

REACHING THE OTHER 99

church planting with you to reach the 99% in Japan

MAY 2017 NEWS

Kevin & Kaori Laverman CHURCH PLANTING IN KAWASAKI, JAPAN

"See, I am doing a new thing!" Isaiah 43:19

www.LavermansInJapan.com



➔ New Things

New career missionaries have joined us in church planting. New schools and schedules have begun for our family. God's new beginnings are more frequent and more beautiful than Japan's spring cherry blossoms...



Together for Japan: Changs, Mitchells, and Lavermans

From the beginning of our work in Kawasaki in 2001, our vision has been to start a small cluster of new churches outwardly focused and networked together for greater impact in this area. We believe a team is the best approach for the future. And we're working to create one. We've laid out our rationale for all this in our vision booklet viewable online here: lavermansinjapan.org/vision

➔ New teammates

Justin & Lindsay Mitchell arrived in February, settling just "up the street" from us about 20 minutes away. Yes, there's been some learning curves in food, shopping, hospital (Lindsay will have a baby in August), transport and financial services, also the tiny space in Tokyo, mail, garbage sorting (an ongoing mystery even for me - see lavermansinjapan.org/gomi) and so

on. And the Japanese language will be a humbling adventure for years. But they're adapting great.

Then during April, we hosted Gary & Jennifer Chang and kids here in Kawasaki for a two-week

"vision trip." They're raising support and coming to Japan through WorldVenture in 2018 to join hands with us on this new team.

Bit by bit the team is forming, but we need others, too. Specifically, a full-time Japanese worker, an English speaker for TESL outreach (see lavermansinjapan.org/tesl), and more missionaries with expertise in music, media, youth, or kids ministry.

Protestant Christianity in Japan began just south of us in Yokohama bay in the 1860's. But the number of churches has never kept up with the density of people and need. New churches are needed for the 5.2+ million in Kawasaki-Yokohama, 99% without Christ. Would you pray with us for the formation of this "mission possible" team for Japan? ➔ continued on back

PRAY

with us thru the week

SUN Pray for Justen to develop good friendships among his 500 some new classmates. Yes, 99% are needing Christ. Justen has quite an opportunity to be a LIGHT for Jesus in another dark corner of Japan.

MON Pray for future church plant locations with teammates in Musashi-Kosugi (see back) and the Azamino neighborhoods. Pray for our June 18 "Vision Festa" as a church, Denen Grace Chapel, to pray and discuss our future work.

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 still scheduling a baptism service on faith in the summer.

WED Pray for teammates, the Mitchell family (Justin, Lindsay, Clark & Mollie) as they make many adjustments in their new lives in Yokohama and prepare for a baby to come in August.

THUR Pray for healing of Kevin's right eye (blister on back of his retina) that has affected his vision. It is gradually improving. Pray for Kaori's sister-in-law, a mom again in May at 48 years of age!

FRI Pray to the Lord of the Harvest that he might send out workers into his harvest fields of Kawasaki-Yokohama to contribute talent, time, or treasure in the establishment of new churches to reach the 99% without Christ. May His kingdom grow.

➔ New Stages of Life

No fooling. April 1st was a big day in the Laverman home. Justen started his new adventure: college entrance in Japan (the school year starts from April here). We moved to Japan when he was two and now he's twenty. Those years got him fluid in the language (no thanks to his dad's messy Japanese examples) and prepared to build a life in this country.



He started at "Hamabi": YokoHama Bijustu Daigaku (College of Design), commuting daily by train from our house about 30 minutes away.

Justen wants to serve God through his

talent in design. Those of you who have seen his artwork know that he shows great potential. We look forward to seeing how the Lord will blend all these third-culture kid experiences, design skills and languages together for His glory through Justen in the future.

➔ New Line-ups of Need

The size of the spiritual need in Japan never stops to amaze me. A few recent episodes with lines may illustrate:

The first line was April 27 at Musashi-Kosugi station. I was wrestling to get the Chang family (see front) and their suitcases to the spot on the platform for the airport express, but the morning commuters were as thick as it gets. We were only able to move down the



Musashi-Kosugi station gives a glimpse of the population density around us. Watch: LavermansInJapan.org/mk1

platform a few yards at a time after each train pulled out of the station, and before the next arrived. The video link above might help you understand.

A few days earlier I had viewed this station and Musashi-Kosugi area (our location for next church plant as God provides), with a visiting supporter from the 62nd floor of one of the many hi-rise apartments. Now I know where all those residents go in the morning. There needs to be an evangelical church witness for them!

JOIN US
to Reach Japan

NEW "RO99" PARTNERS NEEDED

Could you be part of sending us to Reach the Other 99% in Japan? (RO99)

Thank you to those who, after reading of our 2017 support situation, joined our support team or increased giving! Our support numbers are improving, but we still need to raise \$ (see front bottom form) in monthly commitments. We're praying to reach 100% support in June 2017, but we need your help. Please spread the word. Please take a look at the items below:



Our 2020 Vision Video (6min)
LavermansInJapan.org/visionvideo



Our 2020 Vision Booklet (12pp)
LavermansInJapan.org/vision

If you've ever thought about supporting a missionary in Japan, could we be so bold as to invite your partnership with us now by committing to regularly give through WorldVenture? Please use the form below to do so.

Thanks for being a "RO99" partner. It's a privilege to be sent by you to represent Christ among the unreached 99% of Japanese.



The Kamakura lineup. What's it about? LavermansInJapan.org/kk1

The second line was May 4 at a shrine in Kamakura. Hundreds had rented a basket from the shrine to insert coins or bills to dip into the magic spring that multiplies prosperity. I took a video (above link) to give you an idea. Japan doesn't need more prosperity. They need Christ! Superstitions can't give what He offers freely. ☞

Pray for Musashi-Kosugi. Pray that God will lead us to a person of peace through which to start a church in this neighborhood soon. Pray for them to put their affections not on the superstitions of this world, but on the work of Jesus Christ.