

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Ministry Strategy

Japanese are very positive toward foreign cultures and languages, which provides an opportunity for you to gain access to many different aspects of student life. We have asked if these groups would be interested in having English speakers involved officially in their activities. We communicated that our objectives are to experience cross-cultural exchange. And, in Tokyo, we are opening NEW campuses. So, we need to do a lot of sowing. That is, exposing many students to the gospel.

We want to aggressively but sensitively take every opportunity to share about Christ through the opportunities that God gives us. As we joyfully walk in faith, sharing about our relationship with Jesus, we trust that many will put their trust in the Savior.

II. PHILOSOPHY

A. Current religious atmosphere in Japan

1. In general

- a) Less than 1% of the 125 million population claim to be Christian.
- b) Japanese have little Christian background or knowledge of the Bible.
- c) According to a survey, more than 60% believe in no religion, but among young people, the percentage is higher. Another survey showed that 33% polled would choose Christianity over Buddhism or Shinto.

2. Individual attitudes (Rom. 10:14).

- a) If you ask, "Are you interested in religion?" almost everyone will say, "NO."
- b) However, all Japanese are interested in love and acceptance, so they are open to the gospel if approached with love.
- c) The gospel is communicated easiest within the context of a relationship, but most Japanese don't know even one Christian

B. Principle behind short-term missions

1. Make friends through English

- a) Although shy, most Japanese are interested in English and welcome the chance to practice with native speakers. ***So take the initiative!***
- b) It is easy for foreigners to meet and get to know Japanese in a short time. Within the context of relationships, the gospel can be shared very easily.
- c) Even if they don't respond the first time you share with them, continue to witness while developing your friendship. This is **Multiple-contact evangelism.**

2. **We are the gospel!** We must share ourselves freely (I Thess. 2:8).

- a) Due to the importance of interpersonal relationship in Japan it is important to give of us in witnessing.
- b) More Japanese have been attracted to Christ through genuine love rather than logic. (Apologetics work for follow up but not for evangelism)
- c) Anyone responds to a person whom they feel they can trust.

III. PROGRAM

Meeting Place

1. The purpose is to provide a place where we can bring friends to challenge their thinking and continue with personal evangelism after the meeting.
2. The content will be geared to give non-Christian a new perspective on various issues and provide a lead-in for you

and our Christian student partners to clarify the gospel after the meeting. ***Do not rely on the speaker's message, but remember that a personal presentation of the gospel (4SL) following the message is the most effective type of evangelism, and it leads to immediate personal follow up.***

Working with Christians

You may find Christians on the campuses, please check to see if they are already involved with a campus group or local church. If they are, pray with them, encourage them, tell them what you are doing, but respect their involvement and commitment to their group or Church. You may find groups like the Navigators, AOG & KGK (which is related to Inter-Varsity).

Tools to bring along

From the past, we find that it is helpful to bring some of these along. They are photos (family or campus or your culture), music, even skateboard. Once, a student even performed a dance. So, you can come prepared to show others what talent that God has given to you. And, things or books to share about your country or hometown.

Money Exchange

Go to any authorized bank money exchange. You will need your passport (you should have your passport with you at all times anyway) It takes about 20 minutes to do a simple exchange, so be prepared to wait.

Passport

You should carry your passport with you at all times. OR, a photocopy of it. This is the law.

Medical

If you need help, please contact the local staff immediately. We would suggest that you bring some basic medical aids.

Garbage

Believe it or not, this is one of the most complicated issues you will face on this trip! But it's no joke, so take this seriously. If you abide by the rules, your apartment situation will go smoothly. If you do not take care of the garbage properly, we will run into many problems. Think of garbage like sin, get rid of it as quickly and as properly as possible.

Because of the complexity, please choose a "Gomi Master" who will be able to oversee this area.

Ask your staff for further details.

Address:

Take note of your address and carry it wherever you go.

You would need to insert the address when you enter Japan at the immigration.

Telephones

Mobile Phones / Internet

Prepaid cards. Getting portable modems from the airport.

Internet

Free WIFI Spots.

