

# SUMMER TEAM MEMBERS FROM 2001 SPEAK OUT

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Just ask the  
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Here are only a  
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## ON LIFE MINISTRIES

LIFE Ministries is an organization you can trust. It's strengths lie in the **AMAZING STAFF** as well as the years of relationships it has forged with Japanese churches. *– Allen Y., Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, S. Hamilton, MA*

LIFE Ministries has made it possible for me to witness first-hand how God is working in the hearts of the people of Japan. I feel blessed to be part of a team sharing what God has done in our lives, all for His glory.

*– Paul L., San Diego Japanese Christian Church*

Joining a summer team with LIFE Ministries is a great way to show the truth and love of Jesus Christ to people in need. LIFE's methods are both Biblically sound and practically effective. LIFE's staff shows **GENUINE LOVE AND CONCERN** for the Japanese people and those called to minister to them. *– Joie B., InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Stetson University, DeLand, FL*

Japan's customs, people, and attitudes are incredible. Serving with LIFE will teach you to listen to, serve, and seek out God in **NEW AND UNIMAGINABLE WAYS**. *– Eric L., New Life Fellowship, Houston, TX*

LIFE Ministries is a God-centered organization that reaches out to those in need in Japan. **GOD WAS WITH US ALL EVERY STEP OF THE WAY**, and He placed people and churches together in perfect matches. Due to our training in Tokyo from the LIFE staff, we felt well-prepared as we journeyed to the Japanese church, where we were able to learn and grow in our relationship with God. *– Ann S., Wintersburg Presbyterian Church, Santa Ana, CA*

Since there is a higher percentage of Christians in Iran than in Japan, LIFE is providing an incredibly strategic opportunity to advance the Kingdom of God. **AND I'VE BEEN A PART OF IT!** I've led two IVCF teams to Japan already and have seen it change the lives of my team members. In fact, a chapter member from the first team is now preparing to be a LIFE Church Planting Associate in Hokkaido next year. We're now making plans to take a third team next summer to assist him and his church. *– Scott Erbe, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship Staff, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI*

LIFE provides the opportunity to work with a church instead of just going somewhere on a missions trip for a week or two and then leaving the people without follow up, Christians, and a church. LIFE staff are also amazing to work with. Working with a different culture for the same goal is awesome!!! Life changing! With LIFE, we get to use our personal gifts and abilities, learning all different kinds of skills. *– Kimberly T., Lake Avenue Church, Pasadena, CA*

## ON GOD AT WORK

I saw God working intensely in ways that could only be attributed to Him. I was humbled: I was refreshed. Most wonderful of all, **WE SAW GOD BRING FORTH FRUIT THROUGH US** in the form of new and deeper relationships and changed lives. *– Mark B., InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Stetson University, DeLand, FL*

This summer, God told me to trust Him – He has been leading me to Japan. Spending a few weeks in Miyazaki with LIFE encouraged me to know that **GOD IS ALREADY WORKING IN JAPAN AND THAT HE CAN USE ME HERE**.

*– Bobby B., Grace Brethren Church, Lanham, MD*

The people of Japan need and want to know about Jesus Christ. **FOR US TO TAKE A STEP OF FAITH** and answer God's call can be a life-changing experience. God is truly at work through the ministry.

*– Matt T., Evergreen Baptist Church-San Gabriel Valley, CA*

### 2001 SUMMER REPORT

#### Sent:

- 20 teams
- 100 people

#### Results:

- 2,212 non-Christians were "reached"
- 445 non-Christians came to church events for the very first time ever
- 55 children made decisions for Christ
- 26 adults became Christians so far
- 107 people became seekers, committing to examine the claims of Christ and search for the truth about Jesus.
- 12 believers made commitments to Christ
- 13 believers decided to be baptized



Starting and strengthening Japanese churches

[www.go2japan.org/summer](http://www.go2japan.org/summer)

[teams@go2japan.org](mailto:teams@go2japan.org)

1-800-LIFE-678

(1-800-543-3678)

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## ON GOD AT WORK

SERVING IN JAPAN IS AN AMAZING AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCE. There is no other free country where it is such a great challenge to share the gospel with people who have not heard God's Word. The challenge itself spurs you on to entrust more faith in Him. Focus on the unseen and not the seen for God works in subtle but powerful ways.

