

REACHING THE OTHER 99

church planting with you to reach the 99% in Japan

DECEMBER 2016 NEWS

Kevin & Kaori Laverman CHURCH PLANTING IN KAWASAKI, JAPAN

Tokyo, Japan

"The True Light is already shining" 1 John 2:8

www.LavermansInJapan.com



➔ "Bazaar" Surprises

Over the years in Kawasaki, we've tried many things to forge relationships with Japanese in our neighborhood. Some succeed. Many flop. But this fall, our first church bazaar was a great surprise. And I was wrong...



These ladies at our bazaar put together 100 gift bags with handwritten notes for 311 tsunami area residents (photo below)

I have to admit when I'm wrong. When our Denen Grace Chapel ladies came up with the idea of doing a fall church bazaar, I was skeptical. Sure, I loved ideas like this to connect with the neighborhood in a fresh way. But our venue is a drab basement room. It's out of the way from the shopping thoroughfare. We only rent it one day a week. Could we really turn this into a bazaar? Would anyone really come?

I was wrong. I underestimated again the ability of Japanese believers -- infused by the power of Christ -- to work together. This was their God-given idea. They were going to see it through; and God would bless it.

The day of the bazaar, our church moved in harmony like the inner workings of a Sony Walkman (I've seen inside one of these, and there's no

comparison). Everyone knew just what to do and moved about in synchronized action. Tables, chairs, and signs went up. Hand-made items and baked goods were priced, labeled, and displayed. A corner of the room was turned

into a cafe (this was the Laverman task) with desserts, coffee and tea. Another area had a craft table (above). To one side was a game area for kids. It was inspiring just to watch it all come together. But would anyone come? I still had my doubts.

But that's when our church -- and God working through them -- really proved me wrong. ➔ continued on back



Volunteering in the temporary housing area after the 311 tsunami

MERRY CHRISTMAS! Christ's birth. The hope of Japan.

Thanks for your part with us in 2016 to reach Japanese for Christ. We are needing more monthly supporters for 2017. See reverse.

PRAY with us thru the week

SUN Christmas is an open door to Japan's heart. Pray for my message prep, newcomers at our services and events, caroling, and a response to the gospel.

MON Pray for a pastor for Denen Grace Chapel. We need a Japanese partner to work with us in the coming years in new church work, but there are few workers.

TUE Pray for someone to catch the vision to come and teach conversational English at our church. The opportunities abound and the harvest is ripe around us.

WED Pray for our partnership in church planting work with new missionaries (Mitchells) arriving in Japan in 2017. We have a vision to reach the sprawling communities west and south of our location.

THUR Pray for Justen as he takes his Japanese high school graduation tests in November. He already passed part of it in August. He is looking at colleges in Japan.

FRI Pray for our new believer studies with Miss K and Mrs. O. Also, Mr. S, Mr. T, and Mr. N, just beginning to study the Bible. Pray for baptism decisions.

☞ continued from front

Our group took handfuls of simple flyers to the street. In a way totally uncharacteristic of Japanese, they boldly appealed to total strangers! Pedestrians in the crosswalk, young people in line outside McDonalds, elderly citizens out on a stroll, moms and kids at the park...no one was overlooked. What was equally amazing was that these people actually came, out of their way, down

those stairs, and into our humble basement room...one after another! I soon realized I was going to need more water for making more coffee.

Altogether, it was a beautiful day. We passed out church information, Christmas tracts and Scripture portions. We sold items made by those in the 311 tsunami area. We prepared many, many giveaway bags for those still in post-311 temporary housing.

I was glad to be wrong. It wasn't the first time God surprised me in Japan. But this time it was truly "bazaar." ☞

Our bazaar supported 311 relief work. We continue to volunteer in the 311 tsunami area in northern Japan as time allows. A few of us will be going up again around Thanksgiving. We have developed a strong church connection there. Keep praying for unreached post-311 Japan.

➔ Help Reach the Other 99

Our heart's burden these last 18 years has been to reach the 99% of unreached Japanese for Christ. In Yokohama and Kawasaki (our local area) alone there are nearly 5 million people. Statistically, 4.98 million of them are without Christ!

We believe new churches are the means to reach and disciple this country. We are starting new daughter church plants around Denen Grace Chapel (our current work) in Kawasaki and Yokohama in the next few years.

To enable this work, we need to bolster our monthly support. The cost of living, health care and housing have risen in Japan in 2016. At the same time, the value of the dollar and



our giving commitments have fallen in 2016. We're now experiencing a significant deficit in our monthly support (*see front, bottom*). Our support need is also projected to increase at the beginning of 2017. We look to God's provision again.

If you feel passionate about reaching Japanese for Christ, like we do, may

OUR VISION for JAPAN

WE ENVISION...

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

WE ARE COMMITTED...

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

we now boldly ask you to consider being a part of our monthly support team with a small committed amount? Please use the form on front, or go to our website to do this.

We pledge to work hard on your behalf for cause of Christ in Japan, to communicate often with you, and to live as careful stewards. ☞

LIFE IN JAPAN

Christmas Project

What are those Lavermans building now?

Some congregations face stained glass windows, some face ornate woodwork, crosses, pulpits and tapestries. Our congregation faces bare gray concrete. The owner of the hall has no intention of finishing the walls. Call it Japanese minimalism. Call it cost savings. I call it something that needs a touch of worship tone.

So here's the latest project Justen and I are working on: a front backdrop for our basement sanctuary. It has to be mobile so we can move it in and out of storage easily each week. It has to be sturdy (think childproof) to stand solidly. It has to fit through doorways and hallways to our

storage room. All that takes a bit of engineering, many trips to our hardware store, and a few band-aids.

After our expert engineer, pipecutter and seamstress have finished, the final result will be a 2-meter high, 6-meter-long freestanding burgundy curtain backdrop that folds and rolls away. Target completion: Christmas Sunday 2016.

If you'd like to adopt this project, write "Laverman Christmas Project" on the memo line of your designated gift and send to WorldVenture. We'll take pictures of the final product in use!

