

*"But we are citizens of heaven, where our Lord Jesus Christ lives." Phillipians 3:20*

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



## ➔ When you're a missionary...

In recent months, we've been reminded of what our missionary calling truly encompasses. While there are so many blessings from living and serving in Japan, our multicultural and multi-country lifestyle also creates many complexities. Here's just a few things that change when you head to the mission field of Japan (from our personal lives recently):



### 1. Earthly citizenship gets fuzzy (but "citizenship in heaven" becomes clearer - Phillipians 3:20)

We have some big news. Kaori is now a US citizen! I shared how this all came about in our longer email news. If you miss getting this, please signup at [www.LavermansInJapan.org/signup](http://www.LavermansInJapan.org/signup)

Why US citizenship? One citizenship for our family is a great simplification in our missionary lifestyle. What normally takes 6-8 months was completed in just 5 weeks while we were in the States in August-September.

The whirlwind process left us spinning. And giving up Japanese citizenship for American citizenship is a BIG deal emotionally for Kaori.

Frankly, every aspect of our legal residence and status in either of each other's countries has always involved paperwork and emotions, and always

been subject to critical review by officials, and self-reflection from our wandering selves: "What is 'home' or citizenship? Which country do we long to identify with more, but realize we might never despite best efforts?" We are thankful that "our citizenship is in

heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there" Phillipians 3:20. Meanwhile, celebrate with Kaori that her legal citizenship is now the USA!

Most foreigners work hard to acquire American citizenship for the purpose of living in the country of their dreams. Kaori's purpose was to enable mission in the country of her calling: JAPAN (But we'll see you all again soon in the States. No worries!)

### 2. Things get a little risky (but God's got you covered - Ps 91:1)

Flooding is now added to my list of life-in-Japan risks alongside tsunami, earthquake, and nuclear fallout.

By now you've heard of super typhoon Hagibis and the major flooding in Japan on October 12. This was the largest typhoon to hit Tokyo since 1958!

➔ continued on back

### About the photo above

As Christians we know This is my Father's world. But for Japanese the mountains belong to the gods. Mount Fuji is deeply connected with Japan's Shinto religious history. It's the abode of goddess Fuji-hime. Climbing it is considered a spiritual pilgrimage.

## PRAY

### with us thru the week

**SUN** Praise God for timely completion of Kaori's USA naturalization. Pray for her visa application process in Japan.

**MON** Pray for those along the Tama river (especially our neighborhood) who were affected by flooding from typhoon Hagibis.

**TUE** Pray for post-Hagibis relief work starting up now. Many in our church association in Japan in the north were deeply affected by the massive flooding.

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

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

**FRI** Praise God for construction progress with the MuKo chapel + house. Pray for a timely completion by yearend and needed funding for the furnishing and equipping of the chapel space.

**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!



The Tama River on 10/12, before flooding. The river runs by our home, church plant, and MuKo building.

#### ➡ continued from front

Here in our Kawasaki neighborhood, the real danger was not the wind or rain, but the Tama river just a few minutes north of us. The river banks are steep (40 feet plus) and reinforced with concrete. No one would think that the river could flood its high banks. But by Saturday afternoon TV and loud cell phone emergency alerts were all telling us that the water was at critical levels. Evacuate if you are in the area.

Around 7pm, water flooded over the banks and into the neighborhoods north of us. The river stopped just a few blocks away. One person lost their life, and many lost property. People in our church plant were also affected.

We are in a 3-story house of newer construction. We have the means to climb up and wait out a small flood.

And we re well prepared with gear for such events. But this typhoon reminded me that things get a little risky at times on the mission field. Following God s call always is. We prepare where we can, and trust God for the rest.

Early Sunday morning I checked our neighborhood worship location for Denen Grace Chapel. No flooding and no loss of power. We were ready to go. Our worship was sweeter than ever. A call to worship from Psalm 46, followed by singing Still, and message from Matthew 6:25-34. We all re-centered around these timely truths.

### 3. Your living space shrinks (but your blessings grow - Mk 10:29-30)

Kaori and I are burdened to start a new church in MuKo (Musashi Kosugi), an area of surging urban growth near us with 120,000+ people.



MuKo building moves along through many challenges. That's an earthquake damper on back wall.

It would be comfortable for us to stay put. We like our current neighborhood and neighbors. We have more living space now. MuKo will be smaller without even parking for our car. There are a lot of unknowns. But we are building our lives for *mission*, not for *comfort* and convenience. This is the call we follow in our lives. Everything else has to get in line behind.

We anticipate the good things God has ahead for us in MuKo, but humanly wrestle with what will be lost and what changes this commitment will bring. Such is missionary life. Keep praying for us as we build for mission. 🙏

During our 5 weeks in the States this summer, we got to meet many of you from supporting churches all over. We are thankful for your encouragement in this work. We missed seeing many of you because of our highly compressed schedule and Kaori's naturalization process. We'll stay in touch from Japan and look forward to seeing you soon next home assignment in the States!

## 2020 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 and click Give )



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1 new supporter.  
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