Can you see the harvest yet?

“Open your eyes and look...they are ripe for harvest.” John 4:35

What do you see in the photo above? Just a group of Asian people with a foreigner stuck in the front center? Kaori and I see God at work bringing in His harvest. We know their stories. In each one of them God has been at work preparing them, bringing them into relationship with us, and then into a relationship with Him as they place their faith in His Son, Jesus. He gives us the privilege of celebrating their journey as we baptize them. They join our community of new believers all learning what grace is all about, and how to live for a Savior they’ve only recently met.

One by one we see broken people coming to the Healer, and forming a new community. We see a harvest of souls. We see more that are ripe and ready. How about you?

Additional Support Needed: $386 per month

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Flyer or Fryer?

We appreciated the effort of several Japanese Christian college students who braved the summer heat to pass out flyers for our Kids English Bee (on front).

The group put some 3000 flyers into mailboxes in our community. Along the way, we stopped to pray at some key locations for Japan, the church, and the spiritual battle we are engaged in here.

Perhaps the greatest challenge of the day was bearing the oppressive heat and humidity of Japan this time of year. This was a FRYER of a flyer distribution! After 3 hours of walking about outdoors, we were ALL very well done! We ended the time together with a victory prayer meeting and time of worship.

The Laverman Blog Spot

150 Years Later

posted on July 13, 2009

This is cause for celebration! 150 years after isolationist Japan opens the port of Yokohama to the world and Protestant missionaries begin evangelism activities for the first time in Japan, Yokohama throws a massive celebration...for the opening of the port. Meanwhile in a footnote event known only to the Christians, the church celebrates 150 years of Protestant missions in Japan at a portside hall. This latter event is the one myself and several members of our church chose to attend and be encouraged by.

Altogether around 14,000 believers attended the Protestant Missions 150th events over the two-day celebration in Yokohama. I wish the first missionaries could have seen the fruit of their work so many years later!

This fruit is hard to come by in Japan. Japanese pastors speaking at the event expressed disappointment that 150 years later, still less than 1% of Japanese are believers. Given so much time, they had hoped Japan would have been more responsive, like their neighbor Korea. One pastor mounted the platform and jokingly said “I think perhaps God must prefer kimchi to Japanese food.”

Still, I was encouraged that the Japanese pastors and speakers at the event also unanimously expressed faith that God was and is carefully preparing a powerful foundation upon which he will build a great revival. “He has not discarded us!” singer and songwriter Chu Kosaka said. “He is SURELY at work in our hearts.” The church in Japan received a great call and challenge for the 50 years ahead. Let’s expect that revival!

Our Favorite Missionary

Keekee

Feb 94–June 09

Keekee grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, moved to the outskirts of Tokyo, and was buried in far northern Japan. All without a passport. It was quite a life for a cat!

“Keekee” means “joyful princess” in Japanese. She certainly brought our family a lot of joy. And she even helped in bringing someone to Christ (see front)! What a missionary cat! We’ll miss you, Keekee!

My partnership with the Lavermans’ work in Kawasaki #381

As God enables, I plan to commit $______

☑ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually.

☐ Enclosed is my first gift. OR This support will begin (month/year) .

☐ Send me their regular prayerletter and email updates (indicate email address below) .

☐ Please send a form for automated giving to my address below.

☐ This commitment represents an adjustment in my current giving to the Lavermans.

OR, Enclosed is a one-time gift of $______ for:

☐ The Lavermans’ Special Project: New Church Pastoral Support Fund #6417-907.

☐ The Lavermans’ support needs. ☐ Other:

Name or Group __________________________ Date __________

Address ________________________________________

City __________________________ State ______ Zip ______

Phone (______)__________ Email __________

Make checks payable to WorldVenture and enclose this form (address on front). A receipt will be sent.