



Seeds of Grace

Reaching people, Planting churches... in Japan

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From the Editors

This month the 17-year old son of two of our missionaries shares what it was like for him to grow up in Japan. Nathanael shares his growing conviction that God 'has a very special plan for me'. Yes! Indeed He has, and for each of us.

Eunjeong and Henrietta

News and Prayer Points

Please remember all our 'missionary kids' as their families serve here. Pray for health, wisdom and love.

Pray for the Gaub family (featured in article), currently split across three continents! Juergen, Michi and Silas remain in Japan, while mother Gisela is helping Nathanael settle into life in Germany this summer and prepare for entering university there, and elder daughter Simone is in America with her husband.

Thanks to God for the safe arrival of Luke Cozens, a healthy second child born here in Japan on July 12th to Simon and Henrietta.

We give thanks to God for 12 non-Christians attending Kinamoto Church for the recent showing of a film (Shiokari Pass) based on the novel of a Christian author. Please pray they will think deeply about what they saw - and respond!

This month and next we have mission trips happening as part of HOP (www.hop2013.org) These will mostly be led by WEC Japan missionaries and be to other Asian countries. Please pray for God's provision and that all who join will see and share God's great heart and love for the world.

Growing Up in Japan



To grow up in Japan was difficult, but I enjoyed it! At school I would speak and learn Japanese, but at home our family spoke German. After attending Japanese nursery school, when I was 8 years old my family went on furlough Germany. We stayed in my grandparents huge house. I made good friends and really loved it. Years later, my mom told me that it was difficult for her to pull me out.

Back in Japan, I joined third grade. Everyone was very kind to me, but I had a hard time adjusting. In Japan school starts in April, but in Germany it starts in August, so I actually never learned multiplying. From fifth grade on I started going to a Christian International School. It took me one and a half hours to get there by train and on foot. I already knew Japanese and German, but now English was added. I slowly learned it.

Two years later, my mother and brothers went to Germany for a year. I was so shocked that my mother was leaving me, but God helped me in everything I did! During my summer vacation, I went to Germany with my sister. During my stay, I received my first German Bible.

In 2008, I got baptized in Lake Biwa. I already knew that Jesus was my Savior and had died for all of my sins, so this time I wanted to show everyone that I followed Jesus. I became a member of Kusatsu Church and started getting involved. The WEC camp site beside Lake Biwa would eventually become my second home during the school holidays.

I would play there with all the other missionary kids, go swimming, fishing.

One summer I went to a German Christian camp. I always thought that I was a "German," but during that camp I found out that I was the totally opposite. It was only during my next trip there that I overcame this culture shock.

In 2011 I made unforgettable memories when I volunteered to help the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and I was there again over my 18th birthday. We removed all kinds of debris and helped clean three houses over our one week stay. After that, two young German-speaking short-termers and I went on a trip to Hiroshima. For the first time I was able to spend time with young Christians. I thought a lot about who I was. After much thinking, I came to the conclusion that I was simply God's child. I might not belong somewhere, but I would still be happy because I am God's precious child. In March 2013, I graduated from high-school. I had a smile on my face the whole time.

My stay in Japan will probably impact me my whole life. I believe that God put me here for a reason. In Japan He shaped and made me into the person I am. I think like a Japanese, have Japanese friends, and love Japan. He will use all of me and do something wonderful!

By Nathanael Gaub