

REACHING THE OTHER 99

church planting with you to reach the 99% in Japan

MARCH 2018 NEWS

Kevin & Kaori Laverman CHURCH PLANTING IN KAWASAKI, JAPAN



"I have many people in this city." Acts 18:10

www.LavermansInJapan.com



→ UNFINISHED

Have you ever had a task that seemed hopelessly bigger than your ability to finish it? Our smallness in the size of the spiritual need of Greater Tokyo reminds us that leaning on God is the way forward, and the way to rest.



Three Lavermans + kitty have now all "been Freed." Read why on the back.

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,

➡ continued on back

About the photo above

This is Musashi-Kosugi, a rapidly growing area just 15 minutes south of us that needs a church for the 120,000+ residents. Our vision is to begin one this year for the 99.5% without Christ. Thanks for helping us make this possible! (also, see back)

PRAY with us thru the week

SUN Pray for Fukushima, Miyagi & Iwate on the 7th anniversary of the 311 tsunami/nuclear crisis. Pray for churches ministering bravely in these areas.

MON Pray for several couples in Denen Grace Chapel that are newlyweds or marrying soon. 2018 will be another busy year!

TUE Pray for someone to catch the vision to come and teach conversational English at our church. Opportunities abound around us.

WED Pray for our partnership in church planting work with new missionaries (Mitchells) and Changs (arriving fall 2018). We have a vision to reach the sprawling communities west and south of us.

THUR Pray for several individuals in evangelistic Bible studies or preparing for baptism with us.

FRI Pray us through the growth challenges of 2018: team building, space limitations, many new people in church & many dealing with life events, planning for new church work, moving prep, etc.

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!

➡ continued from front

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.

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.



We envision a version of this with 1st floor "store-front" 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! ☩

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!

JAPAN'S 311

Remembering the 311 Triple Tragedy

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!

PRAY

Pray for survivors as the anniversary comes again, opening pain and renewing fears. Pray for new church plants beginning in the tsunami zone. Pray that many Japanese turn their hearts toward God, place their faith in Jesus, and find "unshakable" rest and hope in Him.



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

➡ 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 old 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! ☩