

# REACHING THE OTHER 99

church planting with you to reach the 99% in Japan

## JUNE 2019 NEWS

### Kevin & Kaori Laverman

### CHURCH PLANTING IN KAWASAKI, JAPAN



*"He has made everything beautiful in its time." Eccl 3:11*

[www.LavermansInJapan.com](http://www.LavermansInJapan.com)



## ➔ Beautiful Harmony

Have you heard about Japan's BIG CHANGE? It's a new era! Emperor Akihito has abdicated. His son, Naruhito, succeeded him to the Chrysanthemum Throne on May 1st. Along with this imperial change, the Japanese calendar is reset to Year 1, Day 1 of the new "Reiwa" Era. "Reiwa" means "beautiful harmony." Meanwhile...



Looking at sure signs of change to come:  
Kevin's parents in front of Grace House in May.

...we Lavermans are also moving into a new era of church planting, an era with a growing team of new workers, and new facilities to work out of in Mizonokuchi and soon MusashiKosugi (MuKo). Yet the process of organizing and moving through these changes is a bit more like random chaos at times than beautiful harmony. We look to God who makes *"all things beautiful in its time."* Here's a few recent highlights...

### Grace House Opens

Construction began in February, and was finished just 6 weeks later. It was made in modules at the factory, and assembled onsite in a single day on a plot of land in Mizonokuchi that Denen Grace Chapel purchased last fall. The dedication service was held, and the sign is now on the wall. Denen Grace Chapel now has space for neighborhood outreach, groups, meetings, and office work, plus a staff apartment above. This has been a long journey of much

discussion, more prayer, and a lot of generous giving as a church. We've called it "Mizonokuchi Grace House." It gives us room to finally do the missional things we've dreamed of for this neighborhood for many years. All glory to God!

### WOW! More Lavermans Come

Kevin's parents have always been prayer warriors for missions. And God answered by calling and sending their own son to Japan. This was hard enough. But taking the daughter-in-law, and little grandson with in 1999 (when our family moved to Japan) was even harder. Now, 20 years later, God allowed them to come and see some of the people and places impacted for eternity by this family sacrifice.

Kevin's parents spent two weeks with us in late May~June. They saw the culture and challenges, and the many, MANY people. They gazed over the vision from the 54th floor in MuKo (back photo). They fixed our fence and church screen box (dad), and enjoyed tea and chats with the church ladies (mom + Kaori, the interpreter). The local hotel has improved their English immensely. And the local hardware store has

➔ continued on back

### About the photo above

Japan's wisteria in May are stunning. One tree can produce an amazing canopy of blossoms. If God can do this through a single tree, imagine the beauty he can produce through a single life, rooted in Christ and offered to him. How about yours?

## PRAY

### with us thru the week

**SUN** Praise God for timely completion of Grace House. Pray for us to maximize use of this new facility as a church.

**MON** Pray for our team building in church planting work with new missionaries, the Mitchells, Changs & Robisons (arrived April).

**TUE** Praise God for provision of funding for construction of the Musashi Kosugi chapel + house. Pray for timely start and progress in construction from July.

**WED** Pray for complete healing of Kevin's right eye. Kevin sees the ophthalmologist monthly to check on improvement.

**THUR** Pray for the faith decisions of several individuals in evangelistic Bible studies or preparing for baptism.

**FRI** Pray for Japan and the new emperor as the new Reiwa era begins. Pray that the 99% will turn their hearts toward God and find the beautiful harmony that comes from a relationship with him.

**SAT** Pray for our health and wisdom as we juggle major projects (see front and back) and many details that challenge our language skills and time use!



➡ continued from front

gotten some international business. They added to the trade imbalance when they left with suitcases full of presents received, but Japan (and we) rejoiced by their visit here.

## Welcome Robison Family!

We re so glad to have this new family join our team this April. Jon and Maki, and four kids moved into the upper residence at Grace House. They come with a decade of missions experience in Japan and servant hearts. They will be of great help in our church planting



work together here in Kawasaki/ Yokohama. They join ourselves, the Mitchells and Changs. We re learning much about each other as a new team. But we ve already discovered one common skill: we re good at devouring Dominos Japan pizza together!

## Gospel Bridges Cultures

Of all the things we have done over the years, the one outreach that continues to amaze us is gospel music. Japanese non-Christians are drawn to it. And it has continued to grow in popularity. Gospel music really is a “beautiful harmony” to the melody of the gospel message, and one that bridges cultures and languages effortlessly.

Last Sunday, Denen Grace Chapel hosted John Lucas, a gospel singer originally from Jamaica. John gave a mini concert during our worship service and held



a special gospel workshop in the afternoon. Around 30 from the area attended, most were not Christians. Our concrete rental hall walls echoed with praise. God uses every culture and every means to creatively speak his truth to the Japanese heart! 🎵

**Construction details and dedications. Gospel music. Family and team building. Through all our activity -- yes, even the parts that seem like random chaos, or real differences -- God is doing a harmonious work. He's forming a new people in Japan that belong to him, that have placed their faith in his Son, Jesus, and that are working together as one family to serve him. NOW THIS is TRULY "beautiful harmony."**

## VISION

## REACHING MUKO Chapel Construction Begins



Our conviction that the 120,000+ of Musashi Kosugi (MuKo) need a church grew into a burden and vision, and moved us to action. You've followed with us through the provision and purchase of land,

last fall, and the raising of building funds for the chapel + living space above for us. We reached our goal for needed Phase 1 construction costs. Thank you! Phase 2, for chapel equipment and furnishing costs, will begin this summer.

Our planning for this next church plant in MuKo has reached another big step: we've had our final meetings with the architect in June. We're ready to go. CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN FIRST WEEK OF JULY. We'll be sending an update with design blueprints so you can get an idea of what's ahead. We're excited by God's work in MuKo. Stay tuned!

**Brochure, Funding Updates, Timeline & Giving:**

↳ [www.LavermansInJapan.org/MuKo](http://www.LavermansInJapan.org/MuKo)



## TWENTY in our 20th (for 2020 Vision)

In this, our 20th year in Japan (we came to Japan in February 1999), we really need to strengthen our support base, and build a solid foundation for the vision and years ahead. We re looking for 20 new supporters to begin support of \$20 or more monthly immediately. Can you be one? Below is the form to mail to WorldVenture. Or, begin a support commitment for us online from their website: [www.worldventure.com](http://www.worldventure.com) (search for Laverman )



↳ [www.lavermansinjapan.org/vision](http://www.lavermansinjapan.org/vision)



**Our progress since last update:**  
**1 new supporter. 11 yet needed @ \$20/month.**