more, an Anglican church was started. One fruit of the work was Toyohiko Kagawa, who became an outstanding Christian leader and social reformer.

27 Pray for good cooperation among

churches through the Tokushima Ministers Fellowship, Shikoku Radio Ministry Fellowship, and the Tokushima Area Christmas Evangelistic Outreach. Pray that the 51 churches will have a great vision to plant churches throughout this prefecture.

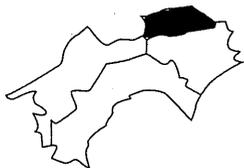
28 Pray for Osaka YMCA Anan International Marine Center and Tokushima Christian Center Book Store. Radio ministries: *The Light of the World* (Daily 5:15 a.m.), *Voice of Hope* (Fri. 5:00 a.m.), and *Lutheran Hour* (Daily 5:20 a.m.), all air on Shikoku Radio.

29 This is the only prefecture on Shikoku Island that has no Christian schools. Pray that Christian teachers provide a good example to young people. Pray that the three church-related kindergartens and eight day-care centers will be gospel beacons for the 930 children.

30 Christian hospitals: Tokushima Eiko with 71 beds, and Oshima with 48 beds at Wakimachi. Pray for health-related workers such as doctors, dentists and nurses.

1 Kamo Aikuen orphanage ministers to 70 children, and Tokushima Children's Home has 60 children.

2 A large majority of Tokushima's 31 unchurched towns and villages are located among the Shikoku and Tsurugi Mountains where population is declining. However some of them are also found in Tokushima plains.



Population	1,029,356	Churches	86
Size	1,876 km ²	Churches/person	1:11,969
Density	549 people/km ²	Members	3,514
Capital	Takamatsu	Members per church	41
Cities	7	Worship attendance	1,973
Towns/Villages	30	Attendance per church	23
With no churches	15	Missionaries	7
With 20,000 & no churches	1		
Kagawa	24,907		

The Prefecture

Kagawa has the nation's smallest total area. The climate is warm all year round. Unlike other prefectures in the Shikoku district, the agriculture industry does not contribute much to Kagawa's economy. The industrial district is centered along the coastline between Takamatsu and Kannonji.

Because it is close to Honshu Island, Kagawa has been a gateway to Shikoku Island with new cultures and merchandise being brought by the settlers and visitors. The people tend to be mellow, modest, hard-working, optimistic, and fun-loving in leisure.

The people of Kagawa show an interest in religion, especially in Buddhism. Kobo Daishi (Great Teacher Kobo) was born here. Also, out of 88 temples on the Shikoku pilgrimage route, 22 temples (from 67th to 88th) are located here.

Fukiji Watanabe and other believers from Ehime prefecture's Imabari Christ Church, which started in 1878, carried on evangelistic activities in Marugame, selling Bibles and even preaching in a Buddhist temple. In 1889 Methodist missionary Lambuth came to Tadotsu and was able to establish the first church in the prefecture the following year.

The missionaries of the Southern Presbyterian Church founded the Shikoku Gakuin University in 1950.

3 Ask the Lord's blessing upon the Kagawa Net with a specific ministry to Jehovah Witnesses and the Unification Church, the Shikoku District Wedding Committee, and other interdenominational fellowships here.

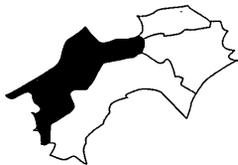
4 Kagawa has the smallest average membership and attendance in Shikoku. Pray that the *Lutheran Hour*, *Bible and You*, and *Car-reer Midnight Cruise*, aired on FM Kagawa, will bring many to Jesus.

5 Kobe YMCA Yoshima Outdoor Activity Center, a Christian training center. CD Books Grace at Takamatsu and for their work in helping Christians grow.

6 West Japan Missions School, a seminary to specifically meet the needs of the area, has 20 students. Shikoku Gakuin University with 2,000 students is the one Christian school in the prefecture.

7 A couple in their 90's were baptized in 2003. Christian friends, books, a pastor and church, along with the Christian Care House where they live, all played a part in their conversion. Pray for the witness of the facilities for the elderly and hospitals in Kagawa.

8 Kagawa has churches in 50% of its towns and villages. This high percentage ranks it in the best sixth of the nation. Yet there is still a need for new churches. The best example is Ayauta-gun with four towns and a population of 95,000, but only four church.



Population	1,496,929	Churches	117
Size	5,676 km ²	Churches/person	1:12,794
Density	264 people/km ²	Members	6,855
Capital	Matsuyama	Members per church	59
Cities	12	Worship attendance	3,008
Towns/Villages	50	Attendance per church	26
With no churches	31	Missionaries	4

The Prefecture

Ehime's slender shape stretches 150 kilometers from northeast to southwest. Although the agricultural industry is declining, Ehime still has more cultivated land and its gross product is higher than that of any other prefecture in Shikoku. The fishing industry is healthy, with the highest haul in all of Shikoku.

The climate is consistently mild and natural disasters are few. As a result the people of Ehime are said to be mild natured. They are submissive to authority and tradition, emphatic on community issues, and yet shy towards strangers.

In 1876 J.L. Ackinson visited Matsuyama and Imabari, and with the help of others evangelized with fervor. In 1878 they were joined by Tokio Yokoi, a member of the Kumamoto Band, and the Imabari Christ Church was officially established. Through that church in 1885 a church was started in Matsuyama, and in 1888 one on Uwajima island.

Although Ehime is experiencing a population decrease, seven out of the 12 cities in the prefecture are growing. This population trend should influence future evangelistic planning.

Ehime has one of the highest percentages of church attendance per population in all of Kinki, Chugoku, and Shikoku districts, two for every 1,000 people.

9 "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Intercede for the discouraged Christians in Ehime and for those who are thinking of giving up the faith.

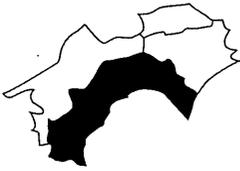
10 Pray that *True Salvation* (Sun. 6:25 a.m.) and *The Light of the World* (Sun. 7:00 a.m.) aired on Nankai Radio will touch people in areas where there are no churches.

11 Christian retreat centers: Usagino Yama Izumi no Ie Camp and Matsuyama Seibi Kaikan with a wedding chapel ministry. Christian book stores: Christian Book Store and Ark Book Store, both at Matsuyama.

12 Schools with a long Christian history: Matsuyama Shinonome Gakuen with 1,900 students and Matsuyama Jonan High School with 900 students. There are 20 kindergartens and four day-care centers that are teaching 1,700 children about Jesus every day.

13 Matsuyama Bethel Hospital with 155 beds; Matsuyama Garden of Eden with 150 beds and Bethel Home, both for the elderly, and Galilee Home at Kawauchi for the elderly with special care needs, Ayumi Gakuen in Matsuyama, and their ministry to the disabled.

14 Ehime has less unchurched areas than most prefectures. However, Iyo-gun and Minami Uwa-gun need more churches to adequately meet their spiritual needs.



Population	809,554	Towns/Villages	44
Size	7,104 km ²	With no churches	34
Density	114 people/km ²	Churches	60
Capital	Kochi City	Churches/person	1:13,493
Cities	9	Members	3,514
With only 1 church	2	Members per church	59
Tosa	30,648	Worship attendance	1,590
Muroto	19,404	Attendance per church	27
		Missionaries	4

The Prefecture

Kochi is the largest prefecture in the Shikoku district, 180 kilometers long, with layers of mountains taking up most of its land. It has the fourth lowest population density in the nation. It enjoys an average of only 70 sunny days a year, and also receives considerable damage from seasonal typhoons.

Even though only Miyagi prefecture has a higher percentage of farmers, Kochi's agricultural gross product is not impressive because of lack of cultivated land. Forests take up 80% of the land, providing a thriving forestry industry. The fishing industry is also healthy.

The people are known to be extremely stubborn, anti-authority prone, and have less respect for the government, the emperor and elders than the average. Even though there is a low level of interest in religion here, it is surprising that, following Wakayama and Nara, Kochi has the third highest number of Shinto believers.

Protestant ministry in the prefecture began in 1878 when the American Board missionary J.L. Ackinson was invited to Kochi by a powerful political leader. He stayed for one month preaching the Word daily and distributing Bibles. Then in 1884 several other missionaries were invited back and the Kochi Church was founded.

15 Pray for good fellowship and cooperation between pastors and churches. Pray for the Kochi Evangelical Fellowship and the Shikoku Revival Prayer Fellowship.

16 Pray for the ministry of the Kochi Gospel Book Store. It is difficult to carry on the book ministry with a low population base and small number of Christians.

17 Pray that the radio ministry reaches mountain villages and small communities that have no churches. The two radio broadcasts are *True Salvation* (Sun. 6:00 a.m.) and *Invitation Hour to Christ* (Sun. 7:30 a.m.) aired by Kochi Radio.

18 Pray that Seiwa Gakuen with 182 students will hold to a Christian-based education. Ask for effective ministries for the two church-related kindergartens and two day-care centers with 390 children.

19 There are no Christian medical facilities or social services available. Pray for the Christians who are involved in the medical and social field, along with the educators.

20 Most of the 34 unchurched towns and villages have small declining populations of one to four thousand people. However, important prayer targets should include Hata-gun with 7 towns and villages, 36,000 people and no churches and Agawa-gun with 5 towns and villages, close to 70,000 and only one church.

October 21~24 Training for Ministry

There are 119 theological training schools listed in the Christian Yearbook 2004. Most serve a particular denomination or association of churches, and about half of them have less than 20 students.

In Japan, it is financially difficult for these schools to have a full-time teaching staff, so many pastors teach on a part-time basis. This provides students with not only knowledge, but the privilege of learning practical skills required for pastoring a church.

Japan churches anticipate a large shortage of pastors in the near future, as many postwar pastors have passed retirement age. Pray that many young people hear the Lord's voice and dedicate themselves to the professional pastoral ministry.

Bible correspondence schools are seeking to train a growing number of older people who desire to study on a part-time basis.

Tokyo Christian Institute includes the

University (129 students), Seminary (44 students) and Research Institute. The Research Institute offers continuing education to many. The University is the only evangelical school fully accredited by the government of Japan, and able to grant an official degree.

Seisho Senkyokai with 125 students has two main departments: church music and missions. Many ministers have gone out from the school to serve in evangelical churches.

Pray for the Christianity department of Japan Christian Junior College (Chiba) and the department of theology at Osaka Christian Junior College (Osaka). Pray that both schools will maintain their evangelical position as they lead the students.

Jesus To Japan Mission Seminary in Tokyo, (JTJ) offers a wide variety of programs which allow students to take courses on campus or by video tapes.

21 Pray for the 119 different training schools in Japan, some of which are listed above. Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will raise up many new people to pastor churches and begin new ones.

22 *Japan Church Growth Institute* is a leadership development partnership that has trained nearly 200 of Japan's top pastors. Though this group comprises just one percent (1%) of the evangelical ministers in Japan, they pastor over eleven percent (11%) of all the believers in the country. Their churches represent ninety percent (90%) of the growth in Japan.

23 *Bible Reading Fellowship (Seisho wo Yomu Kai)* promotes group Bible study discussions. God is using the groups to

strengthen Christians and bring people to Christ. Also remember the many other Bible study ministries, such as *Bible Study Fellowship International*, *Precepts Ministries Japan*, and *Son Life*.

By 2004 1,000 people had been trained and 2,300 guests had been exposed to the gospel through *ALPHA*. Pray for strategic new initiatives for Workplace ALPHA ministry in conjunction with VIP Club and for Youth and Student ALPHA in partnership with various organizations.

24 *Total Mobilization Evangelism (Sodoin Dendo)* helps pastors throughout Japan to unite and to equip their people for more effective ministry. Rev. Masao Himei serves as chairman of the steering committee.

九州, 沖繩



Population	14,798,480	Churches	851
Size	44,414 km ²	Churches/person	1:17,390
Density	333 people/km ²	Members	57,193
Cities	98	Member per church	67
With no churches	3	Worship attendance	25,219
Kamiamakusa	35,661	Attendance per church	30
Kaseda	23,762	Baptisms	886
Matsuura	22,078	Previous year	978
With only 1 church	22	SS attendance	6,846
Towns/Villages	455	Previous year	6,934
With no churches	338	Missionaries	213
With 20,000 pop. & no churches	9	Missionaries/person	1:69,476

Christianity has its longest and deepest roots in the Kyushu district. Francis Xavier and the Jesuits arrived in Kagoshima in 1549. Christianity spread to Okinawa, Tane Island, and Kagoshima, and then to other areas of Kyushu and Japan until it was made illegal and severely oppressed. It was on February 5, 1597 that a total of twenty-six people were crucified in Nagasaki. Twenty were Japanese and six Spaniards. This signaled the beginning of 250 years of ruthless suppression. Many died as martyrs and many others abandoned their faith. Some sought to keep their faith as secret Christians (*Kirishitan*), and Christianity vanished from the public eye.

When a Catholic missionary returned in 1865, he found there were several thousand in and around Nagasaki who still professed the same faith. However, because of the long years of isolation, their faith had become very corrupted.

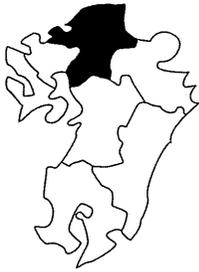
Protestant missionaries also came to Kyushu at the beginning of the Meiji era with ministry centering around Nagasaki, Kumamoto, and Saga. The work of the Southern Baptists dates back to the Meiji era, but their postwar outreach was especially blessed,

leading to the founding of many Baptist *Renmei* churches. Other smaller mission groups have been able to start churches in towns around Kumamoto, Oita and Miyazaki. Thankfully these churches are continuing on in spite of decreasing population.

25 The Kyushu region has fewer churches per population than any other area in western Japan. Saga prefecture is worst of all, having only one church for over 29,235 people, and four other prefectures have less than one per 20,000. Fukuoka and Okinawa have seen the number of churches increase in the last 10 years, but during the same period Nagasaki has lost 7 churches. Pray that at least one church will be started in each of these three prefectures.

26 One of the unchurched cities, Taku in Saga prefecture, at last has a new church. Pray that the first Protestant churches may be started in Kamiamakusa in Kumamoto, Matsuura in Nagasaki and Kaseda in Kagoshima. See page 84 for more information.

There are 338 villages and towns without churches, with nine of these having a population of more than 20,000. Six are commuter towns with increasing populations.



Population	5,010,859	Yamada	11,638
Size	4,968 km ²	Towns/Villages	72
Density	1,009 people/km ²	With no churches	46
Capital	Fukuoka City	With 20,000 & no churches	3
Cities	24	Churches	277
With only 1 church	6	Churches/person	1:18,090
Onojo	91,909	Members	21,995
Tagawa	53,440	Members per church	79
Nakama	48,525	Worship attendance	8,579
Chikugo	47,798	Attendance per church	31
Okawa	41,085	Missionaries	49

The Prefecture

Fukuoka's Chikugo Plain produces good yields of rice, barley, vegetables, and fruits. The Chikuho coal mines have helped the North Kyushu region become one of the nation's four major industrial districts.

The people of Fukuoka are sophisticated, openhearted, and less discriminatory against outsiders than the average Japanese. Fukuoka is presently home to 30,000 foreigners, more than any other prefecture in western Japan.

Thirty-six soldiers from Fukuoka who participated in the Satsuma revolt in 1877 were captured and taken to prison in Hyogo. A believer from Kobe ministered to the inmates, and Norizo Ogami and others became believers. Returning to Fukuoka in 1879 they invited a Doshisha student to come to help them. In spite of persecution, a church was established in 1885.

27 Pray for many to meet Jesus through *True Salvation* (Sun. 4:35 a.m.) aired on Kyushu Asahi Radio.

Fukuoka and Kumamoto have two of the poorest ratios between church membership and attendance. Protestant churches here have an average membership of 79, but worship attendance is only 31. Pray for the many who have confessed Jesus, but now no longer

participate in church fellowship.

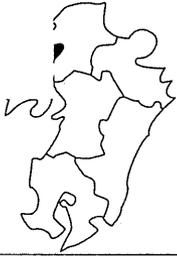
28 Pray for the Fukuoka YMCA Hotel. Christian book stores: Life Center at Fukuoka, Shinseikan at Fukuoka, and others.

29 The prefecture has four Christian schools with an enrollment of 17,800 students. What a powerful impact there would be if even 10% became followers of Jesus.

30 Pray for Eiko Hospital with 178 beds and also for the Christians employed at secular hospitals and clinics. Remember that for many patients this is their only contact with Christianity.

31 Christian social services: Hisayama Ry-oikuen has long been caring for the severely mentally and physically disabled (room for 80 with 15 out-patients); Omuta Keiaien/ Keiai Work Center, providing placement services for the disabled. Pray for the salvation of the many foreign residents in Fukuoka.

1 Mizumaki (31,482), Sue (25,576) and Miyata (21,356) are towns with no churches. Mii-gun with one town and 16,000 people, Itoshima-gun with two towns and 31,000 are also without churches. And even though population is decreasing, Yame-gun with four towns and two villages and 56,000 people has no access to even one church.



Population	877,040	With 20,000 & no churches	1
Size	2,439 km ²	Yamato	22,538
Density	360 people/km ²	Churches	30
Capital	Saga City	Churches/person	1:29,235
Cities	7	Members	1,567
With only 1 church	2	Members per church	52
Kashima	33,351	Worship attendance	640
Taku	23,721	Attendance per church	21
Towns/Villages	42	Missionaries	5
With no churches	37		

The Prefecture

South Korea's shoreline is located only 200 kilometers away. The climate throughout Saga is relatively mild, except for the mountainous regions and the area around the Sea of Genkai, where an occasional winter front brings cold weather.

Saga's economy is solidly based on agriculture. In fact, rice grown on the Saga Plain was so successfully irrigated by its many canals, that the prefecture once ranked as the nation's number one producer of rice.

Many influences have shaped the culture here. Korea and China brought their cultures in ancient days. Also, the *Kirishitan* influence was felt throughout Kyushu. Traditional shrines include the Yutoku Inari Shrine in Kashima, the Taku Shrine of Confucius in Taku, and the Matsubara Shrine where Lord Nabeshima of the Saga clan is worshipped.

When Wakasanokami Murata, the counselor of the Saga clan, was in Nagasaki as a naval officer, he came upon a Bible which had been retrieved from the ocean. Missionary Guido Verbeck later led him and his brother, Ayabe Murata, to faith and baptism. When Murata returned home, he invited Verbeck and others to come to Saga. A Bible lecture hall was opened in 1880 and in 1890 it became the Saga Church.

2 Pray for a strong spirit of cooperation among the pastors and believers of Saga's 30 Protestant churches. Only 640 people out of a population of 877,040 attend a Protestant church here. By the power of the Lord, Gideon and 300 soldiers defeated the huge army of the Midianites. Pray for special boldness for these people.

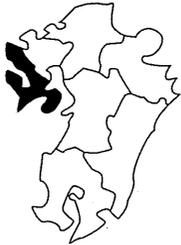
3 May the Bible stories taught in the four kindergartens and three day-care center have an impact that will last forever in the lives of the 530 children.

4 Pray that more people in Saga will listen to *The Light of the World* (Sun. 6:40 a.m.) aired on NBC in Nagasaki and come to Christ.

5 Pray for the Christian social ministries of Zion's Garden with 50 elderly residents, Fuji Gakuen for those with mental disabilities, and that Christian schools and hospitals/clinics be started in this prefecture.

6 Saga prefecture has the negative distinction of having 37 or 88% of its towns and villages without churches, the highest percent in the nation. Saga-gun with 75,000 people, Miyaki-gun with 55,000, Kanzaki-gun with over 50,000 each have five or six towns and villages, but no churches. Please intercede with tears for these needy areas.