– Traci S., San Lorenzo Japanese Christian Church, CA

## ON SEEING JAPANESE LIVES CHANGED

I was afraid of being ineffective in Japan at first because of the lack of Christians in Japan, however after opening up to God and relying on Him instead of me, I was honored to lead two people to Christ one night. God reminded me that **IT'S HIM THAT DOES THE WORK AND NOT ME.** He changed my perspective, and at the same time added to His kingdom. I can't encourage you enough to allow God to use you through LIFE Ministries.

– Angela S., Christ's Church of the Valley, San Dimas, CA

We saw a 19 year-old boy go from solitary interest in English learning to denying that Jesus exists to belief that there is a man names Jesus. And that **THE ONLY REASON WE WOULD HAVE COME TO JAPAN WAS BECAUSE OF JESUS.**

– Melissa S., InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, University of North Carolina-Asheville

Ministry is not about you and what you have to offer, but what God has to offer through you. Coming to Japan I thought I had little to offer; only the story of my life. God used my story to reach a woman and show her Jesus. For this moment alone I would gladly relive the hardships of my life.

– Bonnie H., Aldersgate United Methodist Church, College Station, TX

## A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

Coming to Japan changed my life and my view of Christianity. The Lord opened my eyes to the amazing country of Japan. The people as a whole are very loving, but the Japanese Christians were simply over caring. The Lord lives in the hearts of the Japanese Christians. **IF YOU WANT TO CAPTURE THE LOVE OF CHRIST, THE JAPANESE CHRISTIANS WILL SHOW YOU HOW.**

– Steven M., Christ's Church of the Valley, San Dimas, CA

This experience was one of the most awesome experiences for me. It helped me to become a more understanding person and **HAS CREATED A SPOT IN MY HEART FOR NON-BELIEVERS.** It has also created a passion in me to share my faith with those non-believers.

– Lizzy S., Westminster Chapel, Bellevue, WA

## ON JAPAN AND ITS PEOPLE

If you have ever thought of becoming a martyr on the mission field – GREAT – then go to Japan because they will love you to death!

– Tommy D., Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, S. Hamilton, MA

Japan is a harvest waiting to be reaped and God mercifully allowed me to tell His people for the first time how much He loved them!

– Melanie C., InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, University of North Carolina-Asheville

During my stay in Japan, I've observed something in the Japanese Christians that has changed my faith dramatically. The few Christians I was blessed to work with demonstrated an immeasurable amount of faith. They did not allow the frustrations and lack of participation in the community to bring them down. If anything, they prayed more diligently. They've **HELPED ME TO LEAVE JAPAN WITH MORE FAITH IN GOD THAN WHEN I CAME.**

– Heather M., Christ's Church of the Valley, San Dimas, CA

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## ON JAPAN AND ITS PEOPLE

Japan needs God. The people here are so nice, so polite, and so great, only they put their hope in idols that cannot hear, speak, or see. I love Japan and God is really working in the lives of the Christians here. It was so great to be a part of the ministry here and to see all that God is doing. – Megumi S., Wintersburg Presbyterian Church, Santa Ana, CA

Without a doubt, I was inspired by the followers of Christ in Japan. I learned lessons in humility and hospitality – traits evident in my new Japanese friends. And, through my experience, I gained a global perspective of Christianity. – Carrie J., Lake Avenue Church, Pasadena, CA

## Go!!!!

Go, if you want to see God cutting through any culture and language barriers, straight to people's hearts. Go, if you want to meet the most giving people you'll ever see in your life. Go, if you want to be changed by God through the people you'll meet. Go, if you want to see Psalm 115 become real to you. **GO, AND YOU WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.** – Vladimir V., Aldersgate United Methodist Church, College Station, TX

If you ever get the chance to go I would say go! You get the chance of a lifetime to go and minister to the Japanese people. **IT'S AN EXPERIENCE THAT WAS SO LIFE-CHANGING YOU WILL NEVER FORGET IT.**

– Holly H., New Life Tabernacle, Hindsboro, IL

You cannot serve the devil better than to join a church and do nothing. – Charles Spurgeon

Stop doing nothing for the church. Go this summer to Japan. **WATCH AND BE AMAZED** as you see God be magnified beyond the borders of your own small self. He is great and greatly to be praised; make yourself useful to Him to bring His worshippers in Japan before His throne.

Missions exist because worship does not. – John Piper

– Jacob S., Christ's Church of the Valley, San Dimas, CA

Come to Japan! **THE CULTURE IS AMAZING, THE FOOD IS DELICIOUS, AND THE PEOPLE ARE THE FRIENDLIEST IN THE WORLD!** Take the opportunity to bring the gospel to this beautiful country that doesn't know Jesus Christ.

– Reuben U., New Life Fellowship, Houston, TX

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