

To my beloved friