

the bridge

*an update from
Asian Access for
alumni and gatekeepers*

Fall 2003
www.asianaccess.org

Nepal

a closer look at



GEOGRAPHY	a mountain-ringed Himalayan state between Tibet and India that contains 8 of the 10 highest mountain peaks in the world
POPULATION	23,930,000
CAPITAL	Kathmandu – 1.5 million
RELIGIONS	Hindu – 75% Buddhist – 16% Muslim – 5% Christians – 2% Others – 2%
POLITICS	Unstable monarchy most of the royal family was assassinated in 2001
INCOME	Per capita income: \$220 a year

Bringing a Breath of Fresh Life to Asia's Leaders

OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, **LIFE MINISTRIES** HAS EMBRACED A NEW VISION, AN EXPANDED MISSION, AND EVEN A NEW NAME — **ASIAN ACCESS**.

Building on over 35 years of ministry in Japan as LIFE Ministries, Asian Access has extended its reach into several Asian countries. The work which God has blessed in Japan serves as the wellspring from which our expanded ministry flows. Leader development and church multiplication are still the hallmarks of our work. Now we hope to bring a breath of fresh life to God's leaders in Asia.

150 MILLION NEW CHRISTIANS IN ASIA NEED LEADERS

The church in Asia is growing faster today than at any time in the 2000-year history of Christianity. In the last 25 years, the church has doubled in size and is projected to double again in the next 20 years. With



Commissioning new pastors in Mongolia

this unprecedented growth comes an unprecedented need: a need for leaders – leaders to inspire and prepare others to move forward strengthened in the power of Christ.

Today, Asian Access is actively involved in six countries and is resolved to develop a dynamic, organic network of 5,000 leaders in twenty countries of

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- 2 Ministry Updates** What's happening in Japan right now
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- 4 Alumni Updates** See what your teammates and friends are doing now

Ministry Updates in Japan

Summer Teams

Each Asian Access Summer Team works with a Japanese church to do community outreach through English classes, coffee houses, testimonies, children's ministry, camp and other relationship-building activities, including teams' specific interests and gifts.

The last few years of the summer teams program have shown tremendous growth. We sent 20 teams in 2001 and 19 teams in 2002. Due to financial constraints, we only sent 5 returning teams in 2003. In 2004 we are praying to send 15 teams:

4-week teams: July 5 - August 4, 2004

6-week teams: June 21 - August 4, 2004

Will one or more team be from your church or school? If you are interested in forming or sending a team, please contact us at teams@asianaccess.org.

Check out the summer teams portion of our website at www.asianaccess.org/summer and see ministry results, hear from past teamers, and even read some of their journals. Here's what one teamer had to say:

The Asian Access summer teams experience is amazing. This summer God used our team through its giftedness and weakness to glorify Himself. God has used the last three summers to change the man that I am and rewrite my plans for the future. *Robert A., TX, 2001, 2002, 2003*



Church Planting Associates

Church Planting Associates partner with Japanese church plants for **1-3 years**. Working under a Japanese pastor, Associates teach English and incorporate their giftings to reach out to their community.

We currently have 8 Associates on the field and 4 raising support to go in March or September of 2004. Contact us at associates@asianaccess.org if you are interested in going or sending. Visit www.asianaccess.org/associates to learn more about the CPA program and meet our Associates.

Here's an excerpt from an Associate's recent prayer letter:



In July, Sekiyado chapel held their annual Keisen Kids Camp in which thirty kids joined the fun. Five professed belief in Christ for the first time including Yuta, a third grade boy in my small group. *Joshua Clayton*



Will We See You At Urbana?

At Urbana 03, join 20,000 college students, missionaries, and church and campus leaders. Seek God's will for your life. Impact the world."

If you don't know about Urbana, check out www.urbana.org and consider going. If you are planning on going, we want to see you there. We'll have an exhibit in the Armory and you can find us under Asian Access/LIFE Ministries. Please bring all of your friends and come by and say "hi". Also join us at which ever gathering fits you below:

CALLING ALL GATEKEEPERS...

At Urbana, we are hosting a gatekeeper luncheon for missions pastors and college ministry workers. This will be an opportunity to get in out of the cold, have a warm lunch, hear from our president and interact with our staff and some alumni. Just by coming you'll be entered into a drawing for an MP3 player. We need to know if you are coming; RSVP before Dec. 19 by sending an email to info@asianaccess.org and indicate how many will be coming with you. (Please provide names.)

Since we're all at Urbana, let's make it a point to get together.

CALLING ALL ALUMNI...

We are also having an alumni gathering. Check the Urbana newspaper on December 30th for our listing. It'll be a great time of seeing old friends, making new ones, catching up on each others lives and hearing what's new with Asian Access. Please RSVP now by sending an email to info@asianaccess.org. We look forward to seeing you! ■

Partnering for More Effective Church Planting in Japan

WOULDN'T IT BE COOL IF YOUR HOME CHURCH COULD LINK UP WITH ASIAN ACCESS TO PLANT A SISTER CHURCH TOGETHER IN JAPAN? WELL, IT'S NOT ONLY POSSIBLE; IT'S BEING DONE.

Three North American churches have already partnered with Asian Access to help three churches in Japan reproduce. Each church commits to a 3-year church planting project.

In the past, we have focused on individuals – the potential goers – to recruit Church Planting Associates. Now there's a new model for mobilizing short-term church planters. We want to partner with sending churches to take on a joint church planting project with local Japanese churches.

