

The Japanese are the second largest unreached people group in the world.

Less than 0.3% of the nation's 125 million people are evangelical Christians. Many follow Buddhist and Shinto traditions. Some live in fear of kami (sacred spirits/gods) and also venerate ancestors.

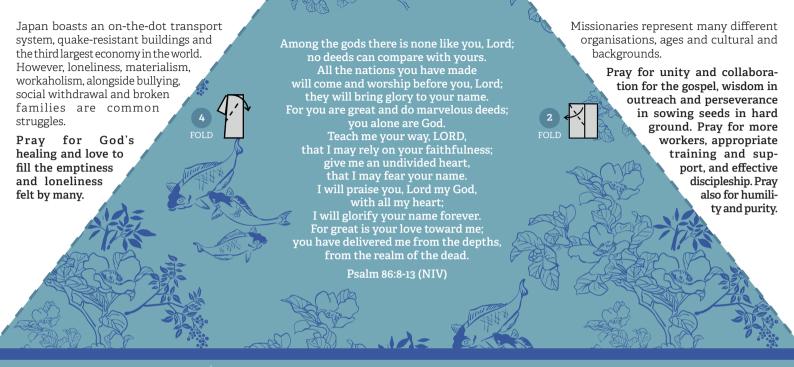
Please pray for Japanese people to hear about the One True God and accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour. Pray that they will be released from fear and suspicion and know the freedom and joy found in Christ alone.

small pockets of growth and encouragement. but of the communities with populations of 3,000-50,000, nearly 1,500 communities still have no church. Over 70% of pastors in Japan are over 60 years old and 1 in 8 evangelical churches have no pastor. The number of baptisms per year is in decline with an average of less than 1 per church per year. Church membership is ageing and shrinking. and 30% of churches have no children's work at all.

Pray for revival in Japan - may God break through the darkness and shed His transforming light across the land. Pray for ways to reach communities (geographically and culturally) that currently have no access to a church. Pray for ways to reach the ageing population with the gospel, as well as young people and children. May God raise up a new generation of believers and leaders equipped and trained to share the gospel with their communities. Pray for God to strengthen, empower and provide for His Church that they might be a witness and light for His Glory.

Japanese society is strikingly homogenous: 98.5% of the population is ethnically Japanese. It is no surprise that, 'The nail that sticks out gets hammered down,' is a common Japanese saying and guideline for social behaviour. Harmony, consensus decisionmaking and social conformity are paramount. How can we show that Christianity is not 'alien' and that the God of the Bible has a better way to live?

Pray for wisdom to know how to present the gospel as relevant to Japanese people and their culture. Pray for strength for Japanese Christians to stand against the tide of culture, and for strength when rejected.



PRAY FOR JAPAN

