



5 minutes to change a city

Who would have thought that a simple 5 minutes out of your day could achieve much? With the 5 minute English challenge it certainly does!



The 5 minute English challenge connects with people who are interested in and studying English to stop and practice their English for 5 minutes. This opens up dialogue and the opportunity to go to free English classes that are followed by praise and worship.



"It is such an amazing and exciting experience to have such an impact while having so much fun. I can't wait to do more". - Eugene



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A Word from the Fukuoka Church

With the lead up to Eugene and Fiona going on field to serve in Fukuoka, Alastair Paterson was asked why the Geberts were wanted on field to serve as missionaries in Fukuoka. Alastair replied - "We are so excited about Eugene and Fiona coming over to serve with us in Fukuoka Japan!"

While Eugene was here leading up to Christmas 2014, he was a huge help in setting up our 'Ignite Praise' hall, as well as outreach with our 5 minute English challenge. Eugene is full of enthusiasm and willing to serve in any area he is needed.



Our church school was so blessed by his ministry and warmth towards our students. Eugene was involved in teaching at the school, tutoring, and chapel.

Eugene and Fiona will be an integral part of our leadership team, we are looking forward to starting, our university outreach, will help connect university aged students to 'Ignite English' and then to our 'Ignite Praise' service.

Eugene and Fiona will also be a key part of overseeing our 'ignite Praise' service, and leading Sunday school.

Later in the year together with Eugene and Fiona we are endeavouring to start an after school care service with 'free English' included. This will help our church engage even more with our local community.

Can't wait to have you guys here!!"

There is a real sense of great expectation building in Fukuoka Japan, and the Geberts have so much to offer in serving and building into the local church and community of Fukuoka. Let's keep praying for God to do amazing things.



Chapel

Connecting kids with God!

Chapel time is an important time for Hakata International School (H.I.S.) kids. What an amazing opportunity to impact the lives of kids with the great news about who God is and what he has done!



All the kids love the warm up exercises that get their restlessness out so they can be refreshed and ready to concentrate on the message God has. H.I.S. also took a Sunday service which then impacted their parents.



Student testimonies told of the impact God has had on their lives.



And it was the students who led their families to thanksgiving dinner to thank God & make new friends in church.

Four ways individuals, churches and business can help.

Everyone can easily participate in the Gebert's journey by giving support in any of the four areas needed.



ALL IT TAKES IS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TO DECIDE TO NEVER TIRE OF DOING GOOD, OWN THE VISION & ACT



PRAYER

The Gebert's need your prayers as they step out in faith; with the vision of Japan as a nation that loves God. God sees Japan as it will be; a Christian nation.

There will be regular updates on how you can pray specifically for them and the situations they work with in Fukuoka and Japan. Pg 4 has their prayer needs.

We all need to keep God the central focus in all we do.



FINANCE & GIVING

Financial giving is so important and key to being able to do what needs to be done. One off donations are great, and regular monthly commitments essential.

Everyone can be a key part in God's work by simply making a commitment to support the Gebert's so that people who have never heard the good news have a chance to accept God's life changing love.



SOCIAL MEDIA

The Gebert's need the word to go out around Australia about what God has called them to do. They need everyone who has a heart to see Japan changed by the good news, to share with their friends how they too can become involved.

This can be done through Facebook by going to <https://www.facebook.com/japan directions>, and liking and sharing with your friends and talking to them about it. At the moment the Facebook site's purpose is to draw people to the website <http://japandirections.com/>. This is where people can find all the information needed on the work the Geberts are doing and more.

At the moment there are 51 likes on Facebook, which is a great start. Keep the momentum going and get the word out directing people to both the Facebook and webpages where all the relevant information and forms can be found as well as commendations.



SENDING SHORT TERM TEAMS

As part of our vision the Gebert's are interested in hearing from their supporters if they have teams with talent that could be used on field in evangelistic outreach activities.

It is important that teams come with their skills identified and developed and prepared to serve. The Gebert's would love to consider having you along on field. The website will have a login section where teams will be able to have access to all relevant information for them including maps, itineraries, emergency contact information, some basic survival language kits and a place to share photos and experiences.

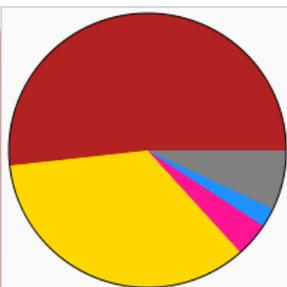
Again, this is available to those who are already supporting them in every other area and under the direction of the senior pastor and the Geberts.



