

the bridge

an update from
Asian Access for
alumni and gatekeepers

Summer 2004
www.asianaccess.org



J-SCAPE: ORDER YOUR DVD TODAY

We are pleased to announce the release of our new DVD, "J-Scape: Missionary Life in Japan," created by our own Joshua Clayton (ST '00, CPA '02-present). If you were at Urbana you saw it playing on the plasma widescreen TV at our booth in the Armory. If you haven't seen it yet, you'll want to. The DVD contains 9 engaging video segments, plus a DVD-ROM with info on Asian Access, Summer Teams, Church Planting Associates, and the new EnVision Tour. If you'd like to request a free copy for yourself, fill out the form at the link below. Supplies are limited, so don't delay!

www.asianaccess.org/dvd



JCGI Celebrates 25 Years of Developing Pastors in Japan

CELEBRATING THE GROWTH AND CHANGES THAT HAVE MADE JCGI SUCH AN INFLUENTIAL FACTOR IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH IN ASIA

"I have traveled for three decades working with missions agencies, but I have never found the equal of Asian Access' Japan Church Growth Institute. It is by far the most practical investment in equipping national pastors for their ministry in Japan."

— Dr. Ralph Neighbour, Jr.
Missionary, Church Planter,
Author, Professor

In 1979, the founder of Asian Access/LIFE Ministries thought it was a good idea to provide a scholarship to a young innovative Japanese pastor to Fuller Theological Seminary. From that humble beginning, the Japan Church Growth Institute (JCGI) was born, giving rise to an in-country in-service training institute for 12 pastors from all over Japan.

After 15 years of tremendous investment on the part of missionaries, several significant changes were made to JCGI:

- The entire staff was now Japanese.
- The entire curriculum had been rewritten over the years by Japanese for Japanese in Japanese.
- The national program was regionalized resulting in:
 - › Greater leveraging of over 100 JCGI graduates as Japanese faculty and coaches, and
 - › Greater volume: Instead of just training 12 pastors nationally, five regional training networks were established to train 10-12 pastors in each region.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 4]

Inside:

- 2 **New EnVision Tour Takes Flight** An entry-level trip to Japan
- 3 **Calling All Alumni** Would you like to help mobilize short-termers?
- 3 **Ministry Updates** What's happening in Japan right now
- 4 **Alumni Updates** See what your teammates and friends are doing now

New EnVision Tour Takes Flight in July

THE SEARCH FOR A NEW ENTRY POINT FOR INVOLVEMENT WITH ASIAN ACCESS RESULTS IN THE FIRST-EVER ENVISION TOUR

For many years, Asian Access has offered short-term opportunities for teams to work with Japanese churches. We have also provided mid- to long-term options for individuals or families to serve as a part of a church plant.

- › **Ideal Candidates** Cross-cultural experience, experience in Japan, experience in church planting, interested in going long-term in the next couple of years
- › **Refer Someone** If you or anyone you know would be good for this program, please contact Shelley at sbelong@asianaccess.org or call her at 1-800-543-3678.

NEW STEPPING STONE

We didn't have a stepping stone for an individual that wanted to get to know Asian Access and consider going to Japan for one year or more, so we created the EnVision Tour. It is our new program for individuals and couples interested in Japan or church planting to explore what it's like to be a church planting missionary with Asian Access! <http://www.asianaccess.org/envision>

2004 TOUR INFO

July 6-19, our Director of Mobilization, Shelley Belong, her husband, and eight other participants will pioneer the first EnVision Tour. On this tour, they will meet Japanese pastors and interact with Asian Access staff/missionaries;

they'll have the opportunity to observe ministry in action. Asian Access staff will conduct seminars for participants on various topics such as Japanese society, discerning God's call in their lives, and our church planting methodology. EnVision will afford them a chance to get to know the culture, observe missionaries and Japanese congregations, and pray about whether or not God is calling them back to Japan longer term.

Please be praying for the EnVision participants for safety and an openness to hear from God. Also consider going yourself or referring someone else to go in the future. ■



New Mobilizer Joins Asian Access

ChrisTiana Rice recently joined the mobilization team at Asian Access in April 2004, bringing a wealth of Japan experience with her. She was an MK in Japan for 13 years, prior to graduating from Azusa Pacific University in 2002. She married her husband Derek on March 29, 2003.

With a passion to expand the Kingdom of God in Japan, ChrisTiana serves as a Mobilization Specialist, focusing her efforts on recruiting missionaries for Japan. ChrisTiana will be contacting Gatekeepers (i.e., Senders) and Alumni to talk about opportunities to minister in Japan. You can contact her at crice@asianaccess.org or 800-543-3678 x241. ■

a closer look at Mongolia



GEOGRAPHY	vast semidesert and desert plains, grassy steppe, mountains in west and southwest; Gobi Desert in south-central; landlocked between China and Russia
COMPARATIVE	slightly smaller than Alaska
POPULATION	2,694,432
CAPITAL	Ulaanbaatar
LITERACY	99%
RELIGIONS	Tibetan Buddhist Lamaism 96%; Muslim (primarily in the southwest), Shamanism, and Christianity combined 4%
INCOME	\$440 a year
POLITICS	won independence from China in 1921; parliamentary government





Calling All Alumni

In secular war, there is an acknowledged ratio of support personnel to frontline soldiers. In World War II, the military ratio was generally 15 to one. In the Persian Gulf War of 1991, that ratio was expanded to 50 support workers per frontline soldier. Spiritual warfare, which all true missionary work is, demands no less an emphasis on support personnel.”

