

REACHING THE OTHER 99

church planting with you to reach the 99% in Japan

SEPTEMBER 2017 NEWS

Kevin & Kaori Laverman

CHURCH PLANTING IN KAWASAKI, JAPAN

"My power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Cor 12:9

www.LavermansInJapan.com



➔ POWERLESS?

BREAKDOWNS, MISSILES, & SPRAINED ANKLES

I felt ridiculous. A white foreigner in Japan, shirt stained with engine grease, standing next to my disabled vehicle, in the traffic lane, waving an...



...emergency flare. Only a police car's flashing lights could have drawn more attention to my predicament. Oh, wait...he stopped by, too. Sigh...

Last week, what was intended to be a family *break* along the Yokohama bay, turned into a frightening *breakdown* under our Kawasaki expressway viaduct. The ol' "green machine" (our Honda) just up and died right there in the traffic lane. No power to crank the engine and pull out of the way. No power for even emergency blinkers. **I WAS POWERLESS!**

POWERLESS. Japanese feel this way watching their neighbor North Korea launching missiles into the Sea of Japan, even lobbing one right over their heads in Hokkaido in the early morning hours of 8/29. Throughout the north, Japan's September



earthquake evacuation drills have now been replaced with missile evacuation drills. But where does one flee an incoming missile?

POWERLESS. That was Kaori after twisting her

ankle a few weeks back. The pain made it hard for her to even stand. A missed stair caused all kinds of grief. (Remarkably, the plateware she was carrying survived the trip down.)

Powerlessness. It's a place we hate to go, but really need to visit often. Powerlessness reminds us of our utter dependence on God for life and work. As missionaries, we can study the language, prepare our lessons and messages, organize outreach, and give a bold witness. We can explain, persuade, counsel and invite. But we are ultimately powerless to change a

➔ continued on back

PRAY with us thru the week

SUN Pray for our son's (Justen) friendships and witness as a freshman at *Yokohama School of Art & Design*, a 99% non-Christian college environment. Pray for his needed part-time job.

MON Pray for future church plant locations with teammates in both Musashi-Kosugi and the Azamino neighborhoods. Pray for our September 29 church meeting to pray and discuss this work.

TUE Pray for September 23 "Denen Afternoon Concert" an evangelistic meeting we are planning with gospel choir, singer and special speaker. Pray for good turnout, decisions and followup.

WED Pray for teammates, Justin & Lindsay Mitchell, as they adjust to Japan & new baby (back) and continue to study the language.

THUR Pray for healing of Kevin's right eye (blister on back of his retina) that has affected his vision. More improvement seen with his August specialist visit. PTL!

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

VAN 2.0 UPGRADE PROJECT It's time to put our 21-year-old van (that's like 101 in human years) out to pasture. Maintenance costs are adding up and an expensive vehicle inspection and tax are just around the corner if we keep it. We need to raise an additional \$7500 in funds for a newer, economical vehicle that fits our needs better. If you'd like help, please use the form below.

➡ continued from front

person's heart. God must work his power and move them to embrace the gospel. We know we're powerless. So when someone in our church receives Christ in Japan, we know it was all God. He gets all the glory. We get the joy. The He whispers again:

"My power works best in your powerlessness." (2 Cor 12:9)

A tow truck resolved our road emergency (for now). And some Epsom salt, an ankle support (I thanked Kaori for getting a new supporter -- but it was the wrong kind!) and family TLC ended Kaori's pain. But our lessons in our human powerlessness and His divine power through us continue daily in our mission here. ... And that's just where we need to be to see His work. 📧

➡ Engagements, Weddings & Babies

Have you heard of an engagement service? These are common in the Asian church and similar to a wedding. Kevin conducted one for a young Christian couple in July. This came



June wedding group...more church weddings to come!

on the heels of a wedding ceremony for another couple in June, which involved the detailed services of a wedding hall -- a BIG BUSINESS in Japan. There was yet another church couple he married earlier in the year. And more weddings coming up.

We've worn out the premarital counseling textbooks we've used with all these couples!

➡ Our Together-for-Japan Network

What are these people doing with these red circles? Showing their enthusiasm for Japan! Island Baptist in New Jersey was one stop in our four weeks in the States from mid-July.



Our visit was packed with people and places. Oh, the miles of divine protection and gas stations! We gave the rental car a workout throughout

NJ, NY, and the midwest. Meanwhile, our Justen championed the cause of housesitting and catsitting (our "Tora" is high maintenance) back in Japan, while finishing his first semester at Yokohama College of Art & Design. Great grades, Justen!

We appreciate all of you who treated us to a meal or bed, listened as we shared our heart for Japan, or prayed together with us. Seeing you

all really "refuels our tank" for the work here! What a great network of partners for reaching Japan! 📧

We missed seeing many of you who faithfully support us. But we'll stay in touch until next time we're in the area. We thank God for "your partnership in the gospel" (Phil 1:5)!

VISION to reach Japan

What 2020 Tokyo Olympics? Our vision for Japan is bigger than that! Could you take a few minutes to read through this link below that describes what we plan ahead?

**Our 2020 Vision Booklet**

↳ www.LavermansInJapan.org/vision

Would you consider standing with us in this vision? We are needing giving partners (see bottom form) in order to move forward in this plan for new churches in Kawasaki and Yokohama. Thanks for being part!

These are unique Japanese language challenges for Kevin. But weddings are also evangelistic opportunities. Many non-Christian families in attendance. We have an attentive Japanese audience to share the Christian perspective on love and marriage, and the ultimate divine example of Christ.

ALSO...Congrats to our new partners in ministry, Justin & Lindsay Mitchell on the birth of Barrett 8/21, right here in our neighborhood Kawasaki hospital.

Kaori knows her way around this hospital and nursing staff well (with her hep B care visits). She was in the delivery room with the parents while Kevin monitored the hall. Delivery in Japan involves lots of paperwork and no epidurals, but everyone managed heroically and doing well. Barrett is already a famous in parts of Japan. 📧