

BIBLES TO NORTH KOREA

Japan Mission continues to make Bibles available for distribution in North Korea. Recent reports from various ministry partners who traveled to the country indicate that there are signs of major changes ahead.

North Korea remains one of the most difficult countries in the world to be a Christian. Brothers and sisters in Christ hide their faith due to the threat of severe persecution. They cannot openly pray, sing or profess to be followers of Jesus Christ.

Owning even a small portion of the Bible in North Korea means risking one's life. Offenders face a sentence of up to 15 years in a prison camp. Conditions are so bad in these camps that the average time of survival is only 3 years.

Famine and hardship continue to force many North Koreans to flee across the porous border to China. This is very dangerous, but many find refuge in churches while in China. There they hear the Gospel and accept Christ as their Savior. Christians who find their way back to North Korea smuggle Bibles and share their faith discretely with those they can confide in.

On one occasion, a 17-year-old boy fled to China and found the Lord. He returned to North Korea with rice and two copies of the Bible hidden in his backpack.

He was caught by a soldier as he tried to cross the border under the cover of darkness. The Bibles were discovered and he was asked what they were. The soldier tried to read them but it was dark, so he left the boy on the ground and took the books over to a small observation hut.

As he and another soldier started to read, the boy saw his chance to escape. The last thing he saw as he looked over his shoulder was two soldiers eagerly reading his Bibles.

Pray for wisdom and protection for those who smuggle Bibles into North Korea and China. **Pray** also for the necessary finances to meet this tremendous need. What a joy and a blessing it is to provide those in need with the precious Word of God!



JAPAN MISSION

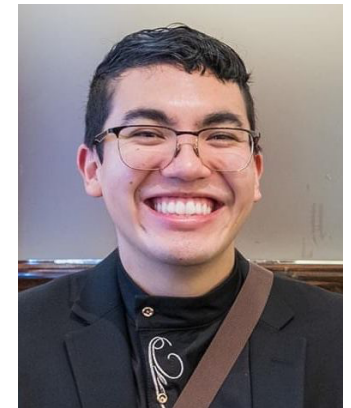
CALLED TO SERVE

Nov / Dec 2022

SHARING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH MUSIC

Eliezer Tyree joined Japan Mission from California in the USA as an English evangelism teacher in November 2020.

He currently travels to several churches to help them reach their communities for Christ, by teaching English lessons and using his musical gifts to share God's love. Many, who would not normally attend church, come to learn English and make friends with a foreigner. Each class ends with a Bible talk and a short time of fellowship.



Eliezer Tyree

In his previous job, Eliezer built guitars for a prominent company called Fender for four years. Since he is very gifted at singing, playing guitar and making guitars, Japan Mission started a music outreach program where students come to build their own guitar from a kit and then learn how to play.

Eliezer also wrote some songs in Japanese about the hope he has in Jesus, so we arranged for him to sing in various churches and hold concerts, where he is able to share his faith.

Eliezer has a passion for evangelism and has had the opportunity to influence the lives of many. **Pray** for the seeds that have been sown in the hearts of his students and those he has come in contact with.

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MY STORY - by Eliezer Tyree

I was raised in a Christian home, and was taught stories and teachings of the Bible from a young age. Going to church every Sunday was a regular part of my life.

When I entered high school, I started to serve in the music ministry at my church. I loved serving God, learning about Him, and fellowshiping with His people. I was going to church at least twice a week.

After I graduated from high school, I was working two jobs and taking classes at a community college. I went to church less and less and found a girlfriend who was not a Christ-follower.

I moved out of my parent's home and rented a place closer to my job. I stopped going to church and became increasingly self-reliant and selfish. I ended up living to satisfy my sinful desires.

At first it was fun and I enjoyed it, but I soon started to get depressed. I found no joy in anything I did. I felt like there was a cloud hanging over my head and it was raining all the time.

One night I laid awake with a pain in my chest that I had been carrying around and was unable to fall asleep. Frustrated, I left my bed, grabbed my notebook and went into the living room.

I cried out for help by writing a prayer to God. I asked Him to show me how I could get back to a place where my life was fulfilling and meaningful again. I asked him to forgive me for living a life that was self-centered and independent of God.

As I was weeping and confessing my sins, He spoke to me and I felt an overwhelming sense of peace come over me. I felt a love like no other and heard Him calling me.

God showed me that I needed to get away from my selfish lifestyle and reconnect with my family and church; so the next day I told my friends that I was moving back in with my parents. I also started to attend church again.

I eventually started to use my musical gifts to serve in the church again and have been living my life for God ever since.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil (Proverbs 3:5-7).

CALL TO JAPAN - by Eliezer Tyree

In 2016, I felt the urge to travel the world, since I was young and had few obligations. My work allowed me to take some time off to make short trips; so I started to pray about the country I should visit and God led me to choose Japan.

I booked my airline ticket one year in advance and prepared by studying the Japanese language. While in Japan, I made many friends and great memories. After returning home, I knew that I wanted to go back to Japan.

On one trip to Japan, I visited a church and met Josephine Aragon, who was a missionary with Japan Mission. I told her how God had put it on my heart to share the Gospel with the Japanese people. She then gave me a book, ***Half a Century in Japan***, which told the missionary story of Neil and Peggy Verwey.

I started to read it on my way back to the USA and could not put it down. The stories inspired me so much that I began to do missionary work at my workplace. I shared God's Word where I could, and tried to love and encourage everyone.

I came to realize how important it was for me to be a part of the salvation of souls. We never know when someone may pass on to the next life. I felt as though my plans for a successful career paled in comparison.

On my next trip to Japan, God helped me share my faith with several people. Upon my return, I was more certain than ever that God wanted me to be a missionary to Japan, so I applied to join Japan Mission.

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

1. During October 2022, Japan Mission held two English Camps. Over 100 students were in attendance and many activities were organized to enable us to share God's love. Hearts were moved, as Eliezer Tyree sang some Japanese Christian songs he wrote and shared words of testimony. **Pray** for the seeds that were sown.
2. Eliezer is a young, single, talented 28-year-old who is faced with various decisions regarding his future. **Pray** that the Lord would clearly guide him as to how best to share God's love with the lost.