



 **AsianAccess**
Developing Leaders. Multiplying Churches.

A2/Japan

Advancing in Leadership Development and Church Multiplication across Japan

MINISTRY REPORT JUNE 2010

2020 VISION / JAPAN

- To deploy 100 Church Multiplication Teams
- To establish 1,000 reproducing congregations
- Which will enfold 1 million new followers of Christ
- Who will in turn send 1,000 missionaries from Japan to the cities of Asia
- That will be home to 1 billion people by the year 2020 A.D.



I appreciate your partnership with Asian Access through prayer and investment in strategic Kingdom advance in Japan.

JOE HANDLEY
PRESIDENT

 **AsianAccess**

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Asian Access, currently in nine countries, is targeting 20 countries from India in the west to Japan in the east, and from Mongolia in the north and Indonesia in the south. Despite expansion across the continent, Asian Access remains committed to ministry in Japan where it all began in 1967.

A MID YEAR UPDATE • 2010

From Japan—birthplace of our ministry

For Japan, Christianity is still less than 1% of the population and has proven to be one of the most challenging countries worldwide for church growth. In fact, over the last 50 years, Japan has a reputation for being a “missionaries’ graveyard.” However, the Lord has blessed Asian Access with remarkable fruit. In fact, during the 1980’s and 1990’s more than 85% of the church growth in Japan could be traced back to a connection with Asian Access. The leadership development program (JCGI) that is now influencing many nations, proved to be a successful model for training pastors to plant churches. In addition, the focus on church multiplication networks has proven quite fruitful. To date, we have seen 20 networks established but we have a long way to go to reach 100 by 2020 as part of our 2020 Vision. Thus, we seek to

double our current number of networks within the next three years in order to see exponential growth in the coming years.

To accelerate the pace of this bold vision, we are exploring potential partnerships to develop a strategic alliance, which will strengthen our capacity and build on the ability to send at least twenty foreign missionaries focused on church multiplication networks. In addition, the pastors connected with Asian Access (over 370 pastors trained through JCGI) are looking to expand these networks as well.



2020 VISION

To deploy **100** church multiplication teams:

- To establish **1,000** reproducing congregations
- Which will enfold **1 million** new followers of Christ
- Who will in turn send **1,000** missionaries from Japan to the cities of Asia
- That will be home to **1 billion** people by the year 2020 AD.

QUICK HIGHLIGHTS:

ADVANCING IN STRATEGIC AREAS ACROSS JAPAN

- ▶ **Leadership Development**
24 pastors are currently in leadership development sessions in two different regions. Three other regions will be launching new classes soon after selecting the right “leaders of leaders.”
- ▶ **Barnabas Coaching**
85 pastors are now trained in coaching ministry. While some focus on coaching an individual pastor, many are now equipped to coach a network of church planters through the process of reproducing new churches.
- ▶ **Church Multiplication**
31 churches are participating in new Church Planting Networks and will hopefully plant 31 new churches within three years.

Advances in Leadership Development

We currently have twenty-five pastors participating in the JCGI Network leader training program. Divided into two regions, and led by local committees, the program is equipping and releasing next generation leaders in to the harvest. The regional approach allows us to present and interact on information that is most relevant to the ministry context of participants.

The A2 Leadership Development program (known as *JCGI Network* in Japan) became the model for our leadership development model across Asia. Presently, this well regarded leadership development program is being held in eight other countries and receives international praise:



“If you want to change a country through strengthening the church, look at Asian Access. They do it right!”

– **ROB MARTIN**, FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIRST FRUIT FOUNDATION

“You are training the field marshals of the church of Asia. They in turn are training the troops on the ground and the influence is so profound that you must expand this ministry into new countries.”

– THE FOUNDER OF ASIAN ACCESS

JCGI NETWORK PASTOR'S VISION TOUR

Summary: In September 2009, Asian Access brought twenty-two leaders to the States for a ten-day vision tour. The goal of vision tours is to expose leaders to new and exciting ministry models. This is not meant to encourage replication of foreign models in Japan, but rather to encourage innovation and “out-of-the-box thinking” through exposure to dynamic ministries. After the tour, the Japanese pastors were able to distill what they observed into a set of principles, which may be replicated in the Japanese context.



Pacific Northwest

The destination for the 2009 Pastors' Vision Tour was the Pacific Northwest, with stops in Portland, Seattle and Vancouver. Participants gained vision through visiting and interacting with eight churches, two seminaries and a variety of pastors. Included on the tour was New Hope Community Church (OR), City Bible Church (OR), imago dei community (OR), New Heights Church (OR), Western Seminary (OR), Christ the King Community (WA), Mars Hill Church (WA) Regent College (BC) and Southside Community Church (BC). Models represented here are the meta-cell model, mega-church model, emerging church model, multi-site model, and missional model.

