

Ministry Report • A2/Japan

September 2010

Advancing...

in Leadership Development and Church Multiplication across Japan

The ministry of Asian Access in Japan continues to identify, develop and release emerging kingdom leaders to unite the church, multiply leaders and congregations and extend the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our mission focuses on an interwoven strategy for leadership development and church multiplication. We believe this holistic strategy, where leaders are raised and churches are planted in synergy with one another, is advancing the Kingdom of God across Japan.

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.



Developing Leaders

REGIONAL TRAINING NETWORKS

JCGI Network (formerly known as Japan Church Growth Institute) seeks to develop and release pastors through our two-year “Regional Training Networks” Ministry. The training program, which has served as a model for other countries in Asia, is currently operating in two regions (Tokyo and Osaka) with twenty-four participants.



Regional Training Networks have trained over 200 pastors throughout of Japan, equipping them to lead their congregations, raise new leaders and multiply churches. *(see statistical chart)*ⁱ We bridge the gap of academia and practical experience through a combination of theological teaching, case studies from growing churches and pastors, intense interaction and discussion with peers, application of principles between sessions, and coaching. Participants graduate from the program with a well-balanced portfolio of theory and praxis.

An important component of this program is casting the vision for church multiplication. Many of the program’s participants have gone on to join Church Planting Networks, which are facilitated by Asian Access.

REGIONAL FORUMS

We have identified the potential for follow-up and on-going coaching for graduates from the Regional Training Networks. Many participants have shared a desire for continuing the support and encouragement received during the official two years of the program. While participants graduate from the program well equipped, there is often nothing available in the area of peer mentoring and coaching for many pastors. Rather than stand alone, Regional Forums provide an on-going opportunity for graduates to gather, learn from one another and provide mutual support. Forums are being run locally across Japan and are based on the expressed needs of the local pastoral community.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The JCGI National Conference is held each fall and uses foreign instructors to teach and speak into the lives of the Japanese pastors. In 2009, over 120 pastors attended to hear Dr. Robert Logan teach on passing the leadership baton to the next generation of leaders. In 2010, Dr. Gary McIntosh from Talbot Seminary will teach on church growth, specifically on overcoming barriers to growth and how to take a church to the next level.



ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

In addition to the work of JCGI Network, we engage in leadership development in various settings. Recent highlights include:

- Asian Access missionary Dr. Sue Takamoto taught a one-week intensive “Servant Leadership and the Modern Pastoral Model” to eighteen pastors and leaders at the Tokyo Graduate School of Theology.
- Pastor Eddie Leo, an Indonesian pastor who has taught in Japan and other countries with Asian Access, taught a session for developing new leaders serving in ‘market place ministries.’ This creative approach allows us to develop models for leadership development and church planting in previously inaccessible locations, such as businesses and government.



Multiplying Churches

Church Multiplication Networks

Since launching the first Church Multiplication Network in 1996 with five churches, we have watched networks expand across Japan. Networks bring together pastors and congregations with a vision for church planting into a network of like-minded churches for the purpose of equipping and releasing all participants to plant new churches. As of 2010, we have run nineteen networks and over ninety churches have participated. In 2011, we have plans to launch three new networks.



OKINAWA

Missionary Jeffery Sonnenberg, who alongside a Japanese pastor is co-coaching a network in Okinawa, reports:

“We have been able to see the Church Multiplication Network model developed and adapted in the Okinawa region over the course of three successive networks involving a total of 13 mother churches. The most recent network was launched in October, 2009. Right from formation of the first network,



there has been a wide range of churches involved in terms of their denominational and theological backgrounds. This rich mixture of churches has helped to foster the planting of a variety of new churches with a broad range of leadership styles. The daughter churches meet in homes, a coffee shop, and as well as those that rent storefront space. They are led by lay people, bi-vocational pastors as well as more traditional pastors. The network process has also helped to raise up local Okinawan church multiplication coaches.

The most important impact has been in the lives of those who have been transformed by the gospel. This in turn sparks joy in the new leaders as they experience being part of God's work of transforming lives. The networks have also helped to change ministry paradigms within mother churches. For example, Okinawa Shinsei Church has been involved in all three networks. In the process this church has significantly changed its concept of church and church leadership. Its goal for the current network is to launch multiple churches led by in-house developed leaders."



HOKKAIDO CHURCH PLANTING NETWORK

Tim Clark, another missionary co-coaching a network, reports on how multiplication is taking place in the network in Sapporo:

1. Multiplying leaders:

Manna Chapel leaders struggled for years to find an effective way to train lay pastors and has, through the network, found the answer they needed in Church Based Theological Education. "This is the approach we were searching for, for many years," said Pastor Fujii. Eight young adults in the church are now preparing for full-time ministry. To train them the church is buying an apartment building they and Pastor Fujii's family will live in, to have daily study, prayer and training together. Many churches struggle to find even one person to raise up for ministry. God has provided at least eight at Manna Chapel, and through the Asian Access network is creating the path to fully equip these young leaders.



2. Multiplying cell groups:

Grace Community became a cell church 15 years ago through Asian Access, and since then has gradually increased the number of cells, but now, through the Church Multiplication Network, is experiencing cell multiplication for the first time. Most recently, one cell multiplied into three. For years



its leader hoped to create a second group but right as they were about to do so, the Lord surprised them with a plan to become three!

3. Multiplying congregations:

"When this network ends we are eager for the next one to start," said Tsutomu Kaji of Sapporo Evangelical Free. Through the current network he started his third church and said that without a network he won't have the encouragement he needs to start the fourth.