TRANSPORTATION

Walking

Most of your travel will be on foot. In Japan, walking 30 minutes to a given destination is considered normal; get used to it. Japan is still one of the safest places in the world, but intersections for foreign pedestrians can be very hazardous. When crossing any street, remember that the cars are approaching from the RIGHT. So don't just step off the curb after looking to your left, because a large bus with your name on it could be fast approaching from your right.

Also, when waiting at a signal, always wait at least 2 seconds and look both ways before crossing.

Trains

Japan Railways (JR), Keio and Subway lines are among the many train lines that service the Kanto area. All are safe and punctual. The Bullet Train (Shinkansen) runs between the major cities of Japan. Nagoya to Tokyo can be covered on the Bullet Train in less than two hours, costing about Y 10,000 one way.

Stored Value cards: Pasma, Suica, etc... (can be used with all different transport company.)

Subways

The subway is usually the quickest way to get from place to place. Service stops around midnight.

Pre-paid cards can be used. The prepaid cards are convenient and offer a slight savings. [Subway Map](#)

Buses

City buses are convenient for getting to places between subway stations. All trips are paid when entering the bus. Coins, Y 1000 bills or prepaid cards can be used. Prepaid cards offer a small saving. These cards can be purchased from the bus driver or at some convenience stores, ticket outlets, or campus bookstores. Or, you can use the Suica, Pasma etc, to

* One day unlimited travel cards are available for buses and subways. Once activated, it can only be used during that particular day.

* Change for a Y10,000 or Y5,000 bill can be gotten at the subway Station Master's window. Bus drivers cannot change large bills. When asking for change say, "Ryogae kudasai" or just "Change."

Taxis

Taxi drivers are generally polite but you will need to have an address of where you want to go, or be able to specifically explain where you want to go. The first 2 km is about Y650, thereafter increasing Y80 for each additional 400 km. There is also a charge if waiting in traffic for a long time. The amount on the meter is the amount to be paid. There is no tipping. Don't try to close the door; it will close automatically.

TRANSPORTATION VOCABULARY

train station	<i>eki</i>
ticket	<i>kippu</i>
wicket	<i>kaisatsuguchi</i>
exit	<i>deguchi</i>
ticket window	<i>madoguchi</i>

Transportation links

[Tokyo Transportation Bureau](#)

[Trip Calculator \(station to station\)](#)

[In Case You Get Lost](#)

There is always a possibility that you may get lost in transit, and a few suggestions might be helpful. Wherever you are, be prepared with the following:

1. Always carry at least enough money to make a telephone call, plus enough money to get back home. ***Of course, always carry with you your local church phone numbers.***
2. Always carry your passport. In case you are lost, your passport can help a Japanese person locate help. In case of an accident, your proper identification could mean immediate help for you.
3. It is good to carry small transit maps in case you get off the well-known path. They are available at the Airport or information counter downtown. Ask your staff to provide you a map of your accommodation, too
4. Praise God! Your lostness could be God leading you to a special appointment.

Direction Orientation

In Japan, people often find and meet each other at train stations or landmarks rather than at specific addresses. Most streets are unnamed or unnumbered. Without landmark directions, you may not be able to find an address, even if it is written down. Police boxes (koban) are located in every major area and policemen are helpful in helping you locate specific places.

If you are meeting at a train station, it is best to meet at the ticket wicket or meet at a specific exit (north, south, east, west and specify which number).

Accepting Home Stay Invitations

On such a short project, it is unlikely, but you may be invited to spend the night with your friend and his/her family. Should the opportunity arise, please notify your staff leader and give the staff the phone number where you can be reached. You may have an opportunity to experience a one-night homestay at your church.

Dating & Physical Contact

Be very careful of physical contact with the opposite sex. Japanese culture is a non-touch culture. Besides shaking hands, anything beyond that could signal wrong intentions. Absolutely NO hugging, walking arm-in-arm, back rubs, etc. with the opposite sex.

Please take special precaution at the end of the project when emotions run high. In particular, young Japanese girls are extremely impressionable and can take a good-bye hug to mean at step toward engagement! (mainly in re to caucasian males)

Absolutely NO dating!!! You are here to witness for the Kingdom, not to shop for a spouse. If you are already dating someone on your team, watch your Public display of affection. It is not culturally appropriate.