Joe Handley joined Rev. Hiroshi Kawasaki, Director of JCGI, for a tour of several churches on the vision tour. Takeshi Takazawa, one of our key leaders, coordinated this endeavor to spark fresh ideas for the Church in Japan. It proved to be an exceptional time to strengthen our commitment to the gospel's advance in Japan!

The Japanese pastors' vision tour was very successful in several ways. We had about a dozen pastors representing several generations and types of congregations in Japan. They thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to learn from churches in the Pacific Northwest. Several came back with fresh ideas to continue seeing the Gospel expand in Japan.

One pastor, Rev. Fumio Terada (*pictured with Joe Handley*), shared the impact of Asian Access on his ministry. He learned about cell group ministry through the Asian Access training and began implementing it in his church, soon after graduation several years ago. Since implementing the strategy, his church has seen more than 200 people come to faith and receive baptism. One special note is that Pastor Terada's church is not located in a large metropolitan center like Tokyo or Osaka. Rather it's a country church where you rarely see this type of fruit in ministry. After the tour, in November participant Rev. Hideo



Ohashi shared a summary of “best practices” from the churches visited with over 300 church planters. In addition, his report has been published in one of the major national Christian magazines.

2009 NATIONAL GATHERING

Over 180 pastors attended our National Gathering in November, which featured a special 30th Anniversary event, celebrating three decades of pastoral training throughout Japan.

The main speaker of the gathering was Dr. Bob Logan, who presented a pathway for developing leaders and how to equip and release these leaders into ministry. The effectiveness of these gatherings is found in the great interaction we see between pastors as they processed the teaching together. Breakout sessions challenged pastors to begin to identify how the teaching could be applied, and there was an exciting level of learning from one another.



AREA FORUMS

The Large Church Forum (for pastors with church of 200+ members) has continued for the past 6 years, with a great response from pastors. They have dealt with issues such as identifying future leaders, passing the baton, possibilities for “funeral evangelism” and further creative ways for sharing Christ in Japan. This year, we recognized a need to provide better follow-up to all JCGI graduates, encouraging them to move forward with their plans and evaluating what they have been able to accomplish. While there is ample encouragement while classes are in session, upon graduating many are left on their own. Without on-going coaching, it is easy to lose sight of the importance of reproducing disciples and churches. To meet this need, we have begun to experiment with “regional forums.” Forums bring together graduates in a region to encourage continual application of JCGI principles. The first forum was held in Okinawa in February, and the second in Kanto in March, both with positive feedback.

BRINGING UNITY

One of the most important outcomes of the Asian Access Leadership Development ministry is establishing a genuine sense of Christian unity among participants. This unifying effect in conjunction with effective leadership development is resulting in cooperating strategies in church planting in Cambodia, Japan, and Mongolia.



CONNECTING...

“The major work of Asian Access is connecting churches from different denominations. Without it, we would not have opportunities to network beyond denominational barriers.”

Rev. Masahiro Okita
Keisen Christ Church
Ushiku, Japan

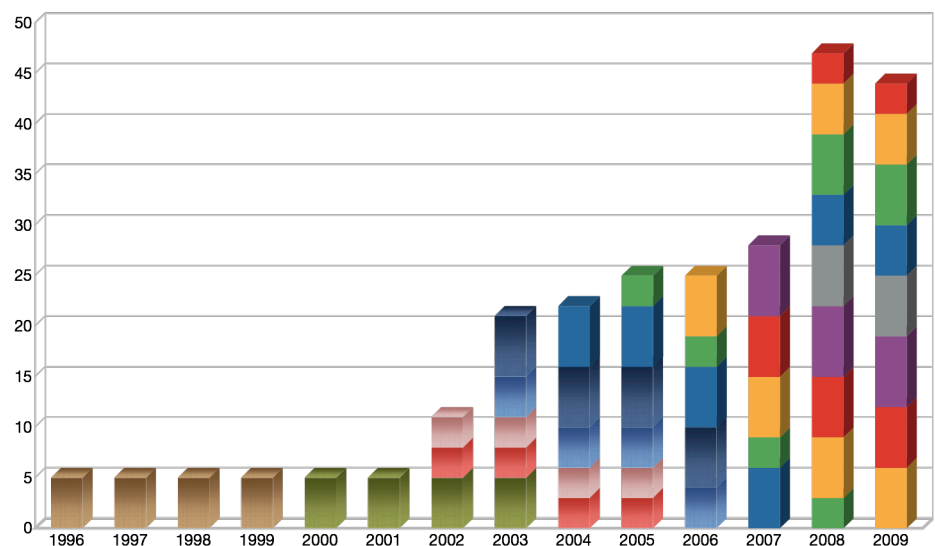
Church Multiplication Networks

Currently, thirty-one churches are participating in church multiplication networks across Japan, and we have plans to start three new networks later in 2010. The impact of the networks is seen not just in the new ‘daughter’ churches that are being planted, but also in the transformation that takes place in the ‘mother’ churches as they walk through the process together. In order to move networks forward, fifteen pastors are being trained to facilitate networks, which will afford us the possibility for more rapid reproduction.

