



Connecting O/S Missions with Your Church – Japanese Exchange Students

I have been a part of missions teams for years, and I know how there can be challenges connecting the congregation with what is happening on field. Recently I realized there was a great way to do this after speaking with a pastor who considered sponsoring us. Japan was on his heart because there were young Japanese coming to his church as they were hosted exchange students by members of the congregation.

What a wonderful and practical way to connect what is happening on the missions field with the people in the church. It is a way of developing the practical outworking of God's calling on all our lives. By getting directly involved in spreading the good news to people who have never heard before. Especially as Japan is an unreached people group.



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'Ignite Live' hits the streets – A big thanks to all who invested!

Ignite Live was able to start on the 28th March 2015. Eugene and Fiona want to give another big thank you to all who contributed financially to the purchase of the Roland Street Cube. Alastair was "So excited to launch IGNITE LIVE! Met lots of great people as we praised our great God! Taking church out to the streets of Fukuoka!!"



This is an amazing ministry being able to take church to the streets of Fukuoka and giving people an opportunity to "taste and see that the Lord is good."

This equipment is essential as part of the model that we know works and has proven positive results in reaching out into the community.

This is also an area that the Geberts will be involved in when serving in Fukuoka. Fiona is an experienced keyboardist while Eugene will be involved with meeting and talking with people.

Ignite live is running 2-3 times a month now in conjunction with the 5 minute English challenge, which offers Japanese the ability to challenge themselves to speak English with a native speaker. What an amazing way to connect the church with the community. Literally bring church to the streets so that people can experience church as they walk by.

This kind of evangelism requires a good team with the right skills. We know that God's putting together amazing workers in Fukuoka to serve Him together.

Please continue to pray that God puts it on people's hearts to come and serve here. Working in the power of the Holy Spirit is the key to successful ministry.



Fundraising ideas for small churches

Small churches want to step out and support missions as much as large churches do. Being able to do this often means a different practical approach, but one that can touch their local community at the same time too.

I thought I would share some ideas for those of you who are or would like to support missions as a small church. Why not try:

- Hosting a garage sale
- Trivia night
- A personal helper auction
- Community dance night
- Movie night
- Scavenger hunt
- Missions Cake Stall
- Fundraising fete
- Christmas in July party
- Coins for missions - loose coin floor drop
- Missions bake off competition
- Formal dinner
- Food delivery night

There are likely to be many more ideas, so have fun and get as many people involved as you can. Even as an outreach.

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.





This issue's Facts & Figures about Fukuoka

Q: How many people live in Fukuoka and how many are Christians?

A: There are 5 million people who live in the greater Fukuoka area, 1.5 million who live in the city center. There is just over 1% of the population who consider themselves to be Christian.

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.

It is very humbling to know that God is sending us into this harvest field to make disciples, raise leaders and see his kingdom come in Japan. When there are so many people in a city similar in size to Melbourne or Sydney with a massive unreached need, it's easy to want to serve and be an encouragement to everyone else who is serving God in reaching such a wonderful group of people.

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

Kids in the mix

For anyone else with kids who are relocating internationally, we recommend some reading. There is a book called "Families on the move" by Marion Knell.

We are blessed to have two kids who are excited to be able to have an overseas adventure serving God. Jessica tells me excitedly in the car going home from school that she wants to do her "ka, ki, ku, ke, ko's" and her "ABCs" Already she is better at some of the Japanese than I am and we aren't even there yet!

Kids are amazing and we can learn so much from them. We are excited that our kids are excited, and we try to anticipate their 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. It really

seems to be going from strength to strength. Recently more equipment has been able to be purchased. The service has been able to go from strength to strength.

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.



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 the Gebert's 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](#)

The visa application for the Geberts have been sent to the church in Japan to be approved. This should then proceed to the Japanese immigration department for processing. Please pray for favour on the application and the smooth processing of all the documents.

[Farewell events](#)

A final farewell party will be held soon. Details are yet to be confirmed. If you are in the Melbourne area and would like to come along, you are welcome to. Details will be announced and publicised on Facebook. So stay tuned for all the farewell event details.

[Pastors and church events](#)

The Gebert's are spending a lot of time connecting with pastors and meeting them to share the vision of Japan as a Christian nation. 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.

If this is something you would like to do please call to book a time:
Eugene 0414 35 35 35.

Praise and Prayer Points

- National Conference was a wonderful blessing. This was only made possible by a very generous and supportive church partner. Praise God and thank you all.
- The Queensland trip went very well. Eugene was able to meet with a lot of senior pastors and there is some interest in supporting us.
- Three new supporters have come on board and the budget gap continues to shrink.
- The visa application process has started. Paperwork is with the Japanese church, and hopefully will be with Japanese immigration soon.
- Please pray for the smooth visa application process, that favour is shown by the church and the immigration office.
- Please pray for the remaining gap in financial partners, as we only have a couple months or so remaining in Australia.
- Please continue to pray for the preparation for the Geberts as they get everything prepared.