7 Pray for the two cities with only one church, Kashima and Taku.



Population	1,511,064	With no churches	51
Size	4,091 km ²	With 20,000 & no churches	2
Density	369 people/km ²	Nagayo	42,723
Capital	Nagasaki City	Togitsu	28,928
Cities	10	Churches	53
With no churches	1	Churches/person	1:28,511
Matsuura	22,078	Members	2,615
With only 1 church	2	Members per church	49
Iki	33,236	Worship attendance	1,212
Fukue	27,343	Attendance per church	23
Towns/Villages	61	Missionaries	13

The Prefecture

The prefecture is itself a peninsula, but also has numerous peninsulas. Agriculture and fisheries are considered the leading industries of Nagasaki prefecture. The coal mines on the Matsuura Peninsula dominated the coal industry along with Hokkaido and Kita Kyushu, but with coal less in demand, the area is in a fast decline.

During the Edo era of isolation, it was the only port open to international ships. This prefecture produced early *Kirishitan*, many of whom died as martyrs during the oppression. When the country opened during the Meiji era, many hidden *Kirishitan* were identified and churches were reestablished. While the number of Catholics is highest in the nation, Protestants are relatively few.

The Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the US and Japan was signed on July 28, 1858, making it possible for missionaries to come to Nagasaki in 1859. Because of the prohibition against Christianity, they taught English and sought to share their faith with those interested in education. In 1875 a church building was constructed, and the next year at Christmas the Nagasaki Church with 10 members was formed.

8 Pray for a strong sense of partnership among the pastors and churches. Ask God to raise up more opportunities for churches to unite in Christ.

9 Pray for the Kawamura Book Store Shalom, and *True Salvation* (Sat. 6:20 a.m.) and *Light of the World* (Sun. 6:40 a.m.) aired on NBC Nagasaki Radio.

10 Christian schools: Kassui Gakuin with 2,600 students with a long Christian history; Chinzei Gakuin with 1,300 students, Nagasaki Gakuin with 770 students (Foreign Language Jr. College), and others. Pray that these schools will be strongly based on the Bible. Most of the 1,200 children attending the six Christian kindergartens and 18 day-care centers come from homes where the ancestors and other gods are worshiped.

11 The Isono Gynecology Clinic ministers in the south part of Shimabara Peninsula. Pray for the testimony of the Christian doctors and nurses working in secular facilities.

12 There are no known Christian social welfare facilities. Facilities for the elderly and disabled are much needed.

13 Pray that the first Protestant church will soon be started in Matsuura city and in Nagayo and Togitsu towns. For more information concerning Matsuura, see page 84.



Population	1,862,895	With no churches	57
Size	7,403 km ²	With 20,000 & no churches	1
Density	252 people/km ²	Churches	85
Capital	Kumamoto City	Churches/person	1:21,916
Cities	12	Members	7,433
With no church	1	Members per church	87
Kamiamakusa	35,661	Worship attendance	2,135
With only 1 church	3	Attendance per church	25
Towns/Villages	75	Missionaries	22

The Prefecture

KUMAMOTO'S ACTIVE VOLCANO, MT. ASO WITH ITS crater basin of about 130 km. in circumference, is the largest of its kind in the world. The area around Kumamoto City experiences drastic temperature variations, but the overall climate is mild and warm.

The people of Kumamoto are known to be even more conservative than the rest of the area, and tend to be religiously oriented. A large number identify themselves as Buddhists. Famous temples and shrines include the Aso Shrine, predating the Nara era, and the ~~Ikuta Shrine and Kuro Shrine~~, both dedicated to the worship of ancient warriors.

A retired Army captain, L.L. Janes, came by invitation to Kumamoto in 1871 to establish a Western school. His powerful Christian witness brought many of the students to faith, and on January 30, 1876 the famous Kumamoto Band was formed with 35 young men. They were not able to stay in Kumamoto, and so moved to Kyoto and Doshisha School.

The first Protestant church in the prefecture was an Anglican church which started as a fellowship in 1879 with three baptized people.

14 Pray that evangelistic TV programs will soon be shown. Pray that *The Light of the World* (Sun. 5:45 a.m.) aired on Kumamoto

Radio will be utilized to the fullest.

13 ASK GOD'S BLESSING ON THE MINISTRIES of Kumamoto YMCA Aso Camp, Tomoshibi Bible Camp, Lutheran Aso Mountain Villa, Kumamoto Christian Book Store and the Oasis Book Store.

16 Christian schools: Kumamoto Faith Girls High School has 400 students with 100 years of history, and equally old Kyushu Gakuin with 1,300 students, and Kyushu Lutheran Gakuin with 1,600 students. There are nine Protestant kindergartens and 13 day-care centers with 2,000 children.

17 TWO MINISTRIES FOCUSING ON those afflicted by Hansen's disease: The Kikuchi Reimei Episcopal Church ministry and the Tairo In facility caring for 19 people.

18 Christian social service centers: Kumamoto Light House for eight visually impaired children and 20 hearing impaired, and Kumamoto Light House Nozomi Home for 40 mentally disabled. Also intercede for Jiaien with a variety of ministries for the elderly.

19 Kamiamakusa city was formed in 2004. It has no churches. See page 84 for more information. These cities have only one church: Tamana (45,449), Kikuchi (27,277) and Ushibuka (18,288). A number of areas throughout the prefecture also are very inadequately churched.

November 20~25 Ministry to Professionals

20 Pray for the witness of the few Christians who are involved in the entertainment world of theater, cinema, etc. Pray that the Lord will raise up a strong movement among these people.

21 Every year approximately from 80 to 100 thousand foreigners enter Japan with a work visa. Another 40 to 60 thousand enter illegally and become part of the work force. Many of them settle in areas around the major cities like Nagoya, Osaka and Tokyo. Some come as Christians and marry Japanese non-Christians. Some hear the gospel for the first time in Japan. Most suffer from discouragement and loneliness. Some end up attending Japanese churches, while others find churches that worship in their own languages. Pray for these people.

22 Pray for the ministry and fellowship of the *Japan Christian Business Men's Conference (CBMC)*, a network of business and professional leaders seeking to reach their peers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At least five groups are active in Japan. The *Christian Business Men's Association*

(*CBMA*) also encourages Christians to be faithful to the Bible and to live righteous and dynamic lives in the workplace.

23 The *VIP Club (Very Important Person in God's Eyes)* ministry reaching businessmen through a variety of ministries. There are about 30 VIP groups throughout Japan that meet on a monthly basis. Approximately 25 other groups are meeting in 12 different nations.

24 Pray for the *Japan International Gideon Society*. As in other parts of the world, they are active in Bible distribution at schools, hotels, prisons, etc. Most Japanese receive their first New Testament from a Gideon. In 2004 they distributed 836,000 Bibles and New Testaments. Since their beginning in 1950 they have distributed 31 million.

25 *Morning Prayer Group (Chotokai)* was started by a business man in Osaka and has now spread throughout Japan with 9 different locations. Pray that this movement will continue to grow, maintaining healthy fellowship and spiritual power in prayer.

Mental Disorders Increasing in the Workforce

In August, 2004 it was reported that nearly 60% of companies in Japan saw an increase in the number of employees suffering from mental disorders over the past three years. Pray for the Christian workers that they will find rest and strength in Christ, and that they will share Jesus with their struggling co-workers.

Educator Quotes Scripture

Right after the War Mr. K began a little vocational school in his family home. This small start has developed into two large private high schools and two junior colleges.

His wife is a believer who prayed fervently for his salvation for many years. At last he opened his heart to Jesus. Now as the chairman of the school board, he often quotes from the Bible during his official greetings to the students.

Pray that God would challenge Christian educators throughout Japan, that they would have an effective witness to the students and staff.



Population	1,227,107	Towns/Villages	47
Size	6,338 km ²	With no churches	39
Density	194 people/km ²	Churches	60
Capital	Oita City	Churches/person	1:20,452
Cities	11	Members	3,150
With only 1 church	4	Members per church	53
Usa	49,884	Worship attendance	1,546
Tsukumi	23,121	Attendance per church	26
Kitsuki	23,179	Missionaries	7
Takeda	16,923		

The Prefecture

The only real flat area here is found at Oita and Nakatsu. Generally the weather is warm with much rain, but the Kunisaki Peninsula and the north receive little rain.

Oita always tended to be different from the rest of Kyushu. The Kansai and Shikoku influence has been strong, giving the people an emphasis on individualism and rationalism.

The Usa Shrine is one of the most famous ancient worship locations. Particularly from Usa through to the Kunisaki Peninsula magic and divination are evident.

Francis Xavier received the blessing of Lord Otomo in Oita in 1551 which led to many becoming *Kirishitan*. The oppressive anti-Christian policy of the Tokugawa government extended into the Meiji era, leaving an atmosphere of prejudice and negativity, even after it was legal to become a Christian.

In 1888 Southern Methodist missionaries, W. R. Lambuth, B.W. Walters and S.W. Wainwright, were sent to Oita to teach English in the middle school there. That same year 24 students were baptized and the Oita Methodist Church was formed. It is recorded that the next year, at a New Year's Eve prayer meeting, the Holy Spirit brought a great revival to the church, and the young people went out preaching the gospel.

26 The number of churches in Oita has decreased by one in the last ten years. Pray for the many who have little opportunity to hear the gospel.

27 Many areas of the prefecture do not have easy access to Christian literature. Pray that churches will find creative ways to share the gospel.

28 There do not appear to be any Christian schools in the prefecture. Pray for the Christian teachers that they might be as zealous as the Meiji era English teachers. Pray for the six kindergartens and nine day-care centers that are sharing Jesus with 1,200 children.

29 Medical facilities in Oita City run by Christians: Yoshida Clinic, Inobe Hospital and Lucas Clinic (mental health). Pray that these places will give a good witness to God's love, healing power and salvation.

30 Christian social ministries: Eikoen with 95 children; Beppu Heiwaen with 50 children; and the nursing home and day-care service.

1 There are 39 towns and villages without churches. Most of these are very small with one to three thousand population. It would be very difficult to begin and maintain churches in these places, so pray that Bible studies, or some other Christ-centered groups will be started. Pray for Usa city with close to 50,000 people and only one church.



