



SEIMA & NAOKO AOYAGI

Like more than 99% of the people of Japan, I (Seima) grew up in a non-Christian Buddhist home. I did not meet a Christian until I was 17, and it was through this friend that I became a Christian. My life changed. The Lord blessed me with a wonderful Christian wife and led us into seven years of experience as a college minister in Japan under MTW.

Having a chance to receive further theological training in the US at Covenant Seminary and becoming ordained as a gospel minister, I felt strongly that these blessings should not be only for ourselves, but be used for the greater redemption of Japan. Through the prayers and support from individuals and churches, God sent us back to Japan to pray, plan and prepare for a new church planting work in Tokyo.

ABOUT TOKYO

Tokyo is considered the world's largest city with 36 million people. It is a city with high-end technology, industry, culture, etc. Its efficient and diligent work culture is known worldwide. Its creativity amazes the world. But at the same time, the Japanese are the second largest unreached people group in the world. After nearly 500 years of Christian witness, the evangelical population in Japan is only 0.22%! Because of established Buddhist tradition, materialism and a strong relativistic eastern worldview, mission work in Japan, especially in Tokyo, has been difficult. Without the message of gospel but instead the strong message of perfectionist expectations from society, Japanese people are under huge pressure. This is leading to various mental illnesses as well as one of the highest suicide rates in the world - with 34,000 suicides per year. Our hope is that the gospel saves the people and transforms the city.



MOVEMENT IGNITED

Because of the great need in Japan, mission bodies from across the world — Mission To the World (MTW), Redeemer City to City, Presbyterian Mission International (PMI), the Presbyterian Church in Japan (PCJ), and other mission agencies — have joined together to plant churches in the heart of Tokyo. In 2010, out of this effort, Grace City Church was given birth in Ginza, a central area of Tokyo. Now, after three years, the church has over 90 attendances. This is in contrast to the fact that 70% of Japanese churches have less than 20 people in attendance. Though we are encouraged, for this to truly become a movement, we need to move on to start another church, thus making “church planting” central to the DNA of this movement.

TOKYO WATER FRONT

Where then do we start? God has lead us to a newly developed area known as the Tokyo Water Front. It is centered around Toyosu with 7 man-made islands originally used for shipping and industry, but now a residential, business, and retail hub. It is the closest residentially concentrated area to Tokyo station (5min train ride) and is a center of regentrification. This area includes 126,000 people but without any Christian Church of any kind. People moving into the area are characterized by young married professionals (mid-30s) with 1 or 2 young children. Many work in the financial, tech, and media industries as well as in the medical field and in government agencies. It is not an overstatement to say that many are considered leaders in Tokyo. But despite



the glories that the people seek, it is sad to see that this area is no exception from the rest of Japan with high suicide rates, broken families, and loneliness. Their workload due to high-responsibility jobs brings their family under stress. Since it is a new area, it still lacks a sense of a connected community, which leads people into isolation, and in some cases into suicide.

DREAM FOR TOKYO WATER FRONT

What we want see is how the gospel of Jesus Christ could redeem the Tokyo Water Front. Our dream is that someday Tokyo Water Front would be filled with people who know Jesus as their savior and the Lord, love each other, and live out the gospel in a way that someday makes Tokyo into a city that does not have isolation, broken families, or suicide. Instead, people would say about Tokyo Water Front, “Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!” (Ps 133:1).





GRACE HARBOR CHURCH

To seek such a transformation, we need to start a Church, the Body of Christ. We have named our church "Grace Harbor Church." This name is derived not just from the fact that the Tokyo Water Front area was originally known for the shipping industry, but more than that, "Harbor" signifies a place where ships take shelter from the storm, as well as where they make preparations for their next journey. The vision of Grace Harbor Church is to see the Tokyo Water Front area become an area overflowing with the grace and blessings of Jesus Christ, and become an area where people can be healed from the painful wounds of their personal storms, to rest, to recover, and to be sent out again on their next voyage in life; as salt and light to make Tokyo Waterfront more beautiful than ever. With that end, we set threefold values for Grace Harbor Church;

GOSPEL-CENTERED CHURCH THAT SEEKS TO BELIEVE THE GOSPEL

GRACE-RENEWAL CHURCH THAT SEEKS TO BELONG IN COMMUNITY

MISSIONAL CHURCH THAT SEEKS TO BLESS THE CITY



THE TEAM

This church planting work cannot start without a team. God has been confirming His plan to start a church by providing teammates, one by one, to join our church planting team in Tokyo. So far we have 4 missionary families, a Japanese pastor and his family returning to Japan, and a Japanese intern on our team. We have never seen such a surge in mission efforts in Tokyo!

Seima and Naoko Aoyagi: PCA Teaching Elder; Presbyterian Mission International (2011-)

Jon and Sarah Pfeil: PCA Ruling Elder; Mission to the World (2011-)

Sean and Lisa Radke: PCA Teaching Elder; Mission to the World (Summer 2013)

Joe and Felicity Congdon: Covenant Seminary (2014)

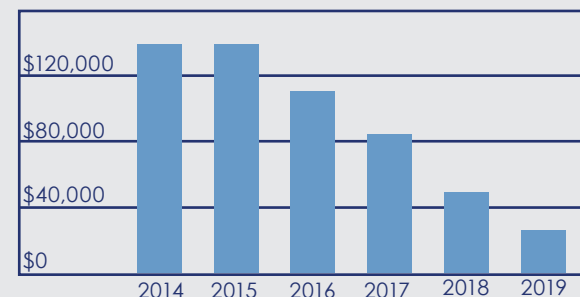
Seita and Emma Sakaguchi: Japanese Pastor at Sovereign Grace Church (2014)

Bob and Sharon Drews: PCA Ruling Elder; Mission to the World (2014)

Atsushi Kabeya: Pre-Seminary 2-Year Japanese Intern; Presbyterian Church in Japan (2013-)

FINANCIAL NEED

God has so far provided 10 leaders committed to joining our launch team, and it is now our prayer that God would provide the kick-off funding of **\$545,700 for the next six years** to rent facilities, pay for staff and interns, and do outreach ministry until we become a self-sustaining church, hopefully by 2020. Recognizing that Tokyo is the most expensive city in the world, it is difficult to have the funding without outside support. Please pray that God would provide all that we need.



HOW TO SUPPORT:

By Prayer: Because of its spiritual darkness, this work cannot be started nor continued without strong prayer support. We need 1000 prayer supporters behind us.

By Supporting Financially: For us to start a church in Tokyo Waterfront, we need supporters who stand behind us. Please prayerfully consider becoming our partner. Please note that any amount, no matter how small, will help and be greatly appreciated. Jesus took five loaves and two fish to do a great miracle, feeding 5000. I believe God can do the same thing using our faithful response to God's call, however small it appears. If you feel called to support financially, please send donations through any of the following three agencies.

Presbyterian Mission International

Presbyterian Mission International (PMI)
12330 Conway Road, St. Louis, MO 63141
Memo: Grace Harbor Church Tokyo

Redeemer City to City

Redeemer City to City
1359 Broadway, Suite 1102, New York, NY 10018
Memo: Grace Harbor Church Tokyo

Mission to the World

Mission to the World
P.O. Box 116284 Atlanta, GA 30368
Memo: Grace Harbor Church Tokyo (92889)

TIMELINE

2014: 1st worship site at Toyosu (25,400 people)
2016: 2nd worship site at Tsukishima (24,800 people)
2018: 3rd worship site at Shinonome (16,700 people)
2020: Become financially self-sustained
2022: Plant a daughter church in another location in Tokyo



GRACE HARBOR CHURCH



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