

CHURCH PLANTING: TOGO, JAPAN

I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matt 16:18

High-rise apartment buildings under construction in our area. . . Should a church be planted nearby to serve and love these thousands?



THE VISION IS NOT ONLY TO START ONE CHURCH...

but to be a vital part of a church planting movement. We don't merely want apples but apple trees!

Church Planting Institute

Nestled between the metropolis of Nagoya and the sprawling automobile factory city of Toyota lie the four towns of Nagakute, Nisshin, Togo, and Miyoshi. Each of these towns have experienced rapid, new growth as they house and serve the workers of the two great cities to the east and west. As new populations develop, new churches are needed to be witnesses of God's glory. Thus, the MTW Nagoya missionary team has planted churches in Nagakute and Nisshin, and is now turning its attention to Togo.

Statistics show that Japanese people are much more likely to consider Christianity if they move away from their traditional neighborhoods. Though Togo's population has doubled in the past three decades, no new churches have been established to share Christ with these newcomers. With only one small

church to serve 42,000 residents, Togo easily fits into the category of an unreached town.

Please pray for us as we seek God's leading in planting a new church in Togo.

Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. ~ John Piper



The recent earthquake and tsunami have shaken the hearts of the people of Togo and Nagoya. *What if it had happened here? What can I look to in a time of disaster? What is the purpose of my life?* These questions have been rumbling in people's minds since the quake. The gospel brings hope in the face of these questions. Let's plant churches all over Japan while hearts are tender and searching for answers!

What's happened so far?

Last year, three missionaries, Tom and Teresa Wilson, Darlene Johnson, and one Japanese Christian began a gospel choir as a means of evangelism in a community center in Togo. Many Japanese who have no interest in attending worship services or Bible studies are attracted to gospel music in the style of the movie *Sister Act*. During each gospel choir practice, various aspects of the gospel are explained in the context of the songs. As time has passed, many gospel choir members have joined Bible studies or attended church in Nisshin, a recent church plant. We now have 30 members in the Togo choir, including 4 Japanese Christians for whom the choir has become a way to worship God and share Christ with non-Christian friends.

As we develop relationships with people, they share their lives with us and we hear their stories. One woman told us that she had been a recluse in her house for several months. As a first step back to the outside world, she attended a gospel choir rehearsal and her perspective changed dramatically because of the message of the songs. Another young mother told us of her anger towards her children. The message of the gospel songs helped her understand that she is a sinner and needs something beyond her own strength to combat her anger. There are so many stories like these. Thank God that He has given temporary joy and relief to these seekers. May He reveal His everlasting joy to them through their salvation!

May this choir be the seed of a new church plant!

How can I be involved?

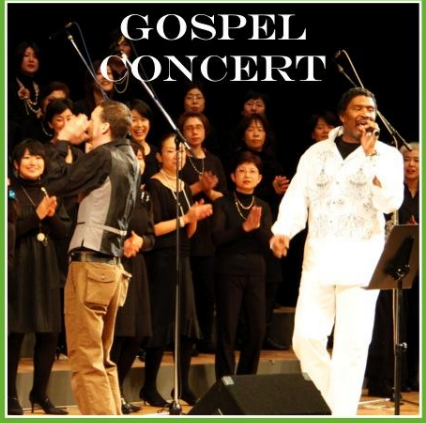
Please consider joining us in this church planting effort through praying and giving financially. Funds are needed to hire a **Japanese pastor** to spearhead the work, as well as rent or purchase space needed for evangelistic efforts and worship services. Our team has been promised matching funds of up to **\$25,000** if we can raise the same amount by the end of July. Already, we have received \$10,000 toward that goal, leaving only \$15,000 to raise in order to receive the matching funds! Only 15 churches or individuals who give \$1000 each would accomplish this purpose. *Might God be calling you to give, pray, and watch Him establish His church in yet another corner of the earth?*

How can I pray? May God. . .

- . . .use the recent disasters in Japan for the salvation of many.
- . . .bring more Japanese Christians to partner with us in evangelism.
- . . .bring a Japanese pastor to work with us in this church planting effort.
- . . .bless evangelistic efforts in Togo such as choir, Bible studies, and possible conversational English classes.
- . . .provide the finances needed to rent or purchase space for evangelistic efforts and a new congregation.
- . . .lead us to His location for this church plant.

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

Ephesians 3:20-21



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