To do so, we enter into a ministry agreement pact with a church to provide 1-3 Church Planting Associates over the 3-year church planting cycle. There are a number of advantages to such a plan:

- 1 The Japanese receiving church knows that they will have a worker(s) for the full three years.
- 2 The Japanese church enjoys more continuity, even if more than one Associate from the same sending church works with them to multiply the church.
- 3 There is a greater sense of commitment on the part of the sending church when they assume responsibility to supply the worker(s) for the duration of the 3-year project.
- 4 The sending church not only owns the project, but also the resulting accomplishment of planting a new church.
- 5 The sharing of God's resources makes all better stewards. Since

sending churches and receiving churches bear the cost of planting the church, it costs less for each church. Surprisingly, it's actually cheaper for a church in North America to plant a daughter church in Japan than to do so in America!

It's more efficient and God-honoring for Asian Access to form these kinds of partnerships.

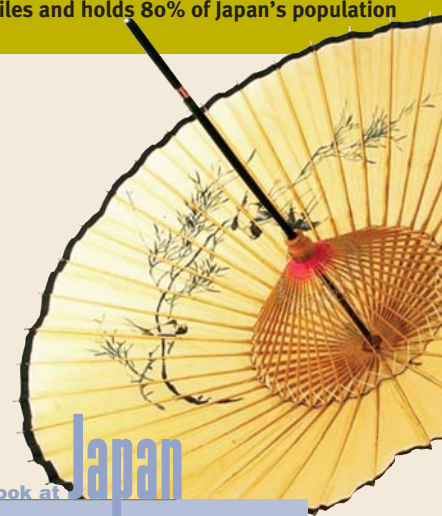
There are two ways to get partnerships established. First, individuals become interested in Church Planting Associates and help their sending churches to form a partnership. This could be an Urbana delegate or a former Summer Teamer who wants to apply to be a Church Planting Associate. Second, churches with vision for church planting agree to identify and send workers to Japan over a three-year period.

Since churches want to spend their missions dollars wisely, several churches are now considering this innovative partnership model.

How You Can Help

Do you know of a church interested in planting churches? What role can you play in helping them consider joining forces with Asian Access to further God's kingdom in Japan?

For more information, visit www.lifejapan.org/plantachurch and let your church know about this unique method of church multiplication. ■



a closer look at



GEOGRAPHY	Four main islands and 3,000 small islands; only 13% of all land can be cultivated
POPULATION	127,435,000
CAPITAL	Tokyo – 12.275 million
LITERACY	100%
RELIGIONS	Buddhist, Shinto – 70% New religions – 25% Non-religious – 4% Christians 1%
INCOME	Per capita income: \$38,160 a year
POLITICS	Constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary democracy
CHURCHES	7,765 Protestant churches
RATIO	1 Protestant church for every 16,288 people
MISSIONS	2,362 missionaries
RATIO	1 missionary for every 53,285 people

A view of Tokyo



Alumni Updates

KARA BEDELL (Summer Teams '02) – Graduated from Western Michigan University in April 2003 and now works for the Nestle corporation as a Retail Sales Representative in the Milwaukee region.



MICHELLE (GERBER) BETTIS (Church Planting Associate '01-'03) – Married James on August 23rd, 2003 and lives in Baltimore, MD.

BRIAN BURNHAM (Scrum Dendo '86) – Myself, wife (Jennifer) and son (Ethan) live and work at Hume Lake Christian Camps (in Hume, CA) while I am going back to school to get a teaching credential.

KARI BURRELL (Summer Teams '02) – Graduated from Simpson College with the Dean's Cup in May 2003 and is raising support to go to Japan in 2004 as an Associate.

MALVIN CHEW (Summer Teams '01, '02) – Graduated from San Francisco State University in May 2002 and has applied to teach English in Japan through the JET program.

MALCOM MONROE (Scrum Dendo 1983) – Is now a United Methodist pastor in Houston, TX.

JORDAN NOGAKI (Summer Team '01) – Working with International Students Inc. in Bellevue, WA

STEFANIE WEILAND ('02-'03) – After spending the summer leading a team in partnership with a church plant in Thailand through Teen Mania's Global Expeditions, I'm now following a Development Studies Master's course at the London School of Economics. If anyone comes to London, ring me up!
weilands@georgetown.edu

PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED!

Alumni updates will be printed again in the next issue of *The Bridge*. Go to www.lifejapan.org/alumni/ and submit your online update form.

Asian Access [CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

Asia by 2020 A.D. – leaders who will unite, multiply and extend the Church across Asia.

A baptism in Japan



Asian Access enters each country with a stated intention to hand over the leader development program to national leadership at the end of a ten-year period. This will be patterned after our experience in Japan where all of the training is

now done “in Japanese, for Japanese, by Japanese.” With that commitment, it is imperative that we make a deliberate attempt to begin laying the foundation for the ministry to proceed with long-term viability.

WHY “ASIAN ACCESS?”

We have chosen the name “*Asian Access*” carefully. Obviously, it identifies our expanded geographic scope. It also represents our vision to give exceptional emerging

Asian leaders *access* to the same caliber of leadership training that North American pastors would enjoy. The new name also underscores our commitment to offer leaders of the church in North America *access* to teaching and learning opportunities in Asia. Ultimately, we trust that God will use Asian Access to provide a growing number of men, women, and children across Asia *access* to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. ■

 **AsianAccess**
Leaders Serving Leaders

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