



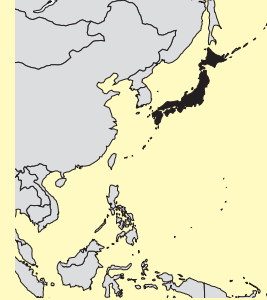
# RCA Missionary Update

## 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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Dear Friends,

April 2010

Spring has sprung upon us quickly, and we are off to begin another school year at Tokyo Union Theological Seminary (TUTS). Thanks to the cool beginning of our Spring, the cherry blossoms were in full bloom during both our Entrance Ceremony (April 6) and our Easter worship services—one of which was a sunrise service in a nearby park. Wayne gave the opening lecture at TUTS focusing on use of modern technology to evangelize Japan's tech-savvy young generation, and was promoted to full professor after the lecture was given.

This year we are blessed with 21 new seminarians.

Though this number is lower than usual, the new students are showing impressive enthusiasm as they begin their seminary work. They are all well aware of the fact that Japan is a difficult country to evangelize, but also know that it is trust in God's Holy Spirit that will lead them to becoming effective leaders in the Japanese church.



*The 2010 incoming class of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary pictured with faculty. 13 men and 8 women of whom 2 are Korean. Wayne is seated second from the far right in the front row.*

An incredible story was shared by a student in my very first class. She became a Christian and was married to a man who had another religion. In her hometown, she said it was culturally improper for a woman to pressure her husband to become a Christian. In the home in which she was raised, women were supposed to quietly accept whatever the husband says, and never speak directly to him. However, she and her two daughters were baptized, and when her daughter was 17, she told her father that his faith was wrong, and that her mother's was right. At that, the father was convinced of the truth. For 17 years, this student had been praying that in some

way her husband would come to Christ, and it happened in the most unimaginable way. Though her husband would not listen to anything she said, when his daughter spoke, he heard the word of God.

As Japan is an overwhelmingly non-Christian country, there are numerous stories of subtle

spiritual persecution that many Christians experience. Their small numbers are why they continue to ask for missionaries to reach the hearts of their people. They want you to be aware that missionaries are needed because sometimes, just like the woman in the above story, Japanese are not able to tell other Japanese the gospel while missionaries are.

Please pray for us as we continue to witness for Christ in this beautiful land with so many lonely people. It is easy to be misled into thinking that Japan's apparent wealth has provided its people with spiritual blessings, but people here are thirsting heavily for the Gospel, and it is our responsibility as Christians to see to it that the entire world hears the Word.



*Miho (at the far right) with her Jiyu Gakuen College students.*

We thank you for your partnership in the Gospel and pray for God's blessings on your ministries in North America.

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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