



“Call unto Me and I will answer thee” (Jer. 33:3)

Called to Serve

A LONG-AWAITED JOYFUL UNION

In 2018, the Lord led Josephine (Jo) Aragon to contact Japan Mission (JM), while she was working in a secular child care facility in northern Japan. She wanted to continue working with children but also wanted to share the Gospel with them. JM then invited Jo to an English camp so that we could get to know each other.



Edward & Josephine Zimmerman

“In October 2018 I was invited to an English camp run by JM,” Jo shared. “On those two days the Gospel was preached and everyone had a wonderful time learning English, playing games, singing songs, and sharing life stories over delicious meals. I saw their passion and dedication to share the love of Christ. The night after the camp, while on an 8-hour bus journey back to Niigata, I remember telling God: ‘If it is really your plan for me to be part of what You are doing through JM, please open the way.’ And He did!”

This was how Jo, who was originally from the Philippines, joined the work of JM in April 2019. She has since played a vital role in the English Evangelism, Kids Club and the Café ministries.

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Eliezer Tyree joined us from the USA in Nov 2021, during a short period when travel restrictions were eased. He has been serving in the English Evangelism and Café ministries. He has also been using his talents in music and media to reach out.



Alison Quinlan

Pray as we develop a program to enable Eliezer to use his gift of music to reach the unsaved with the Gospel.

Alison Quinlan arrived from the UK in April 2022. She is a retired school teacher and has a heart to share Christ with her students.

Pray for wisdom and strength, as Alison has had the opportunity to befriend many while serving in the English Evangelism ministry.

As workers waited patiently during the pandemic to join the work, many of you prayed with us. We are now glad to report that everyone has been able to enter Japan and join the work.

Thank you for your faithful prayers. The Lord is good and has answered our prayers!

THE MISSION'S OUTREACH - "PRAY FOR US"

- Bibles and Literature ■ Audio-Visual Outreach
- Student Outreach ■ Hospital Evangelism
- English Evangelism ■ Outreach to the Elderly
- Evangelistic Meetings & Counseling

OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION to friends who have made bank deposits and notified us.

Please notify us if you did not receive an acknowledgement and also if your address has changed.

A deposit can be made directly into the Mission's banking account at any branch of **STANDARD BANK** or **ABSA BANK**, or a debit order may be used.

MANY THANKS once again dear friends. May God bless you.

Name of account: JAPAN MISSION
 STANDARD BANK, Acc No 010 333 126, Branch No 014-845
 ABSA BANK, Acc No 090 161 334, Branch No 334-645

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Edward Zimmerman was part of a team of short-term volunteers from South Africa who came to help JM with an English camp in Oct 2019.

“It was a great experience to see how God’s love was shared with so many people and I wished I could stay,” Edward shared. “While in Japan, I met a beautiful woman, Josephine. I tried so many times to chat with her, but she worked late into the night and I was busy during the day. On the last day of camp, I gathered enough courage to ask Jo out on an ice cream date. She agreed and we had a great time!

“After I returned to South Africa, I had a longing to get to know Josephine better. I made contact with her through social media and she answered my messages.

“At first, I didn’t know what to talk to her about, but the one thing we had in common was our love for the Lord Jesus. Our chats centred mostly around our relationship with God and the ways we have been able to share God’s love with others.

Later our conversations became more friendly and fun, with some jokes in between. I started to enjoy our conversations and looked forward to talking to her.

“I had prayed to God for a wife for many years. As I was praying about my relationship with Jo, the Lord worked in my heart. He showed me that my relationships in the past had failed because of me and not because of others. I then asked God to show me the meaning of true love.

“As I read the Gospels, God showed me that real love was to love others as Jesus loved me. He loved me just the way I was, with all my baggage and dirtiness. Jesus went all the way by dying for my sins. That was the price He paid to restore His relationship with me!

“This caused me to seriously contemplate the depth of what it meant to put my selfishness aside and do as the Bible says: **Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her** (Ephesians 5:25).”

About six months later, in May 2020, the Lord confirmed in both Edward and Jo’s hearts that they were to be married.

Shortly afterward, Edward applied to JM and was accepted. We all agreed that Edward should travel to Japan and get married to Jo. However, this was at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and airline travel was severely restricted.

It was not until March 2022 that international travel started to open up and Edward was able to travel to Japan.

Two years after the Lord first led them to get married, Edward and Jo were finally united in marriage on May 2, 2022. God used this precious time of separation to help them grow in Him and to grow in love for one another.

The day they were married, they were more certain than ever that they were in the centre of His will.

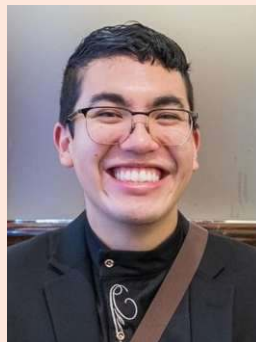
The Lord blessed us with wonderful weather the day of the wedding. The wedding and reception were held outside under the trees in the beautiful garden just below the Japan Mission property.

Many of Jo’s non-Christian students and friends joined us for the celebration. Others also joined us live via zoom from South Africa and the Philippines. Hearts were moved as Edward and Jo testified of God’s goodness and faithfulness.

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Edward Zimmerman arrived from South Africa in March 2022. He is gifted with music, relating to young people, and working with computers and media. He has been serving in the English Evangelism and Café ministries. **Pray** for Edward and Jo, as they embark on their new journey as a newly married missionary couple who are dedicated to impacting the world for Jesus.
2. For the first time in three years, we were able to hold an inperson meeting with the ministers and Christian workers of the churches where JM workers serve. We had a wonderful time of fellowship as we gathered together and they shared how the Lord has blessed their congregations, in spite of the many COVID restrictions. Praise the Lord!
3. The efforts of many continue to help us make an impact for His Kingdom. We stand amazed at how the Lord has laid it on the hearts of so many people from all walks of life, with different gifts and resources, to help us in the mission work in Japan. Thank you for the part you have played in helping us share the Gospel in this needy land!

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS EASED



Eliezer Tyree

We are breathing a sigh of relief since travel restrictions have been eased in recent months. Some of our workers who have not been able to return to their home countries for three years and have now been able to return for the summer for a short visit with friends and supporters.

Three new workers, two of whom waited for more than a year, have now been able to travel to Japan to join the work.