



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.

Many churches in Japan are in crisis. There are 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 decision-making 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.

Japan boasts an on-the-dot transport system, quake-resistant buildings and the third largest economy in the world. However, loneliness, materialism, workaholicism, alongside bullying, social withdrawal and broken families are common struggles.

Pray for God's healing and love to fill the emptiness and loneliness felt by many.

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Among the gods there is none like you, Lord;
no deeds can compare with yours.

All the nations you have made
will come and worship before you, Lord;
they will bring glory to your name.

For you are great and do marvelous deeds;
you alone are God.

Teach me your way, LORD,
that I may rely on your faithfulness;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.

I will praise you, Lord my God,
with all my heart;

I will glorify your name forever.

For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the depths,
from the realm of the dead.

Psalm 86:8-13 (NIV)

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Missionaries represent many different organisations, ages and cultural and backgrounds.

Pray for unity and collaboration for the gospel, wisdom in outreach and perseverance in sowing seeds in hard ground. Pray for more workers, appropriate training and support, and effective discipleship. Pray also for humility and purity.

PRAY FOR JAPAN



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