Wayne and Miho Jansen

A glimpse at what your support made possible:

I (Wayne) was blessed to be able to travel to the Hokuriku region of Japan to speak at four churches in October. Hokuriku was hit by a magnitude 7.6 earthquake on January 1, 2024. A church in Wajima there was completely destroyed, and many residents of the community were forced to leave their homes and flee to other parts of Japan due to economic reasons. So many young adults and their children have left the area, whose population was already in decline, in order to make a living elsewhere. Many of the remaining residents are elderly, and are now living in temporary housing units since the country is slow at rebuilding the community. Two years have passed since the tragic event.

Neighborhood Shrine

Memorial Service at grave for missionaries

Your support, both in prayer and financial contributions, made it possible for me to take this journey to bring the message to the people of our partner churches in Hokuriku, who are experiencing the collapse of their communities. I shared that God has not forgotten them and that you and Tokyo Union Theological Seminary are remembering them and supporting them as they work to live out their calling as Christians in communities that are mostly Buddhist or Shinto.

As a missionary teaching Clinical Pastoral Care, classes at the seminary always present me with many opportunities to encourage students that we all are part of the same fellowship, bringing the gospel of Christ to the world together. In a land with few Christians, seminarians and ministers can easily feel alone, but the presence of a missionary shows them that there are Christians and churches across the seas who are constantly remembering them in prayer.

In March 2026, 12 seminarians will graduate from our seminary and be sent to various churches across Japan. Because of the partnership that you and we have with them, they will be able to bring the gospel to people in Japan who are thirsty for the gift of eternal life that only God can provide.

I continue to lead a Pastoral Care Practicum at Salvation Army facilities for elderly and disabled individuals. This has been a great program for seminary students as they learn first-hand how to minister to people with challenges, and learn about themselves and how God has called them to be God's servants.

Challenges of 2025

Challenges we faced in the past year and continue to face are in discerning how to minister in Christian schools, and foster cooperative relationships with them. Many Christian schools have fewer and fewer Christian teachers. Miho continues to teach at Ferris Girls' School in Yokohama that was founded by Reformed Church in America missionaries. The school still recognizes its Christian values as a top priority in its constitution, but it is increasingly difficult to make those values understood to new teachers who are not from Christian backgrounds.

Salvation Army Officer Academy

Wayne has been able to preach at chapel services in several Christian schools and is welcomed by Christian faculty of those schools, but it is challenging to keep the message focused on what the faculty and students need to do to put Christian values of love into practice. Wayne was really blessed to be invited to preach at the Christmas worship at St. Christopher's University in Hamamatsu, a school that trains young people to become nurses. Hamamatsu was the first place we were assigned as missionaries in Japan in 1994, so it was exciting to see how the school had grown. The fact that most faculty and students are not Christian makes it a challenge to know how to relay the core of the gospel to the 600 students and professors who attended the worship, but we know that the Holy Spirit works in ways that we cannot imagine.

Preaching at St. Christopher's University

As we see our world becoming increasingly unchurched, knowing how to bring the precious message of Christ's love and forgiveness to people who are not necessarily interested in religion is a task that only God's Spirit can do through us. This is why this ministry matters!

Please Pray

Pray that we will know how to reach the hundreds of nonbelievers in schools where we teach and preach who are economically blessed, but who suffer from loneliness and low self-esteem.

Pray for the Clinical Pastoral Practicum to help students find their identities as individuals called to bring Christ to the residents of Salvation Army facilities, and as future ministers in the United Church of Christ in Japan.