Remember that gift giving is appropriate, but do not give things that can signal romantic intentions (e.g., jewelry of any kind).

Please understand the spirit and not the letter of the law here. Simply put, demons will exploit and use romantic thoughts and emotions to divert a potential follower of Christ. We have seen this happen countless times.

Giving

The Japanese custom of gift giving is an integral part of the culture and has an underlying significance of exchange and mutual relationship. Hopefully, these guidelines will help you adapt graciously to the custom.

· The gifts you give are tokens of your reaching out to establish relationships. They offer an opportunity to express appreciation and share a little bit of yourself.

· There are many occasions for gift-giving with various dimensions of meaning. If you have specific questions, check with the Church staff or consult with Japanese friends.

Receiving

Japanese people are great gift givers and often overwhelm foreign people with their generosity. There is an art and a grace to receiving that comes primarily from genuine appreciation and understanding of the significance of gifts in terms of growing in relationships, which we all have a lot to learn. However, here are some pragmatic suggestions to help keep a sense of appropriateness and proper proportion.

- If you receive a gift, be sure to thank the giver **at the time** of receiving the gift and **the next time** you see the person after that occasion.
- Traditional Japanese custom is not to open gifts in front of the giver. However, times have changed and many gift givers want you to open the gift right away. Just ask politely, “May I open it now or would you like me to wait until I get home?”
- Try to avoid encouraging gifts by “over-admiring” items or talking about how something you want is too expensive for you to buy, or the person you are shopping with may try to pay for it for you.
- If you are given some kind of food by one of your friends, share the goodies with the group. This is customary and it will open people’s hearts to you.
- If you have received expensive gifts, don’t brag about it to other project members who may find themselves in a more modest situation. Consider the feelings of others.

What should I bring for gifts?

You should prepare to bring at least three kinds of gifts.

1. Lots of small, inexpensive things for anyone you have made a relationship with. (e.g., Pencils /stationery/stickers with your school logo, postcards of your hometown, etc.)
2. A few meaningful items for those interested in Christ or for Christian (e.g., Christian bookmarks/stickers/scripture cards/stationery/music/hats/T-shirts etc.)
3. Gifts for your pastor. These also don’t have to be expensive. Anything “famous” from your hometown will help make good conversation. Foods are best, because they don’t force the receiver to find another place on the wall for yet “another Christian plaque.” Recommended: cookies, beef jerky, candy (if it won’t melt in transit).

Attending Japanese Church

Introduction

You will be attending a Japanese-speaking church. While here in Japan, you are a missionary representing Christ in the church you will be attending. Your behavior and attitude will affect our on-going relationships with the churches.

Your pastor has made plans for you and is depending on you to be at church every Sunday the entire time you are here. Do not miss church or even think about leaving early. You may also be required to go to an evening prayer meeting. You should be prepared to give your salvation testimony at the worship service.

Unless there is translation, you probably will not be able to understand much of the service, and the temptation is to become critical. However, there really are many things that you can understand and do during the Japanese worship services. Before the service get someone who speaks English (or with whom you can communicate) to tell you what passage the sermon will be on.

During the Worship Service

Follow the bulletin outline as much as you can. Remember that we are here to work together with our Japanese brothers and sisters as well as with the lost. Ask God to show you how to act during the service so that your pastor and the people of the congregation know you love them. Even though you can't worship together with your church in words, you can be one with them in spirit.

Study the passage being taught during the service. If you complete your personal study of the passage before the service ends, use the remaining time to pray for revival for the pastor and the people around you. This is your time to unite your spirit with that of your church. Try to focus on that church in prayer.

There will most likely be a simple lunch prepared for after the service. Please try everything, and try to mix with church members. Be pro-active! Initiate relationships!

Some Things to Avoid During Worship

1. Chewing gum
2. Yawning without covering your mouth
3. Reading any book except the Bible. Just because you don't understand what everyone else is doing doesn't mean they don't understand what you are doing
4. Writing post cards or letters
5. Talking while someone up front is speaking or praying

Introduction:

The gospel message is truly "Good News." The message is always good, but *how* we explain it can make all the difference in the world. Preaching it dogmatically in monologue fashion may be the "way it's done where I come from," but it is definitely not the way to explain it here. The average Japanese person has very little biblical background. Thus the best way that we have found to share the message is via *Conversational Evangelism*.