NEW NETWORKS

We are excited to see the number of networks increase across Japan. Chart 1 below illustrates this growth and shows the number of active networks (colors) and participating churches (numerical value) each year.

CHART 1
Growth in
Church Planting Network
Involvement



Advances in Coaching

In 1995, Asian Access pioneered the concept of Christian coaching in Japan, calling it “Barnabas Ministry” to avoid possible confusion with business and professional sport coaching models. It stemmed from the belief that not only must churches be healthy, but that for the evangelization of Japan, we would need to see thousands of new churches

NETWORKS...

- ▶ Equip and release churches to make church planting vision a reality. It works.
- ▶ Raise up new leaders on all levels. It is hands-on, incarnational leadership development.
- ▶ Break down barriers between denominations in Japan and promote unity in the Body of Christ.
- ▶ Promote discovering innovative, indigenous paradigms for church life based on New Testament models.

birthed. Recognizing that these churches would be in need of leadership, A2/Japan began the process of training coaches to prepare for a coming church multiplication movement. Taught by Hiroshi Kawasaki and Hideo Ohashi, Barnabas Ministry training is held regionally throughout Japan. Weekend workshops are held over three consecutive months, allowing participants to apply what they have learned between sessions. To date, we have held training for over 200 participants, representing JCGI graduates, denominations and individual churches.



Barnabas coaches gather regularly to track the progress of the church planting networks all across Japan.

BARNABAS COACHES FACILITATING CHURCH PLANTING NETWORKS

More importantly, Asian Access has now equipped over eighty-five pastors and leaders in coaching ministry. The training is very effective for raising-up new leaders who are able to reproduce themselves. Principles are used not only for the training of pastors, but also for the equipping of lay leaders and for the equipping of churches to plant new churches.

Advances in Innovation

We are entering into new partnerships with emerging Japanese leaders to innovate new models for leadership development and church planting networks. These models are not meant to replace our current models, but will be in addition to them and allow us to reach a whole new segment of next generation leaders. Building on the same Biblical principles and utilizing the best practices of our current models, we are working with upcoming leaders to best meet their needs as we seek to equip and release them. We hope to launch the first new network in 2010.

Advances in Influence

The influence of Asian Access both in the national church and the mission community is fairly remarkable:

- ▶ Pastors Hiroshi Kawasaki and Jiro Chida are regularly consulted on church planting, usually teaching on the subject at the biennial Church Planter's Institute (CPI) Conference. CPI has since developed its own recommendations for church planting by network, with a system that mirrors the Asian Access strategy.
- ▶ Gary Bauman serves as the chairman of the Japan Evangelical Mission Association's (JEMA) communications committee, including editing the *Japan Harvest* magazine read by the missions community across Japan.
- ▶ Asian Access missionaries are regular contributors to the *Japan Harvest* magazine.



- ▶ Faith De La Cour chairs the JEMA member care committee, influencing the care of missionaries across Japan.
- ▶ Scott Parrish and serves on the strategic initiatives committee, helping to steer JEMA's future.
- ▶ JCGI Network influences hundreds of pastors each year through leadership development and church planting networks.
- ▶ Asian Access missionaries are well regarded by the national church as capable servants that effectively work alongside the national church in true partnership. We recognize that all influence flows from a dynamic love relationship with Jesus Christ. This will remain our priority as we seek to leverage our influence to propel the kingdom of God forward, and bless the mission community and the nation of Japan.

Advancing our Missionary Staff

A2/JAPAN FALL CONFERENCE

The focus of the Fall Conference (October 30–November 3, 2009) was the equipping of church planters within Asian Access. In addition to our annual retreat held in March, we have recognized that the distributed nature of our mission necessitates an additional gathering time. While all staff would be welcome to attend, we do require attendance of all staff engaged in church planting. This year we met near Osaka at a Christian conference center that has connections to *VIP Ministries*, an outreach to businessmen and women across Japan.

Fall Conference highlights:

1. Extended time in prayer for the vision and future of the work in Japan.
2. A thorough evaluation of our ministry, including a look at what we want to achieve in the future, what ministries we should continue and which areas we should cease for greater effectiveness.
3. An evaluation of how we use short-term teams to bless local evangelism and raise up new church planters.
4. CPR training for all staff.

