

New Ministries

There will be some new ministry opportunities in the future for Hakata New Life Church and preparation for these has already commenced. There is a need for two new services to commence on the Gebert's arrival. One to accommodate the needs of the elderly who are unable to make their way up the stairs to the church hall, and the other a youth style mid-week service.

The challenge with the aging population can be as simple as getting up stairs to come to church and be a part of Gods house and serving Him.

The other challenge is to create an all-inclusive youth style service to minister to the needs of the unsaved giving them an opportunity to express their love for God and take down the barriers for them to love and serve Him.



May 2015 The Fast Approaching Start

With the beginning of a new year, God's promise is unfolding with excited expectation to continue what has already started in Fukuoka. God is bringing together people with hearts for this amazing city and people are already being impacted. The Gebert's preparation time in Australia is quickly running down.

The time has also come to start to ask those who have been prayerfully considering to support the Gebert's financially to make a commitment by returning completed pledge forms to ACC International Missions.

Completing a pledge form aids missionaries in their planning and preparation and also releases them to begin the visa process and to move on field. Often the visa process cannot commence until the budget is reached.

The Gebert's are humbly confident God's provision will allow them to fly out in May to serve in Fukuoka and will need to commence the visa process soon.

If you have not had a chance to speak with Eugene and would like to do this prior to making a commitment, please get in touch with him on 0414 35 35 35.

Prayer is a vital part of our relationship with God. It is also critical that the Gebert's are upheld in prayer as they prepare in stepping out faithfully. Please continue to pray for their time of preparation. That the right partners come on board to support, that the family prepares to transition well and that their home church is blessed with prosperity for their faithfulness in releasing them.

Also please continue to pray for the New Life Church in Japan, that they continue to prepare the way for what God has in store for them and reaching the lost in Fukuoka.

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Too cool? It's Sunday School!

One of the biggest opportunities churches can have, is a fun and vibrant Sunday school ministry. This is a calling to those who should be involved and not a side lined event, or viewed as a stepping stone into other ministries.

Fiona is a fully qualified teacher and will be able to serve in this vital ministry – to help coordinate, prepare, train and assist in the implementation of this vital and vibrant ministry aimed at reaching the needs of children in the community.

This ministry is already proving to be a great outreach opportunity as families outside the church have started getting involved. 2015 offers a wonderful new start and opportunities for this ministry to grow and leaders to be developed to serve effectively in this really important area.

Please continue to pray for the Sunday school and all the kids in the community who could be impacted by this ministry.

Pray also as we look for other ways to impact families within the community.

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.



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.

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



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.





HIS - Hakata International School Impact

HIS is making a fantastic impact on the lives of school students.

Eugene had the pleasure of being able to spend time with the kids in the classes while he was in Japan in late 2014.

What a wonderful group of students with ready and open hearts, learning about Jesus!

The school students have the opportunity to lead the church services and recently a mother of one of the students came and attended church for the first time. She then attended an Ignite English Class!

Facts & Figures about Fukuoka

Q: How many students study at just one of the Universities in Fukuoka?

A: There were 19,719 undergraduate placements at Fukuoka Uni. as at 1 May 2013.

Student Enrollment	
Undergraduate Faculties	
Humanities	2,498
Law	2,779
Economics	2,842
Commerce	2,786
Commerce Evening School	867
Science	1,123
Engineering	2,993
Medicine	1,075
Pharmaceutical Sciences	1,497
Sports and Health Science	1,259
Total	19,719

During Eugene's preparation time in Japan in late 2014 he was able to form vital relationships at Fukuoka University.



After School School: Juku

Unlike Australia, schooling does not finish when the bell sounds in the mid afternoon in Japan. Kids will often then go to an after school care program or "juku".

This includes relationships with key musicians from the university.

Please pray that these friendships would continue to grow and develop. Pray also that many more friendships in the university will be made upon the Gebert's return to Japan.

Students in the university are really friendly and open and we believe that God will do amazing things in their lives.

What a God thing and what an opportunity.

This is where students can complete their homework and then be assigned further homework to assist in learning development. These placements are very limited, expensive and parents are very fortunate if they can get a placement and can afford it.

The alternative most are faced with is that kids are left to their own devices.

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 p/a 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 who seek Him. Please pray as depression and hopelessness is a major issue in Japanese society.

With more and more households where both parents work and often don't come home until late in the evening, the issue of "what to do with the kids" is growing.

As part of the churches vision to touch the lives of families with a positive impact, we would love to see the development of a new outreach in this area of after school care.

We would love your prayer support as we look into development of an appropriate program. We need to find the right people with the heart and ability to assist us as we put this together.

We have seen the impact that the international school has had in non-Christian Japanese families and would love to further this kind of outreach.





Upcoming Events

Moving on field

The biggest event for 2015 for the Gebert's will be their move on field to Fukuoka Japan. This is a big faith step, dependent on finances and the visa process.

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

Prayer Needs

Financial support. Reaching budget requirements. Also finances in general.

Greater awareness and support from the right people to partner with the Geberts.

A smooth and timely visa application process can begin.

The church in Fukuoka

The girl's preparation for transition to Japan goes well.

Personal items sell and all other personal preparations go well.

People desperate for God and answers to life's issues connect with Gods community of people.

- Hakata New Life Church
- Fukuoka Uni outreach
- 5 min English challenge
- Street ministry
- Ignite English program
- Development of a mothers support group
- Venue upgrades
 - Sound Equipment
 - Carpet & tiles
- Life Groups
- Developing new leaders
- Depressed, desperate people get connected to church people and find hope