Population	1,177,455	With no churches	26
Size	7,734 km ²	With 20,000 & no churches	2
Density	152 people/km ²	Churches	63
Capital	Miyazaki City	Churches/person	1:18,690
Cities	9	Members	3,018
With only 1 church	2	Members per church	48
Ebino	24,494	Worship attendance	1,298
Kushima	23,396	Attendance per church	21
Towns/Villages	35	Missionaries	9

The Prefecture

The weather is generally warm with heavy rainfall throughout the prefecture. Occasional torrential rains and typhoons during the rainy season can cause much damage.

The number of agricultural workers is decreasing, but they still make up over half of the labor force. The fishing industry does well in spite of its small fishing area. The manufacturing and heavy industries are underdeveloped due to geographical factors.

More than 2,000 ancient burial mounds, and many ancient cultural relics have been unearthed in Miyazaki prefecture. With this cultural background it is easy to see why the people of Miyazaki place high value on tradition and a sense of belonging to the community. There are many shrines with mythological backgrounds like Udo Shrine, Miyazaki Shrine and Takachiho Shrine.

In 1879 O.H. Gulick of the American Board Mission was invited to come to the area. He was accompanied by Jo Niijima and others. They each concentrated on different parts of Miyazaki and a church was established in Takanabe in 1888. The first church, however, had already been started in Miyazaki City the year before.

2 Pray for The *Light of the World* (Daily 5:10 a.m.) and *True Salvation* (Sun. 7:00 a.m.) aired on Miyazaki Radio.

3 Pray for the Miyazaki Gospel Book Store, that the literature will strengthen Christians, and provide an effective witness to pre-Christians.

4 There are no TV ministries, Christian schools, camping or retreat facilities, or medical facilities here. Pray that Christian leaders will be led to start these kinds of services. May God open the hearts of the 1,000 children attending the nine Christian kindergartens and two day-care centers, and the thousands who have previously attended.

5 Pray that the Christian doctors and nurses provide their patients with not only physical but also spiritual healing and that they bear witness to their colleagues.

6 Pray that Christian welfare services will soon be established in Miyazaki. Pray for the Christians working in the social services field.

7 Especially important targets among the unchurched areas are these towns where the population is not decreasing: Mimata with 24,841, and Kunitomi with 22,549. Also Higashi Usuki-gun and Nishi Usuki-gun, even though they are spread out in a mountainous area with a declining population, have 13 towns and villages and a combined population of 83,000 people, and only two churches.



Population	1,769,932	Towns/Villages	82
Size	9,186 km ²	With no churches	63
Density	193 people/km ²	Churches	73
Capital	Kagoshima City	Churches/person	1:24,248
Cities	14	Members	3,256
With no churches	1	Members per church	45
Kaseda	23,762	Worship attendance	1,693
With only 1 church	3	Attendance per church	23
Makurazaki	25,988	Missionaries	14
Tarumizu	19,756		
Nishinoomote	18,437		

The Prefecture

Kagoshima consists of two sections, the island itself and the many islands in the adjacent ocean called the Koshikijima Isles and Satsunan Islands.

Kagoshima, along with Miyazaki, was one of the major ancient cultural centers on Kyushu Island. The people show an average interest in religion, but a fairly high percentage of people indicate a preference for Buddhism or Shintoism.

FRANCIS XAVIER LANBERG IR KAGOSHIMA IR 1549 marking the beginning of Catholicism in Japan. Many became *Kirishitan*.

An American Dutch Reformed missionary came to teach the Bible in Kagoshima in 1873, the year that the anti-Christian edict was removed. The following year an Anglican believer began an evangelistic ministry. However, because of the turmoil caused by the Satsuma Rebellion there was no visible lasting fruit. In 1878 another Anglican believer who had started preaching in Kagoshima invited a British missionary and several seminary students to cooperate in the ministry, and they were able to complete a church building. That same year a Methodist church began, resulting in a church which still remains.

8 Kaseda city has no Protestant church.

See page 84. Pray that a church will be started there, along with additional churches in Makurazaki, Tarumizu and Nishinoomote.

9 Pray for the ministry of Kagoshima Hitomugi Book Store and Kanoya Christian Center Book Store.

True Salvation (Sat. 5:45 a.m.) is aired on Minami Nippon Radio. Pray that the Holy Spirit will cause people who are seeking spiritual help to listen.

10 NO CRISTIAN SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES or medical facilities are known in the whole prefecture. Needless to say, many people need to see Christian involvement, especially in servicing the sick and elderly. Pray for the Christians involved in caring for the underprivileged.

11 There seem to be no Protestant schools in Kagoshima. Pray for the Christian teachers and personnel actually engaged in teaching. There are 13 church-related kindergartens and 4 day-care centers with 1,300 children.

12 Remember the Christian doctors, nurses, and other personnel as they seek to witness to colleagues and patients.

13 Kawanabe and Ei towns each have 15,000 people with declining populations. However, both are located in districts with over 40,000 people and only one church.



Population	1,362,128	Churches	210
Size	2,255 km ²	Churches/person	1:6,486
Density	604 people/km ²	Members	14,159
Capital	Naha	Members per church	67
Cities	11	Worship attendance	8,116
Towns/Villages	41	Attendance per church	39
With no churches	19	Missionaries	94

The Prefecture

The Ryukyu Islands, a chain of more than 60 islands, are part of Okinawa prefecture with Okinawa Island as the largest and most important island. Due to coral reefs and geographical isolation, along with vast U.S. military bases and other installations on the island, little land is left for farming.

The people of Okinawa are racially and linguistically the same as the rest of Japan. However, the culture has developed differently because of isolation from the main islands. Okinawa has suffered many historic tragedies. Early government policies of discrimination, the fierce battles fought here at the end of WW II, and the 27-year occupation by the US are some of these tragedies. Okinawa still carries scars from its past.

Only 1.7% of the population are Buddhist believers and 0.3% Shintoists. Popular folklore beliefs based on ancestor worship are integral parts of the Okinawan's lives.

Anglican medical missionary B. Bettelheim arrived in Naha in May, 1846. There was a blank in the ministry until 1890 when a Baptist missionary R.A. Thompson began to preach there. He was joined by Michinosuke Hara who started the church the following year. This became the Naha Baptist Church.

The percentage of church members and worship attendance to the population are three times higher than the national average.

14 "...the word of the Lord stands forever" (1 Peter 1:25). Pray for the people of Okinawa that they become a living testimony to the redemptive power of a loving God and to the everlasting faithfulness of His word.

15 Christian camp/retreat centers: Okinawa Ginowan Seminar House and Pension Ecclesia. Pray for the Life Center Naha Book Store and Okinawa Christian Book Store.

16 Okinawa Christian Jr. College with 850 students and Okinawa Christian School International with 380 students for the children of foreign residents are some of the schools here. There are 12 church-related kindergartens and 20 day-care centers with 1,900 children.

17 Pray for Airaku En where Pastor Yasujiro Aoki devoted his life to those suffering from Hansen's disease before he himself was afflicted and died.

18 Christian welfare facilities: Airinen for 90 children, Ainosono for the disabled (both at Yonabaru), and Aino Mura with 70 elderly residents. Pray that they may bring many to Christ.

19 In Okinawa only 46% of the towns and villages are unchurched, yet Okinawa prefecture is full of islands with unchurched communities not large enough to be registered as villages. Pray that creative ways will be found to bring the gospel to these people too.

Dec. 20~31 Christmas and New Year

No other time of the year more perfectly spotlights the Japanese religious heart than the end of December and the first of January! The department stores and the small shops all start their Christmas advertisements and sales even before Advent. Santa Claus is the center. The gift-giving custom is usually limited to parents giving their children presents. The Christmas cake, to be eaten on Christmas Eve, has become a popular family experience. As soon as Christmas ends, parents prepare little envelopes of money to give their own children and those of relatives and friends as a New Year's gift. Often children will receive several hundred dollars. Christmas decorations are replaced by the Shinto New Year's symbol, a pine branch attached to the front gate of each

home. Most Japanese head for temples or shrines early on New Year's Day to pray for safety and blessings for the new year. As they approach the front area, they toss a coin into the offering "trough," clap their hands, and pray.

To whom they pray is not important. The prayer may go to Buddha, an ancestor god, or one of the million Shinto gods. It doesn't really matter. The same thing can be seen in many homes which may have a Buddhist family altar and also a Shinto god-shelf.

For the Japanese, syncretism is a very common reality, a part of daily life. In the midst of this, how do we effectively proclaim the gospel? Perhaps at times Japanese Christians have just added one more Big God to the others.

Literature and Evangelism

20 New Japanese Bible (Shin Kai-yaku Seisho) is used by many evangelical churches. In 2003 the third edition was released, updating the translation in 900 places, including terms for disabilities and leprosy that had come to be seen as derogatory. Approximately 224,000 Bibles and Testaments were sold in 2003.

The *Japan Bible Society* is part of the 120-year-old International Bible Society. They have an active ministry of translating, publishing and selling Bibles, holding seminars and sponsoring Bible displays. In 2002-03 they distributed 937,000 Bibles and Testaments.

21 New Life Mission, Japan seeks to reach Japan and the world through publishing and

printing of Bibles and other materials. It is the largest Christian printing operation in Asia. Tens of millions of Bibles have been sent to numerous needy countries in Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. Its goal is to annually supply 5 million Bibles and 15 million gospel booklets for those who have not yet received God's good news.

22 Word of Life Press Ministries (Inochi no Kotobasha Dendo Group) has 17 ministries which comprise Japan's largest nonprofit Christian publishing (80 new titles a year), retailing (Gospel Shop Chain) and wholesaling ministry. WLPM also organizes evangelistic outreaches such as concerts, exhibitions, and camps, has a ministry to the blind, and manages a conference center in Karuizawa.

Literature and Evangelism

The Forest Books imprint (WLPM) is aimed at penetrating the 11,000 secular bookstores with Christian books. Pray that many people will be reached who would never go to a Christian store.

23 *Christian Literature Crusade*, recently renamed CLC Books, Japan, began in England and started its work in Japan right after the War. This ministry includes publishing work, bookmobile sales, and distribution of evangelical literature through its 9 bookstores throughout Japan.

24 Many churches and Christian organizations sponsor evangelistic concerts, candle services, etc. to touch pre-Christians with the gospel. One example is the *Megumi Chalet* in Karuizawa which sponsors an annual December Christmas illumination. It draws thousands of tourists to the grounds where they can receive a hot drink and a tract, as well as attend a gospel concert.