A flat 10 minute presentation is fine, but what happens when it's finished? Most likely you will be left with uncomfortable silence. However, to witness in the context of a *conversation* can be extremely fun and rewarding for both parties. And most importantly, the message that we want to express so much will be communicated in way that your new friend will understand.

These transitions given here are only a few examples of how to start an evangelistic conversation. As you "pray without ceasing" while you are talking to your friend, we are confident that the Holy Spirit will lead you into many profitable evangelistic conversations.

General

(Pray for open doors and by faith, step through—"Pray without ceasing" 1 Thess. 5:17)

Always emphasize relationship with Jesus, as opposed to "going to church" or "religion."

Clarifying misunderstandings

- Most foreigners think that all Japanese are Buddhist. Is that true? --Wait for an answer-- Do you think that all westerners are Christians? Many may go to church, but...

- (for someone who knows a bit) From what you have learned lately about Christianity, is there anything that you don't understand or anything that you want to know more about?

- (the student explains an area of confusion) Don't answer dogmatically; soften the answer by first saying something like...

- "I have had thoughts just like that, but then something caused my thinking to change..."

- "There are many people who have difficulty with that point. I understand your difficulty with it. There are lots of things in the Bible that I don't understand either. I'm not an expert, but this is what I have learned about that question..."

- There are lots of things I still don't know about the Bible/Christianity either, but what I do know is that the story of Jesus is true, and Jesus has changed my life. May I tell you how Jesus changed me?

- It is impossible for us to understand everything. But what I have found is that the basic points of the Bible are true.

A word of caution regarding group culture and evangelism

The group culture that defines Japan can be a blessing and a curse. You will find that meeting people and gathering people will be quite easy. You will often see friends of friends coming to club activities. Or you will make a lunch appointment with one individual only to find that one or more have come to join! This is great for meeting more people and spreading our Christian influence; however, it can also make it difficult to share the gospel individually. Frustrations can easily arise.

Because of the group culture, one thing you should *never* do is deliberately isolate a Japanese person by taking him/her away from the group. For example, there is a group gathered at your apartment and you want to share the gospel with A-san. So you tell him you want to talk, then bring him into the next room where you share the gospel. This might seem like a good way to get around the "group problem" but in reality this will cause tremendous anxiety within all J-guests. The one isolated will feel very paranoid from being away from the others (the underlying fear of religious mind-control will surely surface), and the ones remaining in the group will

wonder what is going on. On top of this, after the party is over, all will definitely gather to share notes: "What happened in the other room?"

We have found that--as usual--honesty is the best policy in order to remedy this situation. Just inform your friend that,

"There are always so many people all around that it makes it hard to talk, don't you think? I would really like to get to know you better as a friend. Do you think it would be possible for just the two of us to meet some time?"

You will find that your friend will probably feel the same way and will be happy to meet you alone.

So be open and honest. And be careful of making your friend feel deliberately isolated from his/her group.

The Influence of Prayer

The average Japanese person is not happy with him/herself, and thus longs for either some sort of **change**, or for an avenue of **escape**. Because of this, Japanese people are sensitive to things like, fate, mysterious signs, fortunes. Japanese often ask "the gods" for things that will bring about change, or for things to benefit themselves personally. With this built into the culture, there are shrines and temples set up for almost anything you can imagine:: Making good grades on tests, Finding a mate, Having children, even for such things as Blessing for old stuffed animals or old Eye glasses!

There is a real longing for some sort of supernatural intervention, but of course, the gods of Japan do not usually deliver (although one often hears about deceptive demonic activities).

What this means for us though is that this is an **open door** for the Living God to work.

Specifically, whenever you meet with someone, remember to ask, "May I pray for you?"

Ask for specific requests and **pray verbally**. Japanese people have great respect for prayer and most will not only allow you to pray, but they will be very thankful afterward.

Remember that the average Japanese is eagerly seeking mysterious, supernatural experiences. If your friend can experience a personal touch from Jesus, how much more open he/she will be to hear His message!