Facts & Figures about Japan

Q: What religious beliefs do Japanese have? Are they an unreached people group?

A: In a survey taken and published in Wikipedia, there were only 2.3% who said they were Christian.



Religion in Japan (2006)^[1]

- Folk Shinto, or "not religious"^[note 1] (51.8%)
- Buddhism (34.9%)
- Shinto organisations and others (4%)
- Christianity (2.3%)
- No answer (7%)

This is the highest result from a survey with other surveys coming in under 1%. Shinto and Buddhism are the dominant beliefs in Japan, however many only use these as an identification label, and would not know much about the religion if asked.

What is Shintoism?

Shinto is the indigenous faith of the Japanese people. Shinto is animistic in nature and the term 'Shinto' means 'The way of the gods' and refers to the sacred spirits or gods

This means that in real spiritual terms there is a very big void that has developed as people have slowly moved away from a spiritual belief in anything. This also means that the biggest god is similar to that of the west, the god of self. In a country historically used to community and teamwork with close relationships, the next generation is rightly called the lost generation in Japan. God allows people to get to this point for their hearts to be prepared for a new relationship with Him. This is what we are seeing. The next generation desperately seeking meaning and hope in God.

who are the central objects of worship. The Japanese do not view Shinto as a religion. Every Japanese person is born into Shinto and it is seen as a part of traditional Japanese culture, where Shinto affects every area of Japanese life. Due to the fact that Shinto does not have a founder, it has no sacred scriptures and there are no 'Shinto missionaries' because it is seen as purely Japanese.

Child Abuse and Women in Poverty

"Japan Today" notes that an increase in reported child abuse cases can be linked with an increase in stress & neighbours reporting incidents. Child raising used to be a community responsibility, but communities and extended family involvement is almost non-existent anymore. "Shukan Josei" adds that public children's homes tend to be poorly managed.

12 Million women work in Japan and typically hold part time roles with low, and under remuneration compared to their counterparts. This severely effects single mothers and gives rise to an abortion rate of 340,000 people annually.

The foundational principle of Shinto is that kami (gods) can act favourably or unfavourably to the living depending on the treatment that they receive from them. If they are treated well through rituals and offerings, then they will be blessed with good harvests, protection and fertility. If they are offended or neglected, the kami will respond with things that the individual dislikes and that will curse the village or community. The kami are also seen to

Street Live

With the success of the 5 minute English challenge, and other street live successes seen in Japan, it is very exciting to know that street live can start soon. The equipment is available, but more people need to be brought together to start this.



Here AI is pointing to a corner which we all have a close look at and agree is the perfect spot to be out of the way enough and with perfect centrality of traffic flow. Please pray for the right people to be put together in the team that will go there and start this ministry.

Control whatever is outside the control of humans. Kami can take various forms such as the dead (ikigami and ujigami), certain animals, geographic objects, natural phenomena, invisible powers (fertility, creativity, productivity) and mythological (Amaterasu – sun goddess, Izanagi and Izanami). The living can be connected to a deity and also worshipped.



Upcoming Events

Moving on field

The biggest event for 2015 for the Gebert's will be their move on field to Fukuoka Japan.

Preparations have already begun and prayer is appreciated.

Pastors and church events

The Gebert's are currently spending time connecting with pastors and meeting them to share the vision of reaching Japan. This is also extending into booking times with churches to visit them and share the vision as well as getting to know their supporters and the vision that they have for their local missions field.

Queensland

Eugene will be contacting churches in Queensland at the start of 2015.

If you would like Eugene to visit you personally, please call him on 0414 35 35 35. Dates will be coordinated and scheduled once availabilities have been established. Please feel free to send him an email to enquire -

Japandirections@gmail.com

Praise & Prayer Points

- Three new partners have joined with us over the past few weeks. The financial gap to get on field is shrinking.
- Eugene has recovered from his recent tonsillectomy very well and is now able to speak again.
- Praise God that we have been blessed in so many ways so that Eugene can make a trip to QLD to visit pastors there.
- Eugene will be visiting churches in QLD from 9th – 15th March. Pray that many God connections and partnerships will be made. Pray also for the family during that week while Eugene is away.
- The missionary budget for a family in Japan is quite large compared to other countries. We praise God that we now only need a further \$1800 odd per month in sponsorship to be able to depart for the field. Pray that hearts will be open and people will partner with us to see Japan reached with the good news.
- Pray that support will be raised quickly so that the visa process can go ahead.
- Pray that the visa process goes smoothly and favourably.

Continue to pray for Hakata New Life Church Fukuoka, as we prepare to join the work there.

