

THINK POSSIBLE.



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December marked a very special date. 77 years ago my family arrived on a boat from San Francisco to plant churches in the snow country of northern Japan. It turned out to be a legendary endeavor. In a decade, in one of the most unreached parts of Japan, they planted a dozen churches. But the reach was far beyond those churches, in just a few years, they also had 28 Sunday schools running, and one of those had 400 children. Before my mother died, I recall her mentioning that at the root of that great harvest, was a small,

local revival. It makes me wonder what will happen in Japan when we have big **revival**

This last year we had a lot of highlights! On the island of Maui, after the terrible fires, we initiated post disaster evangelism efforts. Dozens of churches participated and we got around 10,000 GospelShare booklets out. Then—the English translation of Treasure Hunt got published in the US! And now we are launching the effort to see 1,000 kids come to Jesus in Hawaii this year. Another highlight was finishing translation of the Treasure Hunt for the Islamic country of Indonesia, and we began translation of the into Arabic— from Egypt to over 20 other countries—the Arabic initiative is titled Operation Aladdin! In Bangladesh, the largest unreached people group in the world, untold thousands of kids got the pocket-manga and we had 2,000 kids start our discipleship series; mostly Hindus and Muslims. Also, in Bangladesh I was awed to stand in a sweltering room and witness 40 Muslim kids praying to receive Jesus after reading the pocket manga.



There were so many more highlights and we marvel as we work with so little from our kitchen table in Japan and God expands things globally... in around 30 languages...

Despite this, things in Japan are slow...really slow. Even though we have thousands reading our daily online devotions. We scratch our heads! The Church is still staggering from the bad patterns rooted in the pandemic paranoia, but it was bad even before the pandemic. In 1950's each church was baptizing 10 people annually. But the number keeps dropping. In 2014 it dropped below 1 person to 0.8 people baptized. Stats aren't in for the last couple of years, but we can anticipate even worse. Hard to believe that it is forecasted that in just 5 years, half of the churches in Japan will be gone. Yes, you read that right.



Although we are grieved, we are also excited. Probably because we are certain that the big **revival** is coming and the vision of it dazzles.

Anticipating Something Big!

We live in a really wonderful place on the edge of Tokyo not far from a lake, where we pray most weekdays. From the lake we can see clear across vast Tokyo to the Sky Tree and we can also see Fuji in its glory. We pray because these are desperate times. Christendom in Japan cannot afford to do the same old thing. It will take a million years to reach Japan at the rate things are going. So, each day in prayer we lay things out before Him. And it's like our eyes are being opened. We are beginning to see and know that something unprecedented is coming...something beyond our dreams.



In the year 2020 I felt God put an idea in my head; I call the 2020 Vision. That 20 years from 2020, Japan will be 20% Christian. Yes, it is insane. But I am fully aware. My family began ministry here 77 years ago and I know just how insane that is! Still, I am convinced it's coming...and I think God enjoys that kind of crazy expectation...this expectation puts us on the edge, completely dependent on His awesome work—a very good place to be.

And I am encouraged as I look around the world. Currently, our special focus outside Japan is on the “most unreached people” and so I have been all around the Islamic world. Maybe you are aware of the explosive awakening in the Islamic world, with vast numbers turning to Jesus. It is beyond what anyone thought possible. Currently, the fastest growing church in the world is in, of all places, Iran. In just 30 years the Christian population of Iran has multiplied 1,000 fold!

So, what might happen in Japan? Are we getting ready for big stuff. How will we handle such a huge harvest? We have a lot to get ready... and we have been...



A few years back, when I was in college... and didn't have much money, I bought a book at the Maui Christian Bookstore titled “Revival Lectures” by Charles Finney, the historic American revivalist. The store owner was surprised to see a college kid buying this classic and asked why I was buying it. I remember saying; “it seemed like something I should be thinking about”.

He said, “Wouldn't it be great if more

young people were thinking that way.” Amen!

I like what Finney says in regard to “when to expect a **revival**”. It's pretty simple. He said “In truth, a **revival** should be expected whenever it is needed.” Do we need it? Oh yeah!

And that is why we expect it. And expecting it means we still have a lot to get ready.

**“In truth,
a revival should be
expected whenever it
is needed.”**

Praising God for your part! Lets pray revival in!

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