While we thank God for the ways multiplication is taking place, perhaps, the greatest way the Lord is using the network is to encourage pastors. Our network's six churches' pastors struggle with all the challenges of "ministry over the long haul" in a country where spiritual apathy is a stronghold and challenges among believers sometimes appear to be almost as abundant as God's grace. It is difficult to measure and summarize how much pastors are encouragement, but through the network's coaching, these pastors are being deeply encouraged and are mutually supporting one another amidst great variety of denomination, church size and vision.

¹ **Statistics**

This chart lists the numbers of pastors that have been trained through the Regional Training Networks of Asian Access. More than 200 pastors have gone through the leader development process which impacts more than 350 churches (roughly 5% of all the pastors and churches in Japan).

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Hokkaido		5		6		5						16
Tohoku	8		6			5		6				25
Kanto		10		11		11		14		12	10	68
Kansai Nishinohon Tokai	7		12		12		12		12		14	69
Okinawa	6					6						12
Kyusyu			11									11
Total	21	15	29	17	12	27	12	20	12	12	24	201

Total 201 pastors & churches

1978—1996: 179 pastors & churches

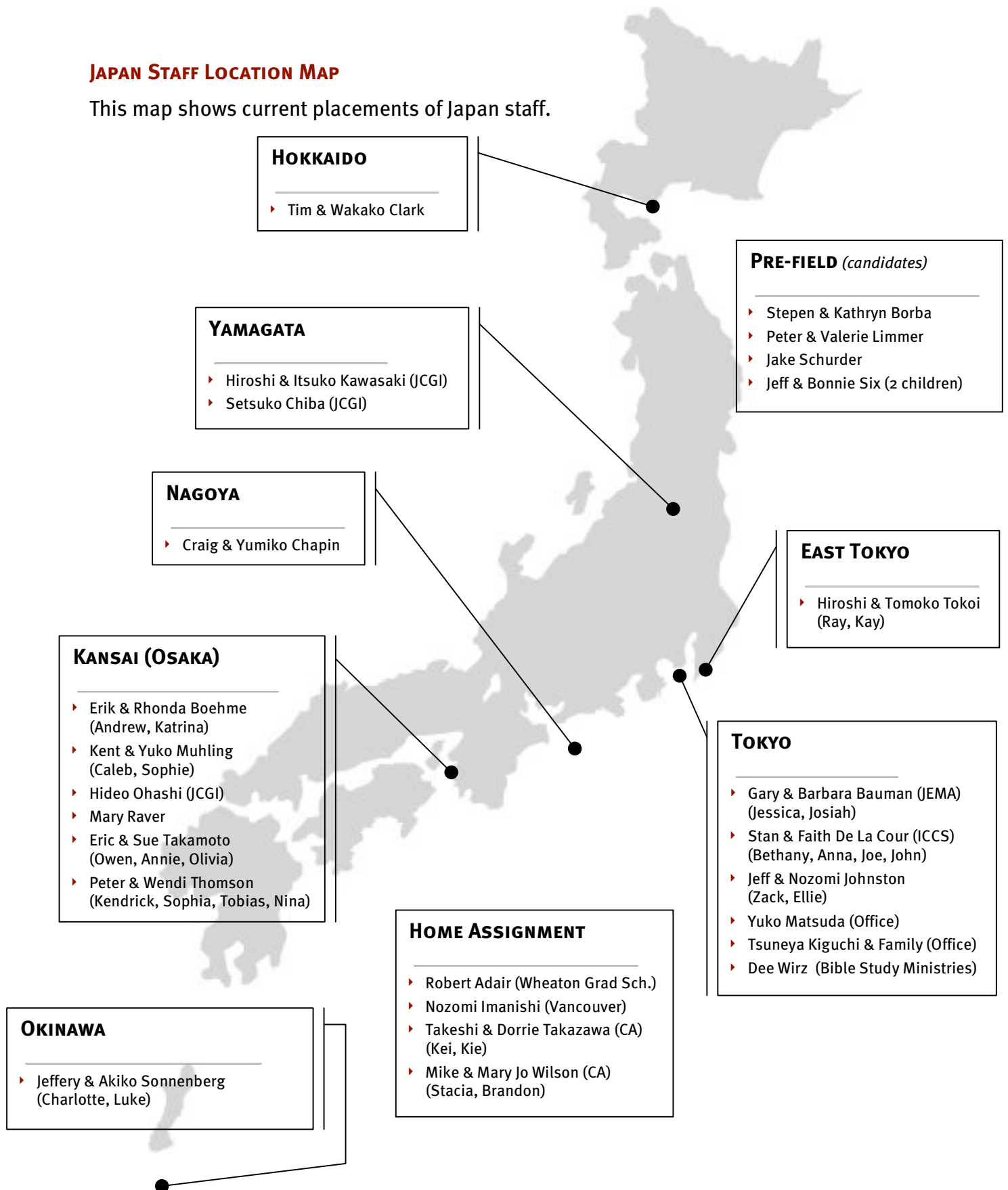
Ground Total--380 pastors & churches

This is 5% of the all pastors and churches in Japan.



JAPAN STAFF LOCATION MAP

This map shows current placements of Japan staff.





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SUMMARY

We are grateful to God for advancing the ministry of Asian Access this past year. As we see the impact of investing deeply in the lives of key pastors, we are humbled and thankful. The fruit of the ministry is proving to strengthen the lives of pastors, the impact of the Church and set a course for church multiplication movements in the neediest country of the world for the Gospel: Japan.

We are also grateful for your generous investment in, and support of Asian Access. May God bless you as we serve Him together.

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VISION

To see a vibrant community of servant leaders with vision, character and competence leading the church across Asia.

MISSION

To identify, develop and release emerging kingdom leaders to unite the church, multiply leaders and congregations, and extend the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.