



Ready, Set, Green Light -  
Let's all GO! P.1

Four ways individuals, churches  
and business can help. P.2

Frog in a sock P.3

Upcoming Events & Prayer  
Needs P.4

## Ready, Set, Green Light - Let's all GO!

### Your 5 min challenge

The 5 minute English challenge connects people in the church with people on the street. This is a fantastically successful ministry in Japan. But why leave it in Japan?

Have you thought about how your church can connect with your local community with something as simple as a 5 minute challenge to touch and change lives of everyday people in your community?

How can you be relevant and make an impact? Let's get back to basics.

A big thank you to all who have come on board this amazing journey that the Geberts are embarking on! God has truly blessed them with a great network of support – people like you!

They have reached their minimum required monthly budget and have some finances towards setup costs. So a big thankyou to all those who are partnering with them financially and making this possible.

Amazing things have taken place over the last two months. The Geberts were officially approved as Japan AOG Missionary Pastors in May. The application for visa certificates of eligibility were then sent to the Japanese immigration office who finalised these on Friday 10 July. The certificates are now on their way to Australia so that visas can be processed with the Japanese consulate in Melbourne. Please continue to pray that the visas issued will be for a term of 3 years.

With Health and dental checks completed, ACCI Missions has also given them the green light to go!

Friday 10 July was also the day that the Geberts moved out of their home and it was also Fiona's last day of work. Fiona was able to announce at work the completion of the certificates of eligibility which is such a testimony of God's goodness.

In a weeks' time the paperwork will arrive and the visa application submitted. Another week and they will be heading off to Japan!

The first few weeks in Japan will see them doing a lot of paperwork with various government agencies, as well as looking for an appropriate apartment to live in. Please continue to keep them in your prayers for all these things.

Most of all however, please continue to pray for hearts in Japan to be prepared to receive the good news about God. Pray for opportunities and people who are ready to serve. Pray for an expansion of the vision that God has for the nation and its people.



## Fukuoka Fun

### So what will it be like living in Fukuoka?

That is a very good question and one that is asked of us in one way or another. There are so many aspects so let's look at a couple of things.

**Yatai stands** – Fukuoka is famous for its outdoor food stands that line the streets and the rivers and park areas. It has the largest number of food stands of any place in Japan. What a better way to enjoy socialising, getting to know people than over a meal together, enjoying the outdoors on your way home.

**Baseball mad** – We love our football, but Japan loves its baseball.

Fukuoka plays host to the SoftBank Hawks. Their new coach for 2015 is Kudo Kimiyasu. The Hawks have led the Pacific league for the past two years in the number of runs scored. The Hawks play at their home ground Yafuoku Dome. They formed back in 1938 in Osaka and moved to Fukuoka when bought by Daiei department store in 1988.

**New Islands** – Fukuoka bay is home to new man made islands for the rich.

# Four ways individuals, churches and business can help.

Everyone can easily participate in the Gebert's journey by giving support in one 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 their vision the Gebert's are interested in hearing from their supporters who have teams with talents 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. They will be under the direction of the senior pastor and the Geberts.





FUKUOKA  
福岡

## This issue's Facts & Figures about Fukuoka

**Q: What religious beliefs do Japanese have?**

**A: Japanese are predominantly Buddhist &/or Shinto religions traditionally**

Approximately 1% of Japanese call themselves Christians.

Nothing hits you greater than walking down a busy main road knowing that nearly all of the beautiful people you are walking past could be about to spend eternity in hell simply because no-one has told them the good news and given them a chance to believe.

**Did you know?**

"Back in 1911, Kumamoto, Nagasaki and Fukuoka Prefectures all bid on hosting Kyushu's first and only Imperial university, now known as Kyushu University." Fukuoka prefecture won the right.

"Fukuoka was inaugurated as a city in 1890. The next year a vote was held by the city's assembly to decide whether the new city would be called Fukuoka (the name for the area west of Naka River) or Hakata (as the merchant's town on the river's eastern bank had long been named). The difference of a single vote (cast by the assembly chairman) resulted in the name Fukuoka being chosen. But references to Hakata still abound for example, Hakata Station." (Fukuoka NOW)

**Suicide**

Desperate for hope

It is common knowledge that suicide is a big issue for Japan but the facts shock. Over a three year period the MCG could be filled! 30,000+ people a year or one every 15 minutes dies. Half of these suicides are committed by teens. Young people are desperate, and God can move and help people who are desperate and who seek Him. Please pray as depression and hopelessness is a major issue in Japanese society.

Little hearts with big love

Our girls continue to amaze us with how sensitive and strong they are. Jessica in particular as she recently finished up at her school and said good bye to her friends.

Like most parents when picking their kids up, the first thing we want to know is how their day has gone. Jessica always tells us of who she plays with. She is sad to leave her friends but happy that they can Skype and keep in touch when we are in Japan.

There were also tears when the girls had to say goodbye to their cat when it was given away to a friend last week. But great to see updates about the cat on Facebook. We are so confident that God will provide for all our kids' needs.



## Frog in a sock

Have you ever heard the expression "going off like a frog in a sock"? I first heard this some years ago, and this could be a great way to describe Ignite praise.

Ignite praise is the service which immediately follows the Ignite English lessons. New students to Ignite English come from the 5 minute English street outreaches. It really is going from strength to strength. Recently more equipment has been purchased for this impacting ministry. What an amazing thing that God is beginning to do.



Having a youth style service will give more people a greater option of events to invite friends along to.

Already we can see that God is able to use this to bless those coming along. We can see that God can use open hearts

that are ready to serve and make an impact in Fukuoka.

It really is a case where the workers are few and the harvest is ripe. Please continue to pray for those involved in this ministry, and that more people will be able to join the work going on there. God is raising up a new and mighty generation who have open hearts ready to serve Him.



## Upcoming Events

### [Visa application process](#)

After the speedy, safe arrival of the certificates of eligibility in Melbourne the Geberts will be lodging applications for visas with the Japanese consulate in Melbourne.

### [Flights](#)

Flights will be booked that should see the Geberts depart Melbourne towards the end of July.

### [Settling into Japan](#)

After arrival in Japan, the Geberts will start the process of settling into life in Japan. Some of the practical initial things they will need to organize will be:

- Obtaining a foreigners registration card
- Getting a Japanese driver's license
- Registering for Japanese National Health Insurance
- Opening Japanese bank acc.
- Finding an apartment

## Praise and Prayer Points

- Praise God that all the initial minimum funding has been raised!
- A new supporter came on board wanting to pay for flights and help for the first 12 months because God clearly told him to.
- The certificates of eligibility for their visa applications has been successfully completed. Paperwork is on the way to Melbourne!
- Thank God that He has taken care of all the details from the letting of their house, sale of their car and even finding an amazing home for their cat.
- Please pray for a smooth visa application process, that the certificates of eligibility arrive quickly and safely here in Melbourne.
- Please pray for 3 year visas to be issued.
- Please pray for more supporters. Part of their current support is made up of short term partnership that will need to be covered in the near future.
- Please continue to pray for the Geberts as they finalise their preparations.
- Please pray that Jessica and Elyssa will settle into Japanese life quickly and well.