

**REACHING THE OTHER 99**  
church planting with you to reach the 99% in Japan

**MARCH 2017 NEWS**

**Kevin & Kaori Laverman**  
**CHURCH PLANTING IN KAWASAKI, JAPAN**

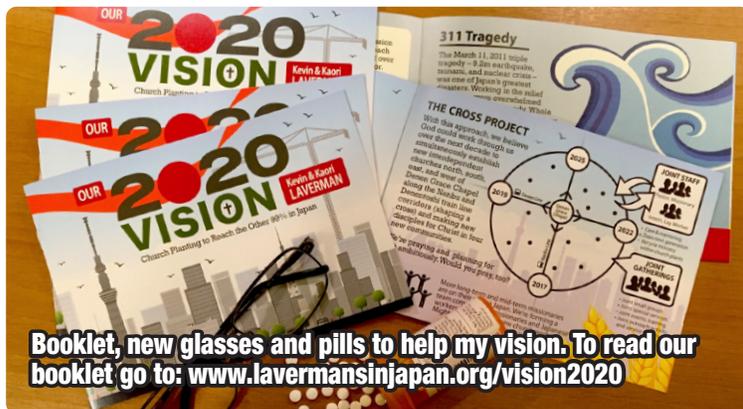
*"Oh Lord, open his eyes that he may see." 2 Kings 6:17*

[www.LavermansInJapan.com](http://www.LavermansInJapan.com)



## ➔ Toward Clearer Vision

Japan recently marked the 6th anniversary of 311 - the March 11, 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis. This tragic day for Japan clarified our vision for God's work here. Now, here's what we see ahead...



**Booklet, new glasses and pills to help my vision. To read our booklet go to: [www.lavermansinJapan.org/vision2020](http://www.lavermansinJapan.org/vision2020)**

We've laid out our 2020 Vision toward which we really need your partnership. We want to see God glorified in Japan through the establishment of new churches, and are working with all our might in Kawasaki on your and Christ's

behalf. Would you take a minute to look through our vision booklet here: [www.lavermansinJapan.org/vision2020](http://www.lavermansinJapan.org/vision2020) Could you be a part of it with us?

### Commissioned to the Vision for God's Glory

New career missionaries, Justin & Lindsay Mitchell, arrived in Japan this month. We had their futon laid out and ready in their ➔ **continued on back**



**Together with Justin & Lindsay Mitchell at their commissioning service**

My physical vision has been nowhere near 20/20 recently. Increasingly blurry vision in my right eye sent me to the eye doctor frequently in Japan, and then to a specialist while in the States for a few weeks in February. Sitting in the office of the retina specialist, I prayed like Elijah: "Oh Lord, open (my) eyes that (I) may see." You've sent me to a land with many tiny complex letters. I need good vision to see them clearly and do my preparation for things. Clear up that little pocket of fluid on the back of my eyeball, please."

The good news is that my vision will return if I'm careful to take a little pill a couple times a day. If that fails, there's always a long needle or laser waiting in the doctor's hand (Think I'll try the pills first). How's your vision? Is it 2020?

**PRAY**

with us thru the week

**SUN** Pray for the people of Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate (tsunami-impacted areas) to look to Christ as their true Hope in the 6th anniversary of Japan's 311 disaster (March 11). Pray for the network of churches/volunteers still ministering in the recovery.

**MON** Pray for Justen as he sorts out his next steps toward college in Japan from April. Pray for our good guidance as we help him launch into this next stage of his life. (see back page)

**TUE** 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. We are scheduling a baptism service on faith in the summer.

**WED** Pray for the Mitchell family (Justin, Lindsay, Clark & Mollie) as they make many new adjustments in their new lives in Yokohama. They arrived in March to begin service with us as partner missionaries in church planting.

**THUR** Pray for healing of Kevin's right eye (blister on back of his retina) that has affected his vision. Pray for Kaori's health and stamina with hepatitis B.

**FRI** Pray that God will raise up workers to join us in establishing new churches in Kawasaki and Yokohama. We envision a team of people with a variety of talents putting hands together for God's glory here.



**Together for Japan. With the Mitchells and their families at their home church commissioning service in February.**

### ➡ continued from front

new place in our Kawasaki/Yokohama neighborhood, about 20 minutes away. Finding and securing their rental townhouse was truly an answer to prayer and small victory this month. The vision is for them to build relationships in this new community for a new church to emerge with new disciples for Christ.

While Kaori was working out the details with the Mitchells' housing, I (Kevin) was in the States and able to attend the their commissioning service at Heritage Baptist in

sanctuary as the deacons of First Baptist, Lansing, IL, laid hands on us in prayer. We had the same mixture of excitement and uncertainties as we looked toward the big move to Japan. And we had the same expectations and hopes that God might glorify himself through us. "Thank you, Lord, for working out your plans through us here since 1999! Do it for the Mitchells now, too!"

### Young Eyes on His Future

Here is a common sight in our house these days: Justen and Kaori around our table filling out tons of papers for

Lynchburg, VA, and meet their families and pastoral staff.

I remember Kaori and I in a similar spot nearly 18 years ago. Justen looked down from the nursery at the rear of the

colleges in Japan. Even if I squint, I can't read all this Japanese paperwork. So my role is keeping the hot tea coming, and giving the occasional fatherly words of inspiration. Justen has been going to entrance



tests, campus visits, and photo booths (lots of ID photos per application) since his high school graduation last December. He has his heart set on attending a college for graphic design in Japan. March is the big month of finding out where he has been accepted and which he will choose to attend from April. He plans on starting a part-time job to help pay for college...to the relief of parents. 📱

## ➡ Becoming a Part of the Vision

God has called us to Japan in this critical time of post-311 mission work. Our heart's burden these last 18 years has been to reach the 99% of unreached Japanese for Christ. Just in our area of Yokohama and Kawasaki there are nearly 5 million people. Of them, 4.98 million 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. New long-term workers like the Mitchell family and others will be joining hands with us in our Vision 2020 project in the days ahead.



If you feel passionate about reaching Japanese for Christ, like we do, may we now boldly ask you to consider being a part of our monthly support team with a small committed amount? Please use the form below, or go to our website to do this. We need to raise the monthly amount indicated in red on the bottom of this letter.

### 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.

Thank you to those who have joined our support team or increased giving since our last letter. This has narrowed the gap of support!

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. 📱