

RICH · SUSAN · MADDIE · NATHANIEL · SOLOMON



THE BAE FAMILY

*Building Up the Church in Japan
through Discipleship and Healthcare*

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SIM |  **AsianAccess**

Rich was born to Catholic Korean immigrant parents in Warren, MI and grew up in Troy and Bloomfield Hills. He came to know the Lord Jesus Christ during his college days at Princeton when he began searching for the meaning in life. Shortly thereafter, God challenged him to consider what the gospel was worth to him by asking him what he was willing to give up. Susan was born into a Buddhist family in Seoul, South Korea and immigrated with her entire extended family to Los Angeles when she was 6 years old. She became a Christian as a young teen when she heard the gospel at a youth rally and realized that she could never earn her way into heaven. Two years later, her entire family turned from Buddhism and turned to the Church. Since then, she's been involved in missions.

Rich and Susan met in Philadelphia as classmates in medical school and got married to pursue their calling in medical missions. They left for Asia shortly after completing their medical training in family medicine and the birth of their firstborn. Just prior to their departure, the Lord brought them to OCC to begin their language learning in Mandarin.

After serving 10 years planting an international church, discipling and mentoring local believers, and sharing the gospel with their neighbors and friends in Asia, the Lord called them back to the U.S. For the last 3 years, Rich served as one of the Vice Presidents of SIM USA to oversee the recruitment, training and mobilizing of new missionaries. Last year, they felt God's call to Japan and took a vision trip to Japan to confirm that calling. Since then, Rich has stepped down from his leadership position to solely work on launching SIM USA's training program, called SIM Grow, a system to train and better equip new missionaries.

According to UN data, the Japanese population for 2020 is estimated to be 126,476,461. About 1% claim to be Christians (including Catholics) with only about 0.3% that are evangelical Christians. This makes the Japanese one of the top ten largest unreached people groups and one of the least evangelized countries in the world. Most Japanese people have never met a Christian, never seen a Bible, and never heard about Jesus. Many cities have only 1 church and only one church for every 16,000 people!

They plan for the first two years to study language and culture while getting their 3 children situated to their environments. Their oldest (Maddie, 9th grade) will be attending an international school, the second (Nathaniel, 7th grade) will be homeschooled, and the youngest (Solomon, 4th grade) will be in the local Japanese school. While working alongside a Japanese pastor, they hope to explore and learn about what ministry opportunities there are. Because it is highly unusual to have two medical missionaries, they anticipate unique opportunities for ministry. Their long-term vision is to see the Japanese church grow as they work with the local Japanese church to reach out to unbelievers and help disciple new leaders that can reach out to the next generation of Japanese.

Currently they are working on raising support to be able to go to Japan when the Japanese government opens up its borders to U.S. citizens. They have also began their Japanese language studies, meeting with tutors 3 times a week. They need to raise a total of \$12,000/mo and 200 prayer commitments. They are currently at 60% of their financial goal and 40% of their prayer commitments. Could the Lord be moving you to partner with them to send them to Japan?

To connect with the Baes, please send an email to rsbae@alumni.princeton.edu.

To view our previous newsletter, go to <https://sites.google.com/view/welcometothebaewindow/home>

If you'd like to subscribe to our newsletter, go to <https://bit.ly/34NkO5n>

Prayer Requests:

1. **Pray that we would continue to grow** in our love and knowledge of God and be in His Word daily. We want what we share with others to be fresh, living and the result of overflow.
2. **Pray that we will be able to fully raise our prayer and financial support need.** Ask for more church partnerships and individual supporters to join our support team in prayer and in giving. Pray about inviting others to join our support team.
3. **Pray that the travel restrictions in Japan would lift** and that we would be able to get our visa applications submitted and issued.
4. **Pray that we will be able to make great progress in our language studies as we meet with our tutors 3x/week.**
5. **Pray for our Japanese church and pastor that we will be paired up with** – that a good fit would be found and negotiated by our Asian Access team leader who is still working on our final placement.
6. **Pray for our children. We are homeschooling** them as we continue to move forward while we wait. The kids are doing great, but at times, the instability they feel, in the uncertainty of the timing of our departure, is stressful.

Some useful links to learn more about mission needs in Japan:

<https://www.asianaccess.org/opportunities/pray-japan-needs2.html>

<https://prayercast.com/japan.html>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/churches-graveyard-plants-years-tokyo/>

JAPAN

STATE OF MISSIONS

POPULATION:
127,075,045



CHURCHES

7,907



EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS

0.5%



ANNUAL EVANGELICAL GROWTH

-0.4%



The Japanese are the second largest
unreached people group in the world.



Japan has religious freedom, and
missionaries are welcomed there.



EVANGELICAL CHURCHES

1 CHURCH for EVERY

16,071



PASTORS over AGE 50

70%



ATTENDEES per CHURCH

35



10 YEAR CHURCH GROWTH RATE

1.2%

