

Sapporo, Japan

Sapporo Garden
Church (SGC)

Trip date:
8 - 16 June 2024



Christians represent roughly 1-1.5% of the country, but only 0.5% of the country are evangelical. (Many churches are leaderless and not reported, so it is hard to get an accurate count. Other counts put the total closer to 86% as well).

Demographics of Christians in Japan

Within most churches, members are predominantly over the age of 60 or mothers. Young men, especially professionals, are one of the most unreached parts of the Japanese population.

What is Christianity facing in Japan?

Many people outside the church may be familiar with Christianity but lack a clear understanding of its essence. There's a common misconception associating it with 1500s Catholicism or various cults, leading to skepticism. While hostility is rare, there's a prevalent sense of distrust or wariness.

Within the church, there's a notable shortage of workers and a leadership age crisis. The average age of pastors in Japan is around 67-70 years old. Unfortunately, stories abound of passionate young leaders facing burnout or being pushed out due to conflicts with older leaders. Japan is often referred to as a "missionary graveyard" because of similar challenges faced by missionaries, making it difficult to engage the younger generation.





Finding new purpose/value in work, and healthy teaching on rest and celebration (and hope) in Christ. Good branding can help draw people in, and experience how church is drastically different from false preconceptions, and how transformative the Gospel is to their lives. Experiencing a truer and more sincere community with believers. Finding acceptance in Christ, when so many feel they can never measure up to expectations placed on them by family and society.

What are the cultural pathways to the gospel?

Overwork, distrust of religious groups, consumerism, age-gap between those in church/leading churches and people trying to be reached. Like in most modernized nations, Christianity also battles a culture of intellectualism that views Christianity (and religion generally) with a great deal of scepticism.

What are the cultural barriers to the gospel?



Ministry photo: sunday service

Culture of Japan



Japanese culture has a strong emphasis on community harmony, as well as respect and honouring of elders. Most Japanese have great concern over how they are viewed by others. It has some historical religious underpinning, but most people are non-religious in practice. There is a strong sense of needing to work hard and finding personal value in one's work, but this often comes with people being overworked and having no sense of purpose or hope for the future, especially young people

Ministry Photos

Morning devotional ministry for professionals before they go for work



Water baptism service



Ministry activities for the trip

- Singapore culture night to engage the locals for evangelism.
- Teach the English language to locals.
- Prayer walk in the city.
- Visit a village church plant.
- Run a work and bible seminar which includes faith at work.



Registration
QR-code for
Sapporo, Japan
8 - 16 June

Estimated Trip Cost:
\$1,918

Looking for a team of
8 - 10 people

INTERESTED?

CONTACT US!

Contact No.:

9055 5586

Email:

daltone.tan@agape.org.sg