25 For this generation the most famous Japanese evangelist was Koji Honda who died in April, 2002. Pray that new evangelists will feel led to carry on this ministry, and pray for a new vision for the *Japan Gospel Crusade* which was started by Honda. The *Evangelists' Fellowship of Japan (Nihon Dendosha Kyoryokukai)* encourages, trains and sends out traveling evangelists throughout the country. Groups like the *Japan Christ Evangelistic Association (Nihon Kirisuto Dendokai)*, *Japan Christ Mission*, *All Japan Revival Mission*, and *Japan Evangelism Cooperation* promote evangelism in the churches.

26 The well-known Protestant author, *Ayako Miura* died in 1999. Pray that God will raise up new writers who will bridge the gap between the secular and the church.

27 Pray for the *Japan Mission to the Blind* ministry as they use computers to provide Braille Bibles and Christian literature to minister to people with visual impairments in Third World countries. WLPM's Ministry to the Blind produces Braille books, magazines and tracts and sponsors a radio program, audio lending library and seminars for blind people in the Japanese language.

28 The weekly "*Christian Shimbun*" (newspaper) distributes 25,000 copies each week. It also publishes two monthly papers to share the gospel with non-Christians. The *Gospel Paper (Fukuin Ban)*, for adults, has a circulation of 150,000, and *Lammy*, for children, has a distribution of 50,000.

29 Pray for the salvation of athletes and sports leaders. Pray for the few Christian athletes to have an effective testimony. Foreign Christian baseball, basketball and soccer players at times play in the professional leagues here. Groups like *Friendship Golf* and *Sports Outreach Japan (SOJ)* seek to promote sports ministry.

30 The New Year season, along with the August *Obon* time, is a travel period. Many Christians will be returning to their home areas to spend a week or more with their families. Pray that they will be able to share an effective witness for Jesus.

31 "To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore! Amen" (Jude 1:24).

Pray for Christians and churches as they look forward to a new year of grace.

Hokkaido: Akabira City 赤平市 15,159. On July 16 and 17th the city sponsors a fire festival, featuring a huge Japanese symbol for "fire" on the hillside. Although the population is declining, this city takes pride in the part their coal mines had in Japan's past economic history. Pray that Pentecostal fire will come to establish His church there. <http://www3.ocn.ne.jp/~akabira/shisei/english.htm>.

Utashinai City 歌志内市 5,666. This is Japan's smallest city by population. It was formerly a prosperous coal mining city, but has declined greatly since the closing of the coal mines. The city is trying to survive by becoming a Swiss-theme tourist attraction. http://www.absoluteastronomy.com/encyclopedia/u/ut/utashinai,_hokkaido.htm.

Yamagata Prefecture: Obanazawa City 尾花沢市 21,534. This is an agriculturally-based city with 60% of the city's population engaged in farming. Winter snowfall reaches up to two meters. <http://www.city.obanazawa.yamagata.jp/>.

Gifu Prefecture: Mino City 美濃市 24,511. Gifu prefecture used to be called Mino province. The city boasts the highest volume of production and shipments of tableware in Japan. It is also noted for its handmade Japanese paper. Although the area is very old, this city was founded in 1954. You can see webcam scenes at http://www.city.mino.gifu.jp/index_w.html.

Gifu Prefecture: Motosu City 本巣市 34,795. This city was just formed in February, 2004, when three towns and one village united, making it one of the largest unchurched cities in Japan. No English web site.

Mie Prefecture: Inabe City いなべ市 45,302. The city was formed in December, 2003, by merging four towns that had no churches. This is the largest unchurched city in Japan. Population is growing as the city emphasizes industry, tourism and agriculture. <http://www.city.inabe.mie.jp/english/nw.cgi>.

Hiroshima Prefecture: Akitakata City 安芸高田市 34,214. This city is the result of a merger of six towns in March, 2004. It is a mountainous farming area known for tea. Since 1992 the area has had a sister-city relation with the Selwyn District of New Zealand. No English web site.

Nagasaki Prefecture: Matsuura City 松浦市 22,078. The city of Mackay, Australia has a very active sister-city relation with Matsuura, as representatives have reciprocally visited each other for 50 years. Note Mackay city's web site.

Kumamoto Prefecture: Kamiamakusa City 上天草市 35,661. Three towns merged to form Kamiamakusa City in 2004. A museum here introduces the history of Christian martyrdom, especially in the Amakusa-Shimabara Rebellion of 1637-8. May many be touched by these Christians' sacrifice, and desire to start a church here. http://www.keikyo.com/museums/museums/kumamoto/amakusa_shiro/.

Kagoshima Prefecture: Kaseda City 加世田市 23,762. Kaseda is noted for its Sculpture and Flower Festival in May. Pictures may be seen at <http://www3.synapse.ne.jp/hantoubunka/en/ph/sand.htm>. Pray that a church built on the solid rock will soon be started.

Pray for the 10 Unchurched Cities

Hokkaido

Akabira City 赤平市 (15,159)
Utashinai City 歌志内市 (5,666)

Yamagata Ken

Obanazawa City 尾花沢市 (21,534)

Gifu Ken

Mino City 美濃市 (24,511)
Motosu City 本巣市 (34,795)

Mie Ken

Inabe City
いなべ市 (45,302)

Hiroshima Ken

Akitakata City 安芸高田市 (34,214)

Nagasaki Ken

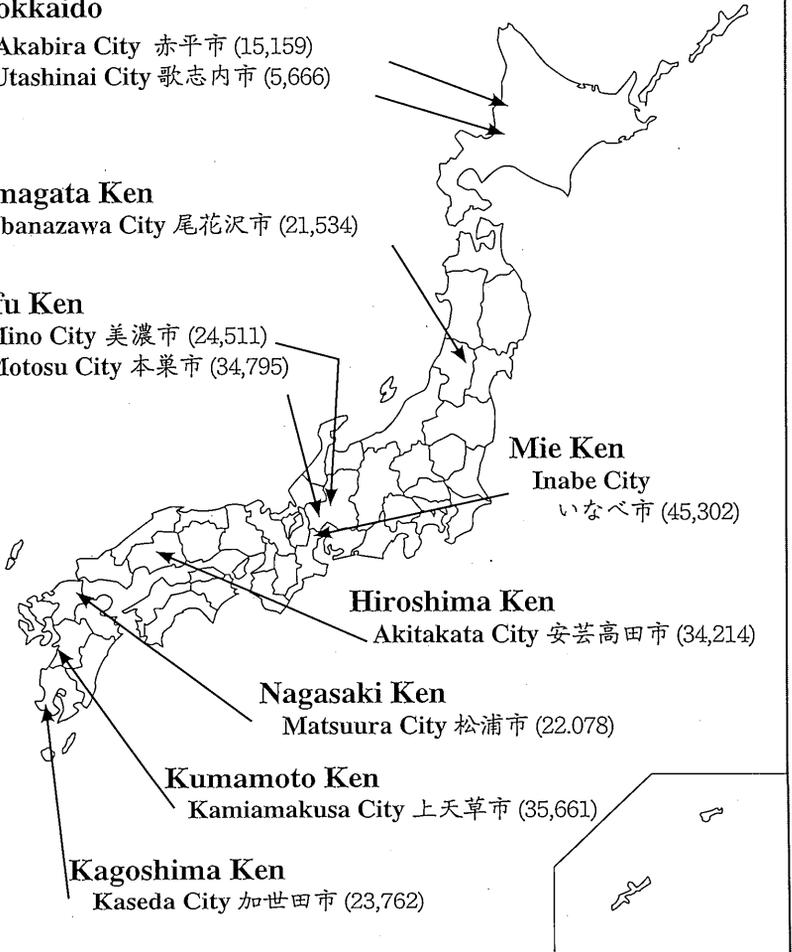
Matsuura City 松浦市 (22,078)

Kumamoto Ken

Kamiamakusa City 上天草市 (35,661)

Kagoshima Ken

Kaseda City 加世田市 (23,762)



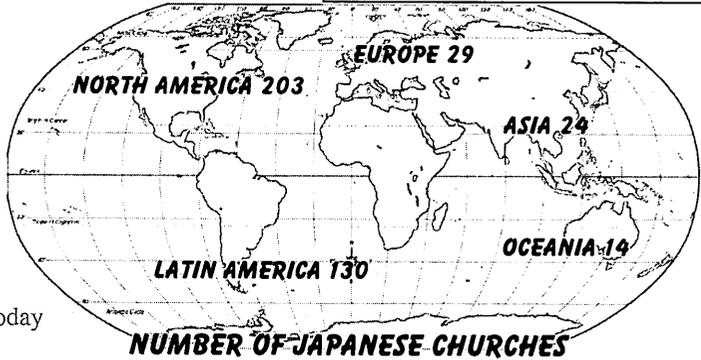
Japanese Churches Abroad

In the U.S.A.	
California	91
Hawaii	30
Washington	9
Illinois	9
Others	52
Total	191

Protestant Churches
Largest Number in Asia Taiwan 6
Largest Number in Oceania Australia 11
Largest Number in Europe Germany 9
Largest Number in Latin America Brazil 116

Observations:

1. The number of Japanese churches outside of Japan has increased as the population increased. There were 391 Japanese churches around the world in 1997. Today there are 400.
2. Even though the population increased in Europe, the number of churches decreased from 40 in 1997 to 29 in 2001.
3. Australia now has the most Japanese churches in Asia and Oceania.
4. If we just take the number of Japanese in a country and calculate the churches per population, we see that Singapore, France and China have fewer churches per population than Japan itself. In Japan there is one church per 16,230. In Singapore it is one per 23,174, France is one per 21,785, and China is one per 17,786.



