



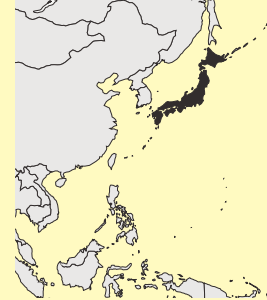
RCA Missionary Update

from the Brownells

Young people in Japan are struggling with spiritual emptiness in spite of their material abundance. Many withdraw and become hopeless, engage in crime, or commit suicide, and the church in Japan is having trouble reaching the next generation. Nathan and Nozomi Brownell will be working in cooperation with the church in Japan to renew youth ministry. They will focus on developing a relational youth ministry through schools in the Yokohama area, and they will practice a ministry of hospitality and develop a network to spread the vision for a revived youth outreach across Japan. Nathan and Nozomi have three sons: Kenneth, Raymond, and Luke.

Japan facts:

- Population: 127,333,000
- Size: 377,835 square miles (slightly smaller than California)
- Major religions: 84 percent Shinto and Buddhist, 16 percent other (0.7 percent Christian)



MINISTRY

Youth Ministry

LOCATION

Yokohama, Japan

PARTNER

Nihon Kirisuto Kyodan (United Church of Christ in Japan)

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LEARN MORE AT
www.rca.org/brownell

Dear Friends,

November 2011

Now, we are back in Yokohama, Japan, after spending the summer in the U.S. for a home assignment. We want to say thank you for showing us the love of Christ. It was great to meet many of you in person and to share about the mission in Japan. We are greatly encouraged by your care, support, and heartfelt prayers both for us and for the people of Japan.

Youth Program at Green House

In September, we resumed the after-school program for the high school students. God is blessing the program in many ways. Four more teachers have joined the GreenHouse outreach. Each responding to the Lord's call, came to Japan through various means and are teaching at schools in the vicinity of GreenHouse. They feel the call to help reach out to the students. While these schools were founded by missionaries, more than one hundred years ago, very few of the students are Christians. The new teachers, JoAnna, Stephanie, Beth, and Autumn, are helping us lead the outreach. Stephanie and Beth came to Japan this September, even after the triple disaster (Quake, Tsunami, and nuclear disasters) hit Japan. Autumn and JoAnna felt the call to remain in Japan despite the disasters. We are so grateful to God for having sent these wonderful women, granting them the faith to come and/or remain in Japan "for such a time as this."



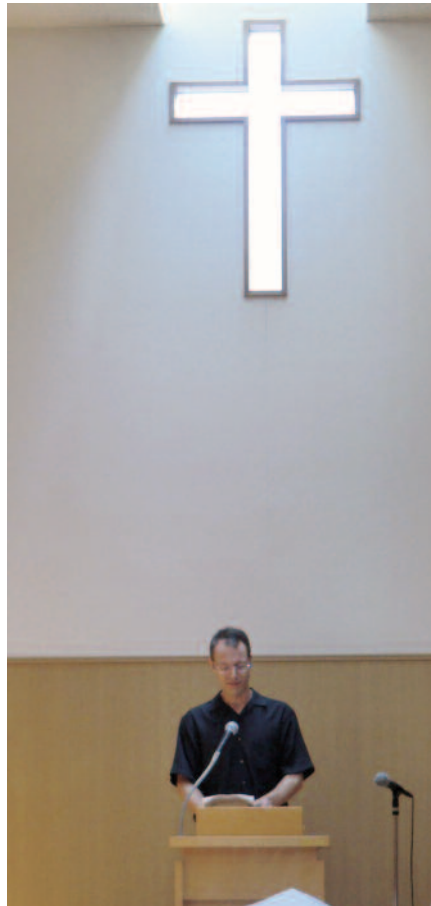
GreenHouse volunteer team and some students

The Great Eastern Japan Earthquake, subsequent mega-tsunami and nuclear disaster has uncovered many heart-felt needs. Now our after school program has a total of nine committed Christian teachers from: the U.S., Canada, and Singapore who are eager to share their faith and hope in Christ with the students. While each of the schools, which we serve, has a daily chapel and Bible classes, we believe there is a need to augment what they are learning at the Christian school by granting the students the chance to put what they are learning about Christian community into practice even once a week by

stepping out of their regular routine and coming over to the GreenHouse. We believe that this may help them learn that — it is alright to seek such Christian community. Through fellowship, songs, and messages of their foreign teachers, students can experience, again, the love of God.

Children and Worship

GreenHouse has the model worship center for Children and Worship program. We offer weekly chapel for preschoolers and training seminars. Now we have begun a new monthly gathering centered on this wonderful program. We are calling it, "Worship for grown-ups with Children and Worship." This is a gathering for those who have the desire to see children experience the program but without the pressure of 'being trained' to officially 'start the program'. The leadership of Children & Worship Japan felt the great need to help nourish those facing the various challenges of children's ministry. Due to the significant decline in birthrate in Japan along with the struggle to pass on the faith to the next generation, many Sunday school teachers are discouraged and are overwhelmed by the pressure to reach out to the children. After the earthquake, this is even more so. Yet people are becoming more aware that they need to seek spiritual foundation and nourishment in order to be able



Assisting at worship

to stand. We did not know how many would come to the first gathering, but God drew ten people! One woman who experienced C&W for the first time shared that she had been teaching 4-6th grade students in the church for many years and that she was very nearly overwhelmed, feeling that the decline of the youth might somehow be her fault for not holding good classes for them. She was desperate for the Lord to touch her. "The Story of Light and The Creation" that was shared on that night touched her deeply and she experienced a healing from the Lord. We are planning to continue this special program throughout the year so that more youth leaders can experience the program with the liturgical calendar year.

Nathan continues teaching at the mission school, where he can witness to over 400 students a week and invite many to the youth center. Nozomi is working at Green House. We are hoping to grow more and more in the Lord, including our boys, Kenneth, Raymond, and Luke. May the Lord grant blessings upon you as we partner in mission.

Hope in God,
Nathan & Nozomi Brownell
Nathan and Nozomi Brownell

To access extensive information about the Brownells, or to make a gift for this ministry, simply go to www.rca.org/brownell.

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