

## CAYA MINISTRIES

When reaching out to the Japanese people, we start with something they are interested in. With many, their need is for a sense of community. This is why we started **CAYA**, which stands for **Come As You Are**. The purpose is to create a space where workers can share God's love and connect with the community. In Japanese society, there are few places where people are accepted **just as they are**, but that is what the grace of God does for us. It embraces us **just as we are**.

**CAYA CAFÉ** is part of this ministry. Each week, on Saturday afternoons, up to 40 visitors come from the community to join us at Japan Mission for fun and fellowship over a cup of coffee or tea.

**CAYA ENGLISH** is another part of this ministry for adults. As we befriend people, they join the English classes and come to the English camps and hear more about God's Word.

**CAYA KINDER** is a program where children from ages 2 to 6 come to play in English and hear Bible stories. Parents often join in.

**CAYA ELEMENTARY** was started for children who seek to learn English after they return from school in the afternoon. Many graduates of CAYA Kinder attend and continue to learn about God's Word.

**CAYA HOMESTAY** is a new addition to CAYA Ministries. People of all ages **come as they are** to experience daily Christian living and hospitality in a place where the culture is different and English is spoken.

**CAYA MINISTRIES** is part of the **English Evangelism Program**. It has facilitated many opportunities to sow the Seed. As people show interest in Christianity, we introduced them to a local church. It has been wonderful to see students and even entire families to start to attend church and make friends with other Christians.

## WORLD EXPO 2025 OUTREACH

The World Expo of 2025 is coming to Osaka from mid-April to mid-October. 28 million people are projected attend from almost every country. This will be a superb opportunity to reach out to many. Please make contact with Japan Mission if you desire to be involved in an outreach or would like to give out tracts at this venue. Japan Mission will provide the tracts. **Pray** that many would be reached.

### INFORMATION & INQUIRIES

[www.facebook.com/japanmission.jm/](https://www.facebook.com/japanmission.jm/)

Website: [japanmission.org](http://japanmission.org)

E-mail: [jm@japanmission.org](mailto:jm@japanmission.org)

#### JAPAN

Japan Mission  
7-40 Monzen Cho  
Ikoma Nara 630-0266  
Tel: +(81) 743-73-1754  
Fax: +(81) 743-73-1681

#### AUSTRALIA - For Donations

Make checks payable to:  
**Japan Mission**  
52 Outlook Drive  
Drouin VIC 3818  
Tel: 0427-566-178



# JAPAN MISSION

CALLED TO SERVE

March / April 2025

## CALLED TO SERVE

Ed and Toby Thomas were married in Texas, USA. "Early in our marriage we felt the Lord's calling to serve Him in some full-time capacity," Ed shared.

As Ed found work as a clinical engineer, he was assigned to be a field representative for manufacturing company of medical devices. This led him to take his first of many trips to Japan in 1992.

During these trips, Ed was able to develop good relationships with medical professionals and business people. He was able to share God's love and witness to many of them. God put a special burden in Ed and Toby's hearts to pray for them.

As their children grew older and became independent, Ed and Toby sought the Lord as to what He would have them do in their retirement. "We have taken **The Great Commission** seriously and have kept in mind the **go therefore** part of that command. Throughout the years, we've continued to pray about and explore where the Lord would have us serve," Toby shared.



Ed & Toby Thomas

#### UK - For Donations & Gift Aid

Make checks payable to:  
**Japan Mission**  
11 Biggleswade Dr, Runcorn,  
Halton, Cheshire WA7 1FY  
Tel: 0790-597-0524

#### USA - For Tax-Deductible Receipts

> Note: **For Japan Mission #218**  
Make checks payable to:  
**DM Stearns Missionary Fund Inc**  
PO Box 1578, North Wales  
PA 19454 Tel: 215-362-6611

#### CANADA - For Tax-Deductible Receipts

> Note: **For Japan Mission #1624**  
Make checks payable to:  
**The Great Commission Foundation**  
PO Box 14006, Abbotsford  
BC V2T 0B4 Tel: 778-932-2532

“This Bible verse became a guiding verse for us:

***Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship*** (Romans 12:1-2).

“As we prayed, the Lord began to speak to us more specifically about full-time missionary service,” Ed shared.

“We were challenged to think of the ways in which God had orchestrated the events of our lives, and then consider where that life experience intersected with the need for the Gospel — specifically amongst an unreached people group.

“As we prayed, we sensed that the Holy Spirit was leading us to Japan. We then started to connect with a large number of missionaries and mission agencies with ministries in Japan.

“Starting in 2019, we made a number of trips to Japan for both work and ministry exploration.

“Just as we were gaining momentum and planning a ministry **vision trip** in Spring 2020, the COVID pandemic put a stop to our plans, but not His!

“It was during those three years we remained in Texas that He sorted, shifted, and shored up His vision, plan and preordained path that He had prepared in advance for us to walk in!

“In January 2023, we made another trip to many parts of Japan to visit 17 different mission agencies and churches. We met over 60 people in a little over three weeks. We were truly blessed to see the many ways in which God was working amongst the people and country of Japan.

“It was during this trip that we heard the clear voice of the Lord guiding us to apply for service with Japan Mission.

“The motto of the work of Japan Mission is **Called to Serve**. We found that this mission's ministry goals were in alignment with ours,” Toby shared.

“Because we are born again, our hearts desire is to love, support and serve the Japanese church. We are also compelled to love and serve the people of Japan who do not yet know our precious Lord as Savior.

“We are humbled to heed the call to this ministry, where it is the desire of God's heart for those who do not yet know Him to finally hear His voice and say, **Yes, Lord. I will follow You!** ☐

## MINISTRY IN JAPAN

Ed and Toby Thomas joined Japan Mission as full-time mission workers in January 2024 from Houston, Texas.

After a short time in language school, they started to serve in the **English Evangelism Program**. They have had the opportunity to share the Word and God's love with many through this ministry. **Pray** for wisdom and strength for Ed and Toby, and that the students would come to a full knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Because of Ed's previous work, he has built up an extensive network of friends who are medical professionals and business people in various parts of Japan. He has had regular opportunities to cultivate these relationships and witness to them. **Pray** that the Holy Spirit would move in their hearts.

The Lord moved in Ed and Toby's hearts to develop a **Hospitality Ministry**. God has provided them with access to a three-bedroom apartment, a four-bedroom house and a garden, complete with a pizza oven and BBQ facilities — where they invite many to relax and experience Christian hospitality.

This Hospitality Ministry recently took on an added dimension with the addition of a new **Homestay Ministry**. Many are invited to spend extended periods of time to experience daily Christian living and hospitality, while being immersed in a different culture where people converse mostly in English.

Brochures have been made and short-term visitors of all ages are coming. This outreach has provided unique opportunities to share the Gospel with many.

**Pray** that people would be receptive to the Gospel and that the seeds of God's Word would be fall on **good soil** and flourish.

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## PRAY FOR THE THOMAS FAMILY

Ed and Toby are proud parents of three adult children: Kyle (27), Chase (26) and Amanda (22). They are all three employed in the USA.

Kyle was recently married to Alyssa (27) and they are expecting their first child. **Pray** for a safe delivery.

**Pray** that God would bless and protect their children as Ed and Toby serve the Lord in Japan.