



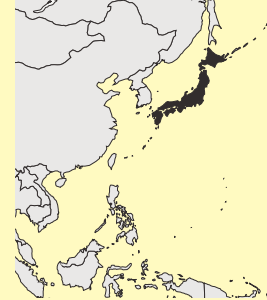
RCA Missionary Update

from the Brownells

Young people in Japan are struggling with spiritual emptiness due to the heavy pressure to “fit in” and “succeed.” Many lose hope, withdraw, and too many precious lives are taken by suicide. The church in Japan is having trouble reaching the next generation. Nathan and Nozomi Brownell will be working in cooperation with our partner churches to share the life-saving Gospel. They are identifying, encouraging, and raising-up leaders via the GreenHouse youth center; and sharing the vision for a revived national youth outreach via the Children and Worship program. 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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LEARN MORE AT
www.rca.org/brownell

2011 Yearly Report to Supporting Churches from the Brownells

In one sentence, what is your ministry's primary goal?

We are called to raise up Christian youth leaders and help revive a national youth outreach.

Over the past year, how have you seen God working in your ministry? Please share both the progress and the setbacks with respect to your ministry goals. Please include your joys, challenges, and/or disappointments.

In 2011 Japan was struck by the triple disaster: a 9.0 magnitude quake, massive tsunami, and nuclear meltdowns. Quite literally many people came asking, “What is your comfort” during this time? which granted us the opportunity to answer in the words of our forebearers, “That we are not our own but belong body and soul to our faithful savior Jesus Christ.” (*Heidelberg Catechism*). Your support enables us to be in this place making this testimony at this crucial time.

Progress

1. Many students and young parents came to the youth center for the first time this year. Now, they come recognizing we can not put our trust in material things, jobs, or even governments, but rather we need a more eternal hope.
2. Now we have students from all four junior and senior high schools attending the weekly after-school outreach.
3. The Lord sent four more volunteer mission teachers from area schools to help the outreach.
4. The successful launch of the monthly Children and Worship event for adults.

Setbacks -

1. Quake damage - While the epicenter of the quake was 240 miles north, our location, Yokohama, was also shaken. While it is nothing compared to the epicenter, the GreenHouse youth center also sustained damage. The retaining wall on the property buckled sinking part of the yard, damaging the fence and cracking the foundation. The cracks run up through the foundation. Fortunately, were able to have the wall rebuilt, and the cracks sealed.
2. Fears caused many to stay indoors - While the epicenter of the nuclear disaster is 180 miles north, the fears affected life and work in our area as well.

3. Financial need - While giving is up for disaster relief, unfortunately, giving to sustain the missionaries is down.

Share any physical or spiritual health issues that have impacted your ministry during this past year.

We believe that the Lord has sent us to Japan for such a time as this. Please pray that the Lord would protect us physically and spiritually, so that we can share the gospel most effectively.

Briefly discuss any goals, dreams, and/or changes you would anticipate in your ministry for the coming year.

1. We vision reaching children and young parents in the disaster area by sending continued aid through our partner churches and training youth leaders in Children and Worship.
2. We vision the youth leaders whom we are training and the GreenHouse alumni becoming youth leaders across Japan.
3. Please watch for our news letters and emails. Please share these with your church mission committee and friends. We need your help.

Share any specific project related needs and other ways supporting churches might be able to assist you.

1. PLEASE PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT - visit our website at www.rca.org/brownell and scroll down to the donation section.
2. NEED FOR PROGRAM FUND donations to purchase Japanese Christian material here. Please choose the correct designation on the donation page.
3. NEED FOR CHRISTIAN MATERIAL: music CDs and DVDs related to youth and parenting in English (used ok). Please email us at nathanbrownell@rca.org so that we can find the most efficient way to mail these.

Please tell us about ongoing as well as special prayer needs you may have at this time.

1. We ask your prayers for the well being of our family, especially for our three sons: Ken, Ray and Luke who are all in the Japanese public school system, facing many challenges.
2. Prayers for the Gustafson family - our dear friend Minako passed on after a long battle with cancer. Our hearts go out to her husband Rich and children Noah and Maya.
3. ...for continued and increasing favor with our district of churches.
4. ...for favor with the local junior and senior high schools.

In one sentence, please thank all those who pray and support you and your RCA ministry.

Your faithful prayers and support are a reminder to us that our only comfort is, "That we are not our own but belong body and soul to our faithful savior Jesus Christ..." (HC).

Here is a verse which first stood out to us in the wake of 9/11 and now again takes on special meaning. We pray that, "You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor. 9:11).



Please visit www.rca.org/brownell for more information about us, prayer items for our ministry, and donation information.

To order prayer cards for us and our ministry, please contact Nancy Ellens at (800) 968-3943 or nellens@rca.org.