I had no idea things would pile up so fast. Wasn’t it just Christmas?

In the thick of church outreach activities, message prep, meetings, people needs, and countless Bible studies, I ignored the growing stack of unfinished work on my desk. “I’ll get around to all that when things settle down after Christmas,” I figured. But the stack grew, until it occupied parts of my floor, too. My digital inboxes were filled with urgencies. And little emergencies kept cropping up.

Come mid-January, I was in deep clutter. “Where did all this work come from?” I muttered. I consider myself pretty neat, but messy stacks were piled precariously around me like a bad Dr. Seuss illustration. I like finished projects, so this was all very stressful!

Even as I still deal with my personal catch up (in time for Easter?), I realize there is a greater unfinished task to be done. I live in the middle of it.

It’s ironic -- or perhaps necessary for my discipleship -- that God would put someone that likes neat, finished things into the middle of the World's Biggest Unfinished Task in mission history.

Yes, I’m talking about Japan. Japan’s 99% without Christ is one BIG unfinished project in missions for the church -- that’s you and me both.

We may never finish the task of evangelizing the 99% of Japan. Even through a multiplication effort of the entire church in Japan, many will choose to live without Christ. But there’s a part of the task we CAN finish.

We CAN plant an evangelical church witness in Tokyo’s growing urban centers -- starting with Musashi Kosugi (photo above). This is finish-able! If the world can add all that infrastructure and all those people to that tiny area,
Japan marked the 7th anniversary of the March 11, 2011 triple tragedy - earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis. It would be no exaggeration to say that this event was one of the most raw and traumatic that we have experienced in life and ministry. It was also a defining time for our mission work. It galvanized our conviction to the urgency of the task: We formed our plans like we had forever. Because establishing new churches seems to take forever in Japan. But we don’t have forever to win Japanese to Christ. Eternity can begin at any moment for many!

We envision a version of this with 1st floor “storefront” space for outreach ministries and new church to gather, and living space above for ourselves/staff.

Real estate agents have been giving options. But the cost! This vision is so beyond our power. God must make a way. Please pray God will open up a house that can be renovated or cheap land that can be built on, and provide financial resources to move forward.

By the way, at the end of the day, and in the middle of my unfinished work, I am so glad to rest in the FINISHED work of Christ at Calvary!

You might prefer to give toward our “Musashi Kosugi Project.” In the days ahead, we’ll share more, but you may give any time through WorldVenture and mark it “MK church seed fund.”

Surely God’s people can add a mission outpost and church planter. Or do we think -- like I did with my unfinished tasks -- that “we’ll get around to it when things settle down”?

We invite you to consider investing in a new church work in Musashi Kosugi, as a church, family, or believer that loves Japan. May we ask that you first help underwrite the monthly financial support of a local church planter (that’s us) for Musashi Kosugi? You may use the form below.

We’ve been Freed!

A 2015 “Honda Freed,” that is. See photo on front. Back in December, we asked for your help in funding the replacement of the ol’ “Green Machine,” our beloved but very high-maintenance 1996 green minivan. It gave us many years of hard work and companionship! We were still $3500 short of our replacement cost need. I’m happy to report that THIS is one project NOW FINISHED! Your gifts covered the full amount, with even a little extra left over to put toward the inspections, taxes and set of new tires.

Our Honda Freed is small enough to navigate the tiny roads here, but large enough to carry 3 Lavermans, a couple skinny passengers, and at least one large brown cat -- who is not enthused by the idea. It even has cup holders and a CD player! (Yes, we were a bit behind the times with the Green Machine)

Thank you for being part of mission transport history. We promise to make it a treasured partner in ministry!

Kevin’s “The Cross in the Tragedy” books ($5) are still available. These are stories and lessons God taught us through 311. About a 100 copies are left. Details and ordering here: www.lavermansinjapan.org/311book