

JAPAN • LOG

SPECIAL EDITION



MATSUSHIMA, AUGUST 2009

NAGOYA YOUNG ADULTS, PASTORS
AND MYSELF, DECEMBER 2009.

Building Spiritual Bridges in Japan

Thank you for your prayers and support!

In December '09 I returned to Canada after two years in Japan as a GP missionary. I'm now on home ministries, visiting my supporting churches here in North America. In this newsletter, rather than an update on recent events, I'd like to talk a little about Japan's need and my vision.

The Need for Spiritual Bridges:

Japan has a population of over 127 million people. It is a country of both tradition and technology. Though Japan is materially and culturally rich, it is also spiritually needy.

Japan has one of the strongest economies in the world. It is also a free and open country, where people can practice or preach the

religion of their choice. Christianity, however, has not taken hold in Japan, and is often viewed as a foreign religion.

Statistics tell us that less than **1% of Japan are Christians**. Though it is an increasingly secular society, many Japanese people (about 80%) still follow **Shinto** and **Buddhist** practices.

Cities: 692

Cities with no churches: 10

Towns & Villages: 2,406

Towns & Villages with no churches: 1,633

Churches per person: 1 : 16,293

Missionaries: 2,222

Missionaries per person: 1 : 56,820

Sources: <http://wikipedia.org> / *Operation Japan* (published by Japan Evangelical Missionary Society - jema.org)

My Vision & Roles:

There’s sometimes a huge gap between the Church and the people we’re trying to reach. I’ve come to see my role as helping the Japanese Church bridge that gap.

**MY VISION IS
TO BUILD SPIRITUAL
BRIDGES IN JAPAN
THROUGH CHURCH
PARTNERSHIPS, YOUTH
MINISTRY AND THE
CREATIVE ARTS.**

3 areas of ministry focus:

1. Church Partnerships

- a. Continue to work with the Nagoya Church to develop English ministries as spiritual bridges between the church and community.
- b. Partner with other area churches as requested and available.

2. Youth Ministry:

- a. Work with area churches to build a stronger youth ministry within our part of Japan.
- b. Work with national youth ministry leaders on denominational youth ministries.

3. Creative Arts:

- a. Music ministry with Nagoya and area churches.
- b. Manga ministry: Manga (comics) are a huge part of Japanese pop culture. The top-selling manga magazine in Japan sells more copies in one week than the top-selling US comic does in one year.

In partnership with a group of creative missionaries and Japanese, I am working to launch a ministry that uses this art form to reach out to

the unchurched and provide an outreach resource for the Church. My role will be in the areas of art and writing, as well as networking, editing and vision casting.

**SEGUE PRODUCTIONS:
WHERE FICTION
MEETS REALITY**

Segue’s 3-fold vision is:

1. To use *manga* (comics) and *light novels* (serialized prose fiction) infused with a Christian point of view to bridge fiction and real life.
2. To equip, empower, and inspire Christians to use their gifts in new outreach.
3. To sow seeds of hope and redemption in the lives of the readers.

How you can help:

To join my **prayer** team simply contact me (japancanada@gmail.com) or GP.

To make a **faith promise** (ongoing financial support), contact GP to let them know. Ongoing commitments like this are needed in order to get me back to Japan (and keep me there). Donations can be sent to Global Partners as indicated below:

Canadian checks should be made out to your local Wesleyan church. Your church will forward your donation to the district office along with any other Wesleyan missions giving.

US checks should be made out to:

Global Partners
PO Box 50434, Indianapolis, IN 46250
Phone: 317-774-7950
www.globalpartnersonline.org

Designate your checks as follows: “Robin White – Japan – WM04-0316”



AT THE GIBLI MUSEUM WITH FRIENDS SCOT (SEGUE CO-FOUNDER) & HARUKA, DEC. 2008