

Japan's
forgotten
millions



Yellow areas have no church yet.

For more detail check the website which contains maps for each prefecture showing all these remaining unchurched communities.

Why we use pre-Heisei Amalgamation data: over the last decade Japan went from having 1800 unchurched cities, towns, and villages to only 600. This did not happen because of a large number of churches! It was a statistical side effect of municipal mergers.

In order to accurately portray the unreached sectors of Japan, RJCPN tracks church presence/absence based on municipal boundaries from before the Heisei Amalgamation.

RJCPN's Vision Statement

The vision of the Rural Japan Church Planting Network (RJCPN) is the presence of a lasting local gospel witness in each of the unchurched rural areas throughout Japan so that the maximum number of rural Japanese now and in future generations have a meaningful opportunity to come into relationship and continue to walk with God in this life and for all eternity as disciples of Jesus.

RJCPN's Mission Statement

The mission of RJCPN is to facilitate the reaching of Japan's URAs via:

- prayer and worker mobilization
- awareness building
- data research and sharing
- idea exchange
- mutual encouragement
- collaboration with diverse approaches

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To reach
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Rural Japan
Church Planting Network
(RJCPN)

Why Rural Japan?

ALL unchurched communities remaining in Japan are in rural areas. 34 million people—27% of Japan's population—live in rural areas. There are 1500 rural communities of 3000 to 50,000 population still without a single church. That's 14 million people living in Unchurched Rural Areas (URAs). Yet little outreach is occurring in such communities even though most are within 1 hour of an established church. Many prefectures have a very high proportion of such unchurched rural areas relative to the number of missionaries and churches present within them.

This can change in our generation if we:

- Mobilize new laborers from within Japan and abroad
- Involve more current missionaries and Japanese churches in rural outreach

Serving Jesus in rural Japan is not easy. It is pioneering work in hard soil in a difficult field. The need is great and the laborers are few, but Jesus hasn't forgotten rural Japan.

What can you do?

Become a Prayer Warrior for Rural Japan

Wherever you are, you can pray:

- for Jesus to send people and resources
- for the spread of the gospel
- for convicting and saving
- for an enduring gospel witness

Become a Missionary to Rural Japan

Will you respond to this need? Is God asking you to go to the forgotten areas of rural Japan?

Become a Partner to a Rural Church.

As an individual or as a church, you can partner to assist an existing rural church to encourage them and provide resources to reach out to neighboring towns. Often there are existing connections that are waiting for resources to follow up on.

Regularly Assist an Existing Rural Church Plant

You can help an existing rural church plant by going as a helper or bringing short-term teams from further away.

Adopt an Unchurched Rural Area

As an individual or an established church, consider adopting a URA. Go for a prayer walk. Distribute literature. Do a special outreach event once a year. Pray regularly.