A2/JAPAN SPRING RETREAT

In March, we gathered the entire Asian Access family from across Japan for our annual spring retreat. This retreat is a significant time for our staff as we worship and fellowship together. Joe Handley led the staff through a period of teaching and reflection on the four outcomes of our ministry model: living in a love relationship with God' growing as a Christ-like leader, Reproducing disciple-making leaders, and planting multiplying churches. Each session



was followed by a time of interaction as the staff dived into strengthening our commitment to work in Japan.

Additional Highlights in 2010

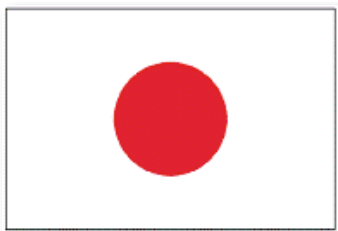
Here are some more highlights of our ministry from the past quarter.

1. Asian Access missionaries are helping to spearhead the start of marriage, child-rearing and divorce-recovery workshops across Japan.
2. Asian Access missionaries presented strategic recommendations to the broader evangelical mission community in Japan.
3. We have been asked by several mission agencies to teach on the church planting by network model.
4. We have two new career families, one short term family, two couples and one single all raising support to come to Japan and help plant churches.
5. Three babies joined the mission family in 2009, and two (currently) will be arriving in 2010.
6. Three members of A2/Japan attended the annual Leadership Summit, for Asian Access leaders across Asia. (See photo, right.)



Annual Leadership Summit in Malaysia, March 2010 brought leaders from 10 countries, including Rev. Hiroshi Kawasaki (Director of JCGI Network), Paul Ariga (chairman of JCGI's board of directors) and Jeff Johnston (A2 missionary in Tokyo).

Ministry Report continued next page...



A2/Japan – Acceleration of Church Planting

In Japan, Asian Access has been pioneering new ways to accelerate evangelism and the planting of new churches. Church Multiplication Networks have proven to be an excellent means of achieving these goals. Building relationships with Japanese pastors, cultivating the network model, and trusting God are paying dividends in fruitful results.



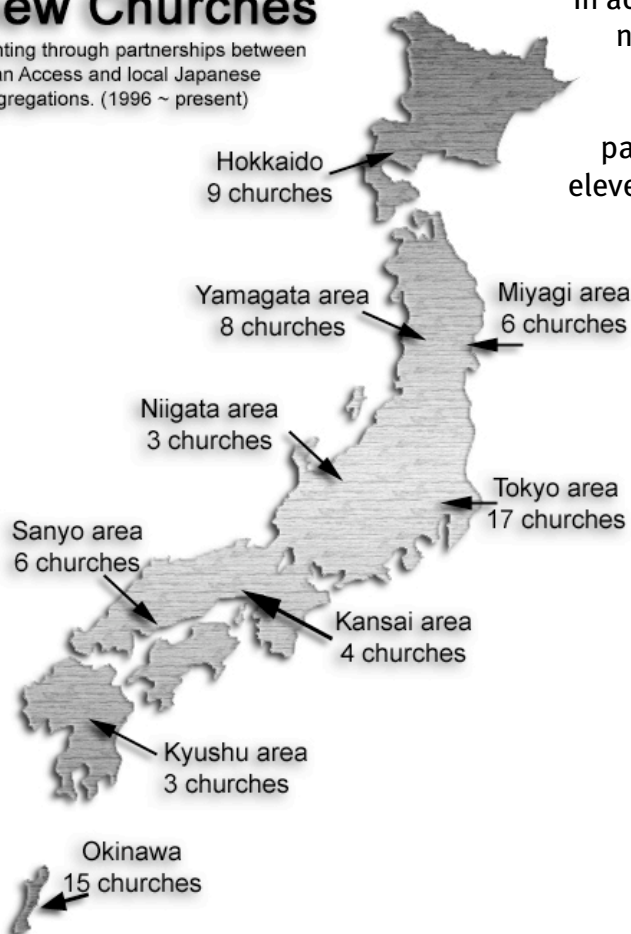
Takeshi Takazawa and Rev. Hiroshi Kawasaki help to lead the ministry in Japan.

To date, 20 Church Multiplication Networks have been launched. Each church in these networks has committed to planting churches.

The multiplying effect of the network model is taking root in Japan, so much so that major denominations and mission organizations are regularly consulting with Asian Access as to how they can adopt this strategy for their own church planting efforts. With Asian Access, it is not just a strategy, it is reality. Churches and mission agencies are wanting to learn from people who are actually doing it.

New Churches

Planting through partnerships between Asian Access and local Japanese congregations. (1996 ~ present)



In addition to the church multiplication networks, there are two of the five regional leadership training networks in Japan currently in session, with a total of 24 participants this year. In November 2009, eleven Asian Access participants graduated from the two-year program.



This pastor receives his diploma as one of eleven participants who graduated last November from our leadership development ministry in Japan.

JAPAN STAFF LOCATION MAP

This map shows current placements of Japan staff.