Japanese Living Abroad						
Country	No. of Japanese				No. of Churches	
	1990	% of Total	2001	% of Total	2002	% of Total
USA	236,401	38.1	312,936	37.4	191	47.8
Brazil	105,060	16.9	73,492	8.8	116	29.0
U.K.	44,351	7.2	51,896	6.2	8	2.0
Canada	21,846	3.5	34,446	4.1	12	3.0
Germany	20,913	3.4	26,402	3.2	9	2.3
Australia	15,154	2.4	41,309	4.9	11	2.8
France	15,026	2.4	21,785	2.6	1	0.3
Thailand	14,289	2.3	22,731	2.7	2	0.5
Singapore	12,701	2.0	23,174	2.8	1	0.3
China	8,269	1.3	53,357	6.4	3	0.8
Korea	5,826	.9	17,613	2.1	5	1.3
Other	120,338	21.7	229,573	27.4	41	10.3
Total	620,174	100.0	837,744	100.0	400	100.0

Statistics from Japan Statistical Yearbook 2004
Church statistics from The Christian Data Book (2004)

The First Missionary

Japan's mission history dates back to the early 1890s when a missionary was sent to Okinawa. However, since Okinawa at that time was officially part of Japan, it is better to call Masayasu Norimatsu Japan's first missionary. He was converted at Japan's first church, the Kaigan Church in Yokohama, in 1887. He left for Korea in 1896 and spent 17 years in a very productive church-planting ministry.

The Present Missionary Force

The 2004 Christian Data Book lists 133 separate foreign missionary associations, 27 of which have begun in the last 10 years. Approximately half of these are small church-based support groups for a particular missionary.

When a missions' survey was taken in 1997, 42 missions responded. Although the results were not comprehensive, they do provide basic information.

1. Of the 312 people who have been sent out as missionaries since World War Two, 212 are still active as missionaries.

2. Of these missionaries 53% are in East and Southeast Asia, 13% in Central and South America, 12% in North America, and the rest in West Asia, Oceania, Europe and Africa.

3. The largest sending agency among denominations is the Evangelical Alliance Church with 18; among the interdenominational Japan Wycliffe Bible Translators is the largest with 54.

4. Japan Overseas Missions Association (JOMA) is an important Evangelical fellowship of 17 different missions.

5. The missionary force is growing. Between 1987 through 1996 there were 174 sent out. This means that 60% of all postwar missionaries had been sent out during that 10 year period.



The map shows the number of Japanese missionaries serving around the world. Some are ministering cross-culturally, and others are serving Japanese communities.

Statistics taken from "The Christian" newspaper, 8/15/04.

After Japan was defeated in the War, the USA, stepped in with a major relief effort, including food necessary for survival. Western churches also gave Japan special attention with a number of evangelistic and church-help programs. The *Pocket Testament League* distributed copies of the Gospel of John throughout the country. Evangelistic meetings were also conducted in every prefecture. In the big cities like Tokyo, large halls were rented for the preaching of the gospel. Crusade or mass evangelism started seriously around 1950, and in 1956 Billy Graham came for meetings at the Memorial Hall in Tokyo.

At the same time, in the mainline churches Toyohiko Kagawa and Seimatsu Kimura, who had been active in evangelism before the War, conducted large evangelistic meetings. Stanley Jones and others from abroad also shared the message throughout the country.

In 1950 the Lacour Music Ministry began a nationwide evangelism outreach that resulted in 33 new churches by 1967. In 1959 there was a large crusade in Osaka with Bob Pierce of World Vision. In 1961 a similar crusade was held in Tokyo.

About that time Koji Honda was given a burden to preach the gospel in evangelistic meetings around Japan. He formed the *Japan Gospel Crusade* and conducted his first major crusade in Tokyo in 1964.

In 1967 the first Billy Graham Crusade was held in Tokyo. The second crusade in 1980 was held in Okinawa, Osaka, Fukuoka and Tokyo, with number three taking place at the Tokyo Dome in 1994. The previous fall, the *All-Japan Koshien Revival Mission* with Rev. Takimoto took place in Kobe. Large crusade meetings continue to be held, often featuring Korean evangelists.

One Pastor's Story

"It takes time to get a church started in Japan. After several years we finally had three families that became the backbone of our church, along with several single people. But within a few years two families had moved away and the third couple had gotten a divorce and left the church. What a great loss for our church!"

Pray for churches and pastors as they struggle to develop church leadership, and then see the leaders disappear.

Pastors' Wives

Though there are fellowship times for pastors within denominations or regional areas, pastors' wives often have no one with whom they can share their unique problems. Some face serious situations that require professional help, such as clinical depression, eating disorders, and children who refuse to go to school. There is little help available for them, even if they are willing to ask for it.

One pastor's wife covers up for her husband who has mental problems. Another finally gives up and leaves her husband because of his secret relationship with a woman he was counseling. Uphold in prayer the pastors' wives who often feel isolated. Pray for healthy relationships in pastors' homes.

Korea is Japan's closest neighbor. Historically, the relationship between these two countries has often been antagonistic, with Japan ruling over Korea with a heavy hand throughout the first half of the 20th century.

In 1882 Suchon Lee came to Japan, and through the influence of a Japanese agriculturalist, he became a believer and was baptized in April, 1883. His enthusiastic witness among the Korean students resulted in the first Korean church in Japan starting in May, 1886. When Lee had to return, the church discontinued. In 1908, under the leadership of Ikuro Chon, a Presbyterian elder, and Chonshiku Kim, the YMCA director, the first Korean church was established in Tokyo.

Japan's first foreign missionary, Masayasu Norimatsu, went to Korea in 1896, just 12 years after the first Protestant missionaries arrived in Korea. He overcame overwhelming obstacles to become a much respected church planter and leader.

The Korean church is a praying church, and God has given them a burden for the evangelization of Japan. Five years ago there were 452 missionaries and 350 Korean churches. This has now grown to 655 missionaries and 401 churches. Some are ministering with Korean churches in Japan. Many of these churches are also effectively reaching Japanese. Other missionaries are working directly within the Japanese culture to plant Japanese churches.

Part of this increase is the result of the Soccer World Cup in 2002 which was co-sponsored by South Korea and Japan. Also, right after the World Cup a Korean TV program became very popular in Japan, making it easier to proclaim the gospel of reconciliation both between God and humans, and between the two nations. Pray for these churches and missionaries that their spiritual enthusiasm will be mightily used in Japan.

Korean Missionaries and Churches in Japan (May, 2005)

Prefect.	Mis.	Church						
Hokkaido	14	7	Toyama	0	0	Shimane	2	1
Aomori	3	2	Ishikawa	0	0	Okayama	4	2
Iwate	0	0	Fukui	4	3	Hiroshima	6	4
Miyagi	8	4	Yamanashi	6	5	Yamaguchi	3	2
Akita	1	1	Nagano	3	2	Tokushima	0	0
Yamagata	6	3	Gifu	5	3	Kagawa	0	0
Fukushima	1	1	Shizuoka	13	8	Ehime	2	2
Ibaraki	16	11	Aichi	23	11	Kochi	0	0
Tochigi	6	4	Mie	1	1	Fukuoka	22	10
Gumma	11	7	Shiga	5	3	Saga	1	2
Saitama	23	14	Kyoto	18	10	Nagasaki	1	1
Chiba	49	29	Osaka	121	73	Kumamoto	3	2
Tokyo	171	106	Hyogo	35	25	Oita	3	2
Kanagawa	42	25	Nara	3	2	Miyazaki	2	1
Niigata	2	2	Wakayama	6	6	Kagoshima	2	1
			Tottori	0	0	Okinawa	8	4

Pray that the influence of these religious powers would not hinder people from coming to Christ. In Japan there are more than 90,000 Shinto shrines and as many Buddhist temples. Most homes have Buddhist family altars and Shinto god shelves, and many are involved in occult practices. Additional information is available on the internet.

Hokkaido: Hokkaido Temple.

Tohoku Aomori: Nebuta Festival in summer, one of the largest in Japan.

Iwate: Chusonji Temple in Hiraizumi.

Miyagi: Zuiganji, the largest Zen temple in Tohoku.

Akita: Taiheizan Miyoshi Jinja Shrine.

Yamagata: Risshakuji Temple, one of the prominent temples in Tohoku region.

Fukushima : Daizoji Temple

Kanto Ibaraki: Gogyoji Temple of Jodo sect.

Tochigi: Toshogu Shrine in Nikko.

Gumma: Daikoin Temple in Ota city.

Saitama: Heirinji Temple, one of the oldest Zen Buddhist temple.

Chiba: Naritasan Shinshoji Temple, popular at New Year's. Hokekyoji Temple.

Tokyo: Yasukuni Shrine, housing deities of Japan's war dead, Meiji Jingu Shrine, Asakusa Kanon.

Kanagawa: Many shrines and temples in Kamakura, e.g. the Great Buddha.

Chubu Niigata: Honjoji Temple.

Toyama: Dairakuji Temple of Jodo sect.

Ishikawa: Natadera Temple of Shingon sect.

Fukui: Eiheiiji, head temple of Soto Sect of Zen Buddhism.

Yamanashi: Erinji Temple.

Nagano: Zenkoji Temple housing perhaps first Buddhist statue brought to Japan.

Gifu: Sofuku Temple, Jyozai Temple.

Shizuoka: Myohokkeji Temple of Nichiren, Mt Fuji as place worship.

Aichi: Atsuta Jingu Shrine attracts nearly 10 million people yearly.

Kinki Mie: Ise Jingu Shrine, the most sacred shrine in Japan.

Shiga: Hieizan Enryakuji Temple, head temple of Tendai Buddhist Sect.

Kyoto: Countless temples and shrines.

Osaka: Hozenji Temple.

Hyogo: Nakayamadera Temple said to give safe delivery to women.

Nara: Many temples. Horyuji Temple, oldest wooden structure in world.

Wakayama: Koyasan, the headquarters of Shingon Buddhist sect.

Chugoku Tottori: Izumo Taisha Shrine

Shimane: Famous for beginning of ancient Japanese civilization.

Okayama: Naked Festival in Feb., one of Japan's three most famous festivals.

Hiroshima: Itsukushima Shrine.

Yamaguchi: Rurikoji Temple.

Shikoku The 88-temple pilgrimage.

Tokushima: Pilgrim's first 23 temples.

Kagawa: 22 temples of the pilgrimage.

Ehime: Komyoji Temple.

Kochi: Chikurinji Temple.

Kyushu Fukuoka: Shofukuji Temple, Japan's first Zen temple.

