

# REACHING THE OTHER 99

church planting with you to reach the 99% in Japan

## CHRISTMAS 2018 NEWS

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



## → CHRISTMAS BELIEFS

This past year we've shared about our new church planting plans in MuKo (Kawasaki, Japan). Here's why this place matters to us. These form our mission convictions or BELIEFS at CHRISTMAS 2018, and our plans ahead.



Our "Cross Project" team (standing between us above) will also be a part of reaching MuKo with us. See our vision for church planting together in SW Greater Tokyo at:  
↳ [www.TheCrossProject.jp](http://www.TheCrossProject.jp)

Here are our mission convictions regarding MuKo at Christmastime:

**(1) WE BELIEVE** that God has great compassion for the 99.5% of MuKo yet to know of Him. The 120,000 people around the station area remind us of God's words in another missionary story: "But Nineveh has more than 120,000 people living in spiritual darkness, not to mention all the animals.

*Shouldn't I feel sorry for such a great city?"*  
(Jonah 4:11)

**(2) WE BELIEVE** that God has called us, like Jonah, to go and make a difference in this city for Christ. Frankly, a move and transition are an uncomfortable sacrifice for us. But God is pushing us out beyond our current work in Kawasaki (Denen Grace Chapel) to reach this new neighborhood. Where

God calls, we must go. (After all, we prefer to eat big fish in Japan, not find ourselves in the belly of a big fish!)

**(3) WE BELIEVE** we must live among the people of MuKo. It's tempting for us to stay put in our current home and do gospel initiatives from a distance. But long-term presence among people is what builds trust and understanding. This is called incarnational → [see back](#)

**THE PHOTO ABOVE** is MuKo, Japan or, MusashiKosugi. Those ELEVEN new tower residences are home to some 50,000 new residents. More are currently going up. More than 120,000 people live within 10 minutes of MuKo station. Yet this rapidly-growing area still lacks an evangelical church witness! 99.5% of these are without Christ. Our vision, together with you, is to begin a church for MuKo in 2019.

## PRAY today for MuKo, Japan

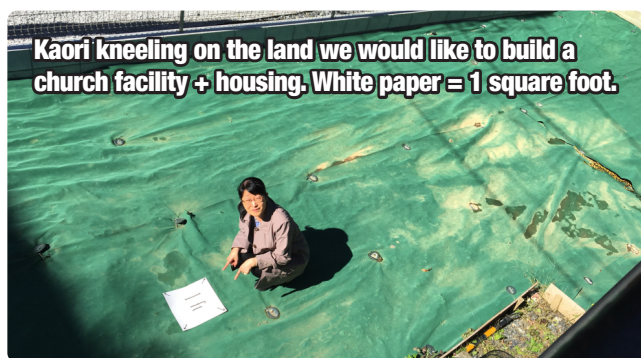
- 1** Pray for provision of the remaining funding for this church project in MuKo (see reverse for more info.) We rest in God's provision.
- 2** Pray for wisdom as we work with the architect to plan the best use of the small footprint for church and living space, and use funds on hand.
- 3** Pray for good relationships with future neighbors in MuKo. Pray that they will welcome us and the new church into their lives and hearts.
- 4** Pray that residents in the towers above, and surrounding MuKo area, will come to visit our church, and place faith in Christ as Savior.
- 5** Pray for good teamwork in this church plant with new WorldVenture missionaries, the Mitchells and the Changs (pictured above left).



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The purchased land is 650 square feet. It's just 9 minutes on foot (8 if you get both green lights) from MuKo train station. It's a block off of the main road connecting everything north and south. It's right on the edge of all the new development, residential towers, and recent population growth in the MuKo neighborhood. Give thanks! God provided!

## ➡ continued from front

ministry, as it reflects the way Christ came to live among us: God in flesh (incarnate) lived with those he served.

**(4) WE BELIEVE** long-term spiritual change in any community is through the local church. Where a church exists, there is potential for ongoing relational impact through various ministries. Those people can then be integrated into a faith community that can nurture and disciple them. Gospel or compassion initiatives without the church lack this ongoing permanence. So, our mission with all the shapes and possibilities MUST be focused on the establishment of a church. The

church is the only thing that will go into eternity.

**(5) WE BELIEVE** in a church planting strategy for MuKo that involves a multi-purpose church and house facility. Rather than renting separate places for us to live and for a church to meet (we've done this for 15 years with Denen Grace Chapel), combining will save funds and accelerate the time-to-maturity of the new

church, so more can know and grow in Christ.

Our Japan field agrees with us and has made a significant investment in this project (66%), which paid the cost of the land.

Open land in urban MuKo is scarce. Everything we viewed was too small, too expensive, or too inaccessible. We kept up the effort with real estate agents over the last year. God finally provided in September. Following consensus of our mission, we purchased a small lot near the MuKo

train station in October. God preserved a very good location for us in the area. But we must now raise the remaining 33% of the project's funding needs in order to build on this lot.

Finally, **WE BELIEVE** a big spiritual impact can be made in MuKo. With God's help and the partnership of many of his people, we believe God might be pleased to use us all to make a little start for big eternal change



On this lot (above left), we envision building a facility like this in 2019 with 1st floor "storefront" space for outreach ministries and for the new MuKo church to gather, and separate living space above for ourselves initially, and future staff.

among the 120,000 people there without an evangelical church witness.

If you believe these things too, and have a vision for this new church in MuKo, will you stand with us in prayer and giving for this project? Let's bring the cross to MuKo together! Thanks for your part. Merry Christmas! ☺

## Q&A

### Q. Why the location of MuKo for this church / house?

A. MuKo (Kawasaki) is in close proximity with Denen Grace and our future church locations. So it aligns well with our strategy for church planting in this area (see [www.TheCrossProject.jp](http://www.TheCrossProject.jp)). It is growing rapidly with many young families, and excellent access to anywhere in metro Tokyo.

### Q. Why combine your housing & ministry space like this? Why not rent?

A. Religious groups in Japan find it difficult to rent space, or given strict limits (i.e., no music!). And urban Japan is very expensive. Beginning the church from a fixed place, combined with housing, will eliminate the unpredictable, exhausting nature of renting and setup for activities and worship, save considerable money, and create a healthy perception in the community of a stable, dependable entity.

### Q. What is your timeline for funding and construction?

A. We would like to secure funding for construction by yearend to qualify for a discount (see right). We are currently meeting with the architect. Groundbreaking would be in late spring 2019. Construction would be complete in late fall 2019. Lord willing, we can move in and start church activity by Christmas 2019.

### Q. How will the church/outreach space be used through the week?

A. See our website (URL at right) for envisioned weekday usage to reach MuKo.

**The real estate office and builder (both very reputable in Japan) are able to offer a land and building package that will significantly reduce our overall building costs. But we must enter a contract with this builder by December 26 to qualify.**

**After loans from our church association and mission, we need to raise a total of \$116,000. \$50K of this has been raised at the date of this letter. We trust in God's provision.**

**SEE OUR MUKO VISION VIDEO, online giving and much more info at:**

[www.lavermansinjapan.org/muko](http://www.lavermansinjapan.org/muko)