– Neal Pirolo

Will you be a support worker as a mobilizer?

We are looking for Alumni with the passion to send others to Japan with Asian Access.



We provide:

- 37 years of experience in ministry in Japan
- Training in knowledge of Asian Access and how to share it with others
- Insider info on the newest developments in the organization
- Official Alumni Mobilizer status with personal web bio and Asian Access email address
- Financial and gift incentives for applications and partnerships recruited

What you offer:

- Personal testimony from Japan
- Access to contacts in your church/school, city, or area
- Lessen the travel costs for Asian Access

What to do from here:

- Pray about becoming involved
- If interested, contact:
Shelley Belong: sbelong@asianaccess.org
or
ChrisTiana Rice: crice@asianaccess.org
(800) 543-3678, by Aug. 20, 2004. ■

Ministry Updates in Japan

Summer Teams

Our 2004 summer teams are raising their support, conducting their team training, and nearing departure. This summer we are sending 8 teams which are composed of 36 individuals who will be serving in Japan for a combined total of 180 weeks. There will be four 4-week teams and four 6-week teams. Please pray for travel mercies and many Japanese to come to know Christ as these teams head to Japan.



2004 Team Leaders & Asian Access Staff

4-week teams: July 5 - August 4, 2004

6-week teams: June 21 - August 4, 2004

INTERESTED IN 2005?

Teams are beginning to form for 2005. If you are interested in forming or sending a team from your church or school fellowship next summer, please contact us at teams@asianaccess.org.

Check out the completely revised summer teams section of our website at <http://www.asianaccess.org/summer>. See ministry results, hear from past teamers, and even read some of their journals. Here's what one teamer had to say:

“ I came to Japan wanting to change their lives with the gospel. And while we did much to spread that truth, God used the Japanese to change my life. He brought me closer to His heart for the world and a joy that is beyond all understanding. The Japanese people need hope and God is allowing us to be part of His hope and glory.

Brandon C., CA, ST 2003 ”

Church Planting Associates

Since the last *Bridge*, two new Church Planting Associates have arrived in Japan for ministry. **KARI BURRELL** arrived



3/24/04 from Redding, CA to start her 3 year term in Hyogo with Yashiro Church, pastored by Rev. Michinari Ohashi. **LAVERA MONROE** arrived

1/17/04 to start her 14-month term in Hokkaido. She is serving in the city of Date.



We currently have 8 Associates on the field and 3 units (1 single and 2 families) raising support to go in 2004 and 2005. If you are interested in going or sending, please contact us at associates@asianaccess.org. Visit www.asianaccess.org/associates to you can learn more about the program and meet our Associates. Here's an excerpt from an Associate's recent prayer letter:

“ The invitation came, and both Yumiko and Mitsuko shot up their hand to accept the Lord. My eyes got watery, and I could barely get through the decision and prayer time. A normal Wednesday night, so I thought, turned into something so remarkable, it made me speechless, as I marveled at how the Lord moves.

Angela Shih ”

Alumni Updates

JESSICA MAYEUX (ST '03) – I'll be studying at Osaka University September 2004–October 2005.

CHARLES ALBRECHT (Scrum Dendo '89-'90) – I married Cynthia (Ryan) in April 2001. Our daughter, Aynslee, was born in August of 2003, just before we moved to the Sacramento area.

ADAM COLLAZO (Summer Teams '02) – I accepted a new job as manufacturing engineer at Randtron Antenna Systems in Menlo Park, CA.

ROBERT ADAIR (Summer Teams '01-'03) – I will graduate with a Masters in Ocean Engineering from Texas A&M University in December, and am preparing to go to Japan as a Church Planting Associate in March 2005.

DIANE (POTTER) TSUCHIYA (Directions '88-'91) – My husband, Akitomo and I live in Karuizawa and have 2 sons, Akira (5 years old) and Satoru (1 year old). Akitomo is a classical oil painter from his own personal studio and I teach English. Come and visit us!

MARTI GARRETT (Summer Team '02) – Since coming to Japan in 2002 with the summer teams, I have developed a passion for the people of Japan. I have visited two times since my summer with Asian Access and have been able to affirm my calling to Japan more and more.

LEESA WALKER-WONG (Directions '87-'89, CM Teams '92-'95) – I am married to Eric, with two kids, Erika and Jack. I work on Fridays at an inner-city school, teaching reading and writing skills.

PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED!

Alumni updates will be printed again in the next issue of *The Bridge*.
Go to www.lifejapan.org/alumni/ and submit your online update form.

25 Years of JCGI

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

All of these transitions contributed to a more effective and indigenous pastor development ministry. The distinctive of this training is the relational networking of pastors together over a 2-year period with focused curriculum infused to produce a transformational process in the lives of its participants. Pastors and congregations are changed.



As JCGI celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, we rejoice that 300 Japanese pastors have gone through the program, the majority of whom have seen significant church growth in their congregations.

As pastors in Asia have learned of this unique training program, Asian Access explored ways to expand beyond Japan. Over the last 5 years, Asian Access has been adapting this leader development model for different countries in Asia. Now, we are leaders serving leaders in 8 countries, planning for 20 in the next 5 years.

The ministry of JCGI carries on in Japan and continues to be the wellspring from which flows all our leader development ministry throughout Asia. ■



AsianAccess
Leaders Serving Leaders

P.O. Box 200, San Dimas, CA 91773 U.S.A.
toll free 1-800-LIFE-678 • fax (626) 914-9572
www.asianaccess.org • info@asianaccess.org