

# ASKING POINT

Network

*He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just.  
A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He. Deut. 32:4*

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## People Living with Disabilities:

### One of the Largest Under-Reached Groups in the World

*"When you give a dinner or a supper, do not ask your friends, your brothers, your relatives, nor rich neighbors, lest they also invite you back, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just." Luke 14:12*



Jesus displayed compassion to all in need, and as the passage in Luke indicates, he requires of us to do the same. Looking at the U.S. as one global example, it is estimated that there are 49 million people living with disabilities. Only a small percentage attends a church. Additional statistics reveal that the unemployment rate among the disabled is 63% and that 2.3 million disabled people are institutionalized. It is also true that the abortion rate of unborn children with disabilities has escalated in the last three years; that issues of abuse, alienation, and depression are common among this population; and that a large percentage of families with a disabled member experience divorce.

## **ASK FOR:**

### **SALVATION**

- **Pray that every means will be used to make the gospel accessible to people with disabilities.** *2 Peter 2:9, John 3:16, John 10:10*
- **Pray for them to experience joy and hope in their salvation.** *Romans 15:13, Jeremiah 29:11, Ephesians 2:10*

### **THE CHURCH**

- **To have a heart of compassion to see people with disabilities as God sees them.** *Matthew 9:36, Psalm 86:15, Isaiah 58:10*
- **To have a heart of inclusion and integration.** Even when churches have made some provision for people with disabilities, the people are still often isolated and are not invited to become a fully integrated member of the body through service and ministry opportunities. Pray that every person's unique gifts will be honored and given an outlet for expression. *1 Corinthians 12:18-27*
- **To have a heart of service.** Pray for churches to have **Sunday School classes** for children with special needs. Many families cannot attend church together, or not at all, because their children cannot attend regular classes. *Matthew 19:14* There is a tremendous need for the church to minister to **the primary caregivers and family members** of people with disabilities. **Strengthening marriages, providing respite, and remembering the needs of siblings** are all areas to pray for. *Isaiah 35:3-5, Galatians 6:2* Pray for **outreaches that intentionally bring people with disabilities into the life of the church.** *Mark 2:3-5, Luke 14:12-14*

### **WOUNDED WARRIORS**

- **Pray for our soldiers who are returning from war with grave physical and mental injuries.** Pray that they and their families will experience **God's healing and restoration.** *Isaiah 61:1-3*

Visit [www.joniandfriends.org](http://www.joniandfriends.org) to learn more about outreach to those living with disabilities.

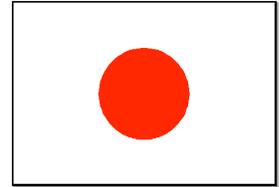
...receive from Him  
anything we ask, because we obey  
His commands and do what pleases Him...

*1 John 3:22*



## Hope of the Nations: JAPAN, Devastated Yet Ripe for the Gospel

*"In His name the nations will put their hope." Matthew 12:21*



### FAST FACTS ABOUT JAPAN

*Population: 127.4 million	*Head of State: Emperor
*Religion: Shinto, Buddhism	*GDP World Ranking: 3 <sup>rd</sup>

There are 23 people groups in Japan and 98.9% of the population is considered unreached. Of the population, 70% are Buddhist, 6% are established in a church, 5% are nominal, and 1.5% are Christian. There are 29 languages and only 10 of these have been translated in to the Bible.

The massive 9.0 earthquake and tsunami, which hit on March 11<sup>th</sup> of this year, brought total devastation. One report stated that, "The quake and tsunami created as much debris and garbage in a few hours as would normally accumulate in the entire country over a quarter of a century." Roughly 24,000 people were killed in northern coastal Japan and half a million people were left homeless. The quake also damaged the Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear plant and the nuclear fuel in three of the reactors has melted through the base of the pressure vessels and is pooling in the outer containment vessels. In the worst case, all of Japan's reactors could be shut down by the middle of 2012. That would take out 30% of the nation's electricity generation and raise the risk of deeper, near-permanent power rationing.

According to the website of *prayforjapan.org*, an outreach of Mission to the Unreached Peoples, there are millions of Japanese people who have never heard the Gospel, never been in contact with a Christian, and never broken the cultural and social barriers to visit a Christian church. The purpose of *prayforjapan.org* is to reach out to these people. Their stated goal is to provide an opportunity for Japanese people to seek out answers to their spiritual questions. The website enables people to explore Christianity from their own home by reading Christian literature, asking questions related to spiritual matters, and requesting additional reading materials. They are hoping to widely publicize the website. Pray that this tool will be used to reach people who may be missed by other means of evangelism.

Mission to Unreached People is working to pursue planting cell churches in the 43 unreached towns and villages. They are traveling to each town to pray and distribute Gospel literature. Their goal for each town is to meet a key contact person to lead at least one person to Christ and to see a church planted. Pray they are able to accomplish that.

*Mission to Unreached Peoples, P.O. Box 30947, Seattle, WA 98113-0947*

### ASK FOR:

- **The 1,700 towns and villages without a single Christian church.** *Matthew 9:38*
- **Japanese Christians who represent only one-third of 1% of the population.** *Acts 9:31*
- **Those who minister as missionaries and pastors in Japan.** *Acts 9:31, Romans 1:11-12*
- **Thousands of Japanese university students who are studying in the U.S.A.** *Luke 24:31, Acts 26:18*
- **The Nagano region, where there are 43 unreached towns and villages with no churches.** *Romans 10:17-18, Mark 10:29*
- **Those who have lost loved ones and homes in the earthquake and tsunami.** *Psalms 107:6, Psalm 147:3, Psalm 40:17*
- **That people will have the opportunity to hear the gospel and come to faith in Christ.** *Isaiah 45:22, Acts 2:47, 1 Timothy 2:4*
- **God's mercy regarding the radiation leaks at the damaged nuclear power plant.** *Isaiah 63:9*
- **Samaritan's Purse, Mission to Unreached Peoples, churches and other Christian organizations ministering there.** *1 Corinthians 1:10, Galatians 6:18, 2 Corinthians 9:12, Philippians 4:19*