



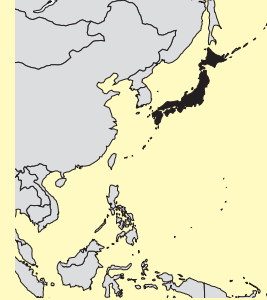
RCA Missionary Update

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)

CONTACT

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Dear Friends,

May 2009

We thank you for your faithful support. We are entering our third year in youth mission here in Japan. We are proclaiming the Gospel to the young people in Yokohama and working with the local churches. We know that God is working through us.

The Green House Youth Center is growing. In addition to the junior/senior high school student outreach and the Children and Worship programs we have begun a new initiative. Twice a week we open the Green House to the mothers of the pre-k students enrolled at Yokohama Union Church. We are responding to their heartfelt need for a place to be during the time their children are at the Pre-K. In this way there is now a time and a place to share the faith. We have set up a small Christian library in both English and Japanese and we hold family based activities with Christian music setting the tone. Many of the mothers have some knowledge of Christianity through Christian schools they've attended, but it is a new experience for them to meet Christ on personal level. By welcoming both Christians and non-Christians to casual fellowship here at the Green House, the conversations often naturally lead to joining the church activities with their children.

We are also thankful that recently several church related publications are picking up the story of the Green House.

It is very significant that local church pastors are helping share the hope of this vision for the youth. In Japan it takes a while to build trust, but now local leaders can see that we are open and eager to work with them for reaching the youth. As a result of the positive publicity, one more mission school in this area opened up to sending their students to the after school youth gathering. Now we have students from four different junior and senior high schools attending. We are grateful for this opportunity to reach out to the youth in this area.

This March, Nathan helped lead the missionary retreat. Nathan continues teaching at Ferris Girl's junior and senior high school, which is a great opportunity to learn



Mission retreat participants

firsthand the situation of these students. He continues to minister through stories included in his lessons, through chapel talks, and at Green House. Nathan is reaching some parents through sharing in the Bible study group. He also plugs himself into the local pastor's study/prayer group and continues to network with the local ministries.

Nozomi continues developing the Children & Worship program. God is opening the door to formally introduce the program to a gathering of all the Sunday school leaders from this district. The Christian Education Committee is taking an active interest in our programs having visited the Children and Worship Center at the



Anna Herzog, RCA mission associate, teaching Green House student's sign language for the song "God will not forget your name."



Children and Worship seminar at Fuji Church

Green House. Now they are eager to introduce the program to their various churches. We will hold a crucial seminar in May. Another major mile-marker will be the publishing of the translation of the book, *Young Children and Worship*. This project has been in the works for a few years. Nozomi joined the translation committee as soon as we arrived in Japan and has been working with them for two years now. The group is making the final push toward the completion of the project. Many churches here are struggling to maintain a Church School/ Sunday School. We

are hoping that through Children and Worship the Holy Spirit will breathe life across the Christian education in Japan.

Thank you also for praying for our children. Our eldest son, Kenneth, began his first year of junior high school (7th grade) at the local public school. Raymond is in the third grade of elementary school. Luke is four years old and attending pre-school. We would appreciate if you would continue to pray for the boys, that their spiritual needs will be met always.

In addition to our RCA mission page, please bookmark our photo albums at: <http://gallery.me.com/brownelln> and our mission page at <http://www.rca.org/brownell>.

Hope In God,

Nathan & Nozomi Brownell

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*Did you know that you can receive Dear Friends letters directly to your own email and that by doing so you are helping RCA Global Mission be a good steward of your gifts?
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