



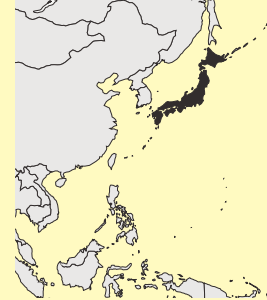
# RCA Missionary Update

from the Jansens

Tokyo Union Theological Seminary (TUTS) trains pastors for congregations of the United Church of Christ in Japan (Kyodan). As a home-room teacher for the freshman class, Wayne Jansen gets to know newcomers to the seminary and provides pastoral care for them through their time at TUTS. He also works with the seminary's Clinical Pastoral Education program. Miho Jansen has a degree in linguistics and has taught English in Japan and Japanese at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. Miho teaches English part-time at a Christian high school, helps the faculty and staff translate articles and documents, and often entertains students and church members at home. Miho and Wayne met at a worship service at Yokohama Union Church in 1986. They have twin sons, Manato Thomas and Megumu David.

## 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

Theological Education

### LOCATION

Tokyo, Japan

### PARTNER

United Church of Christ in Japan

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[www.rca.org/jansen](http://www.rca.org/jansen)

Dear Friends,

August 2011

Four years ago, a bright young man entered our seminary. He was committed to the gospel, and truly wanted to serve in the church. But, as many of us are quite aware, being a Christian does not necessarily mean that life is easy.

This bright young man grew up with a father who beat him and put him down whenever he could. That caused him to be fearful of others, and nervous around other people. This was a big issue for him since he knew that being a minister meant that he needed to communicate with people, and couldn't be too nervous around them. While a student, he came in for counseling on numerous occasions and talked extensively about his past, and how it was affecting him while serving as a seminarian at his church. Sometimes, he was tempted to quit, wondering whether he could truly handle the task that God was calling him for.

Now this young man is a minister in Kyushu, Japan's western most main island, and he is enjoying his ministry there. He visited Tokyo Union Theological Seminary's campus a few days ago, and spoke of how relieved he was that he had grasped the problem that had been holding him down, and was able to talk about it openly so that it no longer had control over him. He is enjoying

working with the other ministers in his district, and is happy to be part of a team of God's people proclaiming the Kingdom of God in the island where Christianity has the longest history in Japan, but where the vast majority of people still do not know Christ. He emphasized to me that the support he has received from the body of Christ, both while in seminary and at present, has enabled him to move away from the shackles of the past to a trusting relationship with Christ and Christians empowering him to be a minister to those in his congregation.

Transformation is something we are all in need of. Stories of initial conversions are truly something to be thankful for, but even after we become Christians, we are in constant need of transformation and sanctification. The love of Christ which bonds us together as one body is essential for spiritual health.

The two photos (over) are of the *Nagashi Somen* gathering at our church on August 7 after the morning worship. *Somen* is thin, white noodles, and *nagashi* means flowing. A long trough of bamboo is constructed, and *somen* noodles are sent down the trough in water. People line up along the trough and grab the noodles with their chopsticks as they flow down. Though the temperatures were in the 90s, it made everyone feel cooler, as did the



shaved ice treats made by the traditional ice shaving machine at the right in the other photo. This time of fellowship is most important for us in this busy age. People in Tokyo often have difficulty finding time to freely get together and enjoy time with one another. The church is one of the few places that plays this role.



We thank you for our fellowship in Christ with you which spans the globe. Though we only get to see you once in a few years, we are blessed to have committed partners who make our mission here in Japan possible. As interest in foreign mission appears to be waning in some North American churches, we thank you for your commitment which is truly bringing forth fruit in Japan. Mission is one, and together, we can proclaim the love of Christ to people both in North America and the rest of the world.

Please pray:

- For the survivors of the earthquake and tsunami who are trying to put their lives back together.
- That we will be able to discern the real issues Japanese people are dealing with so that we can proclaim Christ to them in the most effective way.
- That our children will continue to grow in the Lord and be witnesses to their classmates.

May God bless all of you as you work to establish his Kingdom.

In Christ,

*Wayne, Miho, Manato & Megumu*  
Wayne, Miho, Manato & Megumu

*To access extensive information about the Jansens, or to make a financial gift for this ministry, simply go to [www.rca.org/jansen](http://www.rca.org/jansen).*

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