Saga: Ishiyama Temple.

Nagasaki: Koshi-byo Shrine dedicated to Confucius.

Kumamoto: Nichirinji Temple.

Oita: Usa-Hachimangu Shrine, head of all Japan Hachimangu shrines.

Miyazaki: Miyazaki Shrine dedicated to worship of first emperor, Jimmu.

Kagoshima: Buddha Festival, April 29.

Okinawa: Ishiganto, a stone marker placed at intersections, to deflect evil.

Japan: There are a number of radio programs that are broadcast from outside Japan. *Window to Tomorrow* (Daily 6:00 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.) by KTWR Trans World Radio. The same broadcast by FEBC (Wed. & Thurs. 10:30 p.m.). *Bible Wave* (Sat 6:00 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.), *Morning Bible* (Daily 5:08 a.m.) by HBC Radio, *Door to Joy* (Sun. 6:35 a.m.) by HBC Radio.

Friendship Radio broadcasts Christian programs nationally through cable. Also Fukuin Net, BBN Agape Internet and FEBC broadcast by internet.

Satellite broadcasting with SkyPerfectTV has *Calvary Chapel Hour* (Sun. 7:00 a.m.), *Minoru Okuyama Hour* (Fri. 7:00 p.m.) & *Harvest Time* (Mon. 7:00 p.m.).

Jesus Video, a powerful tool used throughout Japan.

Hokkaido: Hokkaido Mass-Communications Evangelistic Center sponsors TV broadcasts of *Life Line*, and the radio ministry, *Light of the World*. Sapporo YMCA International Business school (80 students). Hokkaido Christian Center, Hidaka Bible Camp with room for 100, Morai Christian Camp and other facilities. Life Center, CLC and other Christian book stores. Rakuno Gakuen, an agricultural school, and Hoku-sei Gakuen (5,500 students). Tenshi Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital, Gloria Clinic, Samariyakan's Alcoholic Rehabilitation Center. Shinaien (108 beds), Hokkaido Katei Gakuen (85 students).

Tohoku Area: Radio Broadcast: *Light of the World* on Tohoku Radio (Sat 7:10 a.m.) & on Kita Nihon Radio (Sun. 7:10 a.m.), *Bible Talks* on Kita Nihon Radio (Sun 6:45 a.m.), *True Salvation* (Sun. 5:20 a.m.)

on Tohoku Radio.

Aomori: To'o-Gijuku (1,120 students), Hirosaki Gakuin (1,570 students), and other Christian schools. Ishizawa Clinic with 19 beds.

Iwate: Morioka Cooking School (98 students). Homare Gakuen (170 students). 18 Protestant kindergartens and seven day-care centers with a total of 2,314 children.

Miyagi: Sendai Baptist Seminary (13 students), Lutheran Brethren Seminary. Kakudai Missions Institute (11 students). Sendai YMCA International Hotel School (100 students). Miyagi Gakuin (4,680 students), Shohei Jo-Gakuin (2,420 students). 30 Protestant kindergartens and 11 day-care centers with a total of 3,990 children. Hikarigaoka Spellman Hospital (152 beds). Social welfare facilities for children include Sendai Christian Kyoikuji In, Sendai Yoji In, and Komatsushima Children's Home. Homes for the elderly include Shion no Sono, Minami Sanriku King's Garden.

Akita: *Lively Light of the World* (Sun. 6:35am.). Akita Women's Home ministers to 20 women and their children.

Yamagata: *Light of the World* (Daily 5:05 a.m.) and *True Salvation* (Sun. 6:00 a.m.). Yamagata Gakuin high school (920 students), Christian Independent Gakuen (boarding high school - 80 students). 1,260 children in 11 Protestant kindergartens and five day-care centers in the prefecture. Ministries for the mentally challenged: Yamagata Hikari Gakuen with 30 children and Ikuseien and Sagae Kyoro Ikuseien. Yunohama Shionen with a 50-bed facility for the elderly.

Fukushima: Life Center in Fukushima,

Taira Gospel Center, and Kibo Book Store. Fukushima English Center and Aizu Wakamatsu English Academy (600 students). 25 Protestant kindergartens and eight day-care centers with 2,374 children. Aoba Gakuen ministry (60 children), Horikawa Aiseien (46 children), Fukushima Seishi Ryogoen (92 people and 100 staff), Sukkagawa Kyoro Ikuseien, Shirakawa Kohitsuji Gakuen (30 children), Adatara Ikuseien (30 people and 17 staff).

Kanto Area: Radio programs: *Light of the World* (Daily 4:45 a.m.), *Gospel Light* (Sat, Sun. 4:30 a.m.) on Asahi Radio, *Light of the World Fresh Sunday* (Sun 5:20 a.m.) on Bunka Radio, *Morning Word* (Daily 5:25 a.m.) on Radio Japan, *Voice of Hope* (Wed. 4:35 a.m.) on Asahi Radio.

Ibaraki: Radio programs on Ibaraki Radio: *Light of the World* (Sun. 7:10 a.m.), *Lamp of Hope* (Sun. 10:00 a.m.), *Walking with Jesus* (Sun. 8:45 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.) and *Joyful Good News* (Sun. 7:25 a.m.). 21 Protestant kindergartens and five day-care centers with 2,810 children. Sachinomi Home for the handicapped with 30 patients and the Children's Home with 60 children.

Tochigi: Radio broadcasts: *Walking with Jesus* (Sun. 7:15 a.m. & 11:05 a.m.), *Joyful Good News* (Sun. 6:30 a.m.), and *Path to Zion* (Sun. 6:15 a.m.) broadcasts.

Nasukogen House of Rest, Nasu Seminar House, YMCA Shiotani Camp, Funyu House of Prayer, and Yunoya Inn. Christian Book Center and the Logos Book Center. Koyo Vocational Center, Takahara School and Ikusei School for mentally challenged, Aishin Home for vision-impaired, My Home Kiyohara (50 elderly), Satsuki Home.

Gumma: Hikari Book Store at Takasaki. Christian training/camp facilities: Akagi Bible Camp (room for 60), AVACO Green Village, Maebashi YMCA Akagi Camp; Japan Bible Home (room for 60), Nisshinkan Manza Spa Hotel (room for 400), and others. Christian schools: Kyoai School with 2,070 students (jr. high~jr. college), Nijjima School with 1,540 students (jr.high~jr. college), and Ishiguro School (business/computer/culinary). 12 Protestant kindergartens and six day-care centers with 1,800 children. Harunaso Hospital with 231 beds. Christian welfare facilities: Megumi Garden (various facilities for the handicapped with room for 200 people) and Hanna/Sawarabi School for 103 people who are seriously disabled.

Saitama: Seibo Gakuen (1,310 students -jr./sr. high schools), Urawa Lutheran Gakuin (750 students - primary~high school), Sei Gakuin (3,090 students - college), Rikkyo Gakuin (1,530 jr./sr. high school students). Naguri Kawa Christian Camp. 44 Protestant kindergartens and five day-care centers (4,900 children). King's Garden Saitama (100 elderly); Shalom Garden Sakado; Aisen-en (80 elderly), Aisenryo for children; Hosana-en (50 children), Kumi Gakuen (154 mentally disabled), and other welfare facilities.

Chiba: TV broadcasts: *Gospel Hour* (Sat. 8:45 a.m.), *Harvest Time* (Sat. 9:30 a.m.), *Invitation to Happiness* and *Life Line* (Sat. 7:00 a.m.). Christian book stores: Keisen in Chiba and Aishin in Ichikawa. HiBA camp, Agape no Sato. Japan Nazarene College (70) at Chiba City, Seisho Gakuen (1,300 students). 14 Protestant kindergartens and 17 day-care centers with 2,800 children. Kujukuri Home Hospital (189 beds) provid-

ing clinical services, a nursing home and rehabilitation facilities. Women's shelters: Nozominomon Gakuen, Kanita Village. Asahigaoka Mothers' & Children's Home, Yawata Home for physically disabled, Bethesda Home (50 beds).

Tokyo: Christian hospitals: Seishikai Hospital (160 beds), the Salvation Army Booth Memorial Hospital (199 beds), San'ikukai Hospital (253 beds), St. Luke International Hospital, and Salvation Army Kiyose Hospital with its hospice ward (142 beds), etc.

Kanagawa: Yokohama Life Center, and Christian Book Stores, all in Yokohama; the TV programs, *Life Line* (Sun. 8:30 a.m.), *Harvest Time* (Sun. 7:30 a.m.), seen on Kanagawa TV.

Chubu Area: Radio: *Light of the World* on Hokuriku Radio (Sun. 6:35 a.m.), on Nankai Radio (Sun. 7:00 a.m.), on Shinshu Radio (Sun. 7:10 a.m.), "Yes! You Can" (Sat. 10:30 p.m.) on Nankai Radio.

Niigata: The *Light of the World* Support Association. Joetsu Evangelistic Association. *Light of the World* (Sun. 6:00 a.m.) aired on Niigata Radio and Life Line on TV (Sat. 5:30 a.m.).

Toyama, Ishikawa and Fukui: The ministry resources are listed in the pages related to the prefectures.

Yamanashi: Yamanashi Church Conference meetings and ministry.

Nagano: Christian camp and pension facilities: Megumi Chalet Karuizawa, Lake Matsubara Bible Camp (room for 180 people) with a strong youth ministry, Tokyo YMCA Mount Nobeyama Center, Tokyo YMCA Nojiri Camp, Tokyo YWCA Nojiri Camp, and many other Christian facilities.

Gifu: TV program *Harvest Time* (Sun. 7:30 a.m.), and the radio program *Light of the World* (Daily 6:15 a.m.).

Shizuoka: Shizuoka Eiwa Girls School (1,905 students) and Shimizu International jr./sr. High School (739 students). Seirei Gakuen (Nursing Science, Jr. College and its high school, Training School for Medical Care with 1,876 students). There are 10 kindergartens and 19 day-care centers with 3,000 children. Welfare facilities: Musashinokai (Sakura and Fuji Gakuen at Gotemba) for the mentally disabled, Lake Hamana Garden of Eden at Hosoe and Garden of the Cross (75 beds) at Gotemba, Izu Heights (58 beds), etc. Hamamatsu facility for the elderly (120 beds).

Aichi: Tokai Mission Congress made up of church organizations in Nagoya and surrounding areas.

Kinki Area: Radio: *Generation X* (5th Sun. 11:00 p.m.), *Light of the World* (Mon. 1:00 a.m.) and *True Salvation* (Sun. 5:24 a.m.) on Tokai Radio, Bible Talk (Mon. 1:00 a.m.) on Chunishi Radio.

Mie: The ministry resources are listed on the prefecture page.

Shiga: Christian TV programs: *Life Line* (Sun. 8:30 a.m.) and *Harvest Time* (Sat. 8:00 a.m.) aired on Lake Biwa Broadcasting. Pray for good cooperation and fellowship through groups such as the Ashram Center and the Shiga Interdenominational Pastors' Fellowship.

Kyoto: Heian Women's Schools (2,200 students), Kyoto YMCA International Vocational School (120 students). 28 kindergartens and 25 day-care centers (5,400 children).

Osaka: The Osaka Mission Prayer Meetings and other pastors' fellowships. Christian medical facilities: St. Barnabas Hospital (150 beds) founded in 1883, Aizenbashi Hospital (277 beds), Kodokai Hospital (141 beds); Yodogawa Christian Hospital (607 beds), Osaka Gyomeikan Hospital (332 beds), and other Christian clinics/hospitals. Christian schools: Baika Gakuen (3,600 students), Poole Gakuin (2,800 students), Osaka Women's Gakuin (2,300 students), Momoyama Gakuin (9,600 students), Osaka Christian Gakuin (600 students), Seikyo Gakuen (2,000 students).

Hyogo: Radio Broadcasts: *Light for The Heart* (Daily 5:10 a.m.) on AM-Kobe. Kobe Women's College (3,600 students), Shukugawa Gakuin Women's Jr. College, jr./sr. high (2,500 students), Seiwa Jr. College and College (1,200 students), Shoei Preschool Education Gakuin (400 students), Kansai Gakuin University (20,300 students), Shoin Women's College (4,800 students), Hinomoto Gakuen (Women's jr. college, hi/jr hi with 600 students), Keimei Girls Gakuin (hi/jr hi with 1,010 students), Yashiro Gakuin University (2,960 students), and others. 47 kindergartens and 25 day-care centers (7,300 children).

Nara: Seven Protestant kindergartens and six day-care centers ministering to 1,400 children.

Wakayama: *Harvest Time* (Sat. 7:00 a.m.) and *Gospel Hour* (Sat. 8:30 a.m.) on Wakayama Television.

Chugoku Area: Radio broadcasts for the area includes *Light of the World* daily at 7:05 a.m., *Voice of Hope* (Sat. 5:25 a.m.), *True*

Salvation (Sat. 5:15 a.m.), *Light for The Heart* (Daily 5:10 a.m.) on Sanin Radio, (5:15 a.m.) on Sanyo Radio. *Refreshing Light of the World* (Daily 6:25 a.m.) on FM Sanyo, *Voice of Hope* (Sat. 5:30 a.m.) on Sanyo Radio.

Tottori: The ministry resources are listed on the prefecture page.

Shimane: Pastors Associations of Izumo and Ishimi.

Okayama: Interdenominational fellowships: Okayama Prefecture Mission Fellowship (*Senkyo no Tsudoi*), Okayama City Christian Teachers Association, North Okayama Pastors Fellowship, Kurashiki City Pastors Fellowship, Bizen District Pastors Fellowship. Sanyo Gakuen and Junsei Jr. College both began as Christian schools. The Tsuyama Social Education and Culture Foundation, founded 70 years ago, administers the Tsuyama Christian Library, Tsuyama Science Education and Folklore Museums.

Hiroshima: Christian retreat/camp facilities: Hiroshima YMCA Minochi Lodge at Yuki, and in Hiroshima City the YMCA Hall equipped to handle wedding ceremonies.

Yamaguchi: Interdenominational fellowships: The Light of the World Sponsor Fellowship, two branches of the Gideon Association, Morning Prayer Meetings at Ube and Shimonoseki, etc. *Hit Pop Request* on FM Yamaguchi.

Tokushima: The ministry resources are listed on the prefecture page.

Kagawa: Luke Hospital in Takamatsu. Facilities for the elderly: Zion's Hill Home (130beds), Makino Village Airo Home, Kozanso, and Care House. Four church-related

kindergartens and eight day-care centers (1,500 children).

Ehime and Kochi: The ministry resources are listed on these prefectures' pages.

Fukuoka: Women's Gakuin with 3,500 students (jr./sr. high school, jr. college, college,) and Seinan Gakuin with 10,000 students (jr./sr. high school, college), both in Fukuoka; Seinan Women's Gakuin with 3,000 students (jr./sr. high school, jr. college, college), Orio Women's Joshi Gakuen with 1,270 students (jr./sr. high school, Home Economics Jr. College) in Kita Kyushu. 44 Protestant kindergartens and seven day-care centers with 5,300 children.

Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto and Oita: The ministry resources are listed on these prefectures' pages.

Miyazaki: *Refreshing Light of the World* (Daily 5:10 a.m.) and *True Salvation* (Sun. 7:00 a.m.) aired on Miyazaki Radio.

Okinawa: Christian broadcasts: *Harvest Time* (Sat. 5:15 a.m.) televised on Okinawa Television, and *Light of the World* (Daily 6:55 a.m.), *True Salvation* (Sun. 6:30 a.m.), and *Baptist Hour* (Sun. 6:45 a.m.), aired on Okinawa Radio. Christian medical facilities: Olive Yama Hospital with 343 beds, and affiliated Olive En for 81 elderly in Naha.

Index of Topics

Aging	8, 65	Equipper Conference	54
All Japan Revival Mission	83	Buodia Ensemble	27
Alpha	71	Evangelical Medical Fellowship	65
Ancestors	11	Evangelists' Fellowship/Japan	83
Bible Broadcasting Network	47	Evangelium Cantrai	27
Bible Club Association. for Jr. Hi.	36	Every Home for Christ	58
Bible Reading Fellowship	71	Family Focus Japan	36
Billy Graham Crusades	88	Far East Broadcasting Co.	47
Birth Rates	11, 23	Festivals, Religious	90
Black Gospel Music	27	Food for the Hungry	36
Blind, Japan Mission to the	83	Foreigners	12, 57, 77
Buddhism	10, 11	Friendship Golf	83
Business Men	77	Friendship Radio	22, 91
Campus Crusade for Christ	14, 58	Funerals	52
Child Evangelism Fellowship	25, 37	Gideon Society	77
Christian Shimbun (Newspaper)	83	Harvest Time	47
Christian Business Men	77	HiBA	14
Christian Literature Crusade	83	Homeless	31
Christians in the Arts Network (CAN)....	27	Honda, Koji	83, 88
Church Information Service	58	Hymnals	27
Church Planting Institute	58	Japan Bible Society	82
Church School Growth	36	Japan Christ Evangelistic Association....	83
Crime	11, 36	Japan Christ Mission	83
Crusade Evangelism	88	Japan Christian Link	54
Cults	7, 8	Japan Church Growth Institute	71
Diaconia Center	36	Japanese Abroad	12, 86

Index of Topics

Japanese Christian Fellowship Network ..54	Radio 22, 47, 91
Japan Evangelical Association .36, 37, 51, 65	Reaching Japanese for Christ 54
Japan Evang. Missionary Association ..37, 58	Religion 8, 10, 11
Japan Evang. Theological Society37	Returnees 12, 54
Japan Evangelism Cooperation83	Returnee Christian Network/Japan..... 54
Japan Gospel Crusade 83, 88	Sanya 31
Japan Mission to the Blind83	Seminary 71
Japan New Media Missions Association ..22	<i>Seisho Senkyokai</i> 71
Jesus To Japan Mission Seminary71	Shintoism..... 10, 11
Jesus Video91	Shrines90
Kansai Mission Research Center.....37	<i>Sodojin Dendo</i> 71
King's Garden65	Son Life 71
<i>Kirisutosha Gakusei Kai</i> (KGK)14	Sports83
Korean Church & Missionaries.....57, 89	Sports Outreach Japan (SOJ)..... 83
Leadership Training.....7, 71	Stress 34, 77
Life Line22	Suicide 22
Mass Media22	Tamagawa Seigakuin 31
Meiji Gakuen University31	Telephone Evangelism..... 22
Megumi Chalet.....83, 93	Temples90
Michtam Recording27	Tokyo Christian Choir 27
Missionaries, Foreign/Japanese.....12, 87	Tokyo Christian Institute..... 71
Miura, Ayako15, 83	Tokyo Mission Research Institute 37
Morning Prayer Group (<i>Chotokai</i>)77	Television 47
Mothers' Counseling Center.....36	Total Mobilization Evangelism 71
Music27	VIP Club 71
Navigators14	Web Sites22
New Japanese Bible82	Weddings 52
New Life Mission82	White Fields Inc. (KDK) 58
Ochanomizu Christian Center37	Word of Life Press 27, 36, 82
Pacific Broadcasting Association47	World Vision36
Pastor88	World War II 57, 63
Pastor's Wife88	Yamato Calvary Chapel.....47
Population.....11	Yasukuni Shrine 19
Precepts Ministries71	Youth 14, 37
Pro-Life Japan 33	Youth With A Mission (YWAM)..... 14

We wish to thank the many people who have participated in this project.

Haruo Mitsumori prepared the material for the 2000 edition, which served as the basis for this edition. Yukio Hanazono, the director of Church Information Service, provided most of the data. A number of people served as proof-readers. JoAnn, my loving wife, has again served as the stabilizing force throughout this book. Special thanks to the Japan Evangelical Missionary Association for again sponsoring this project.

We most of all want to thank the Lord God, who loves the world and Japan.

Copies are available in Japan at

JEMA, c/o OCC Bldg. 2-1 Kanda Surugadai, Chiyoda Ku, Tokyo 101-0062, Japan

From other parts of the world they may be ordered from

Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society, 984 East Second St, Los Angeles, CA 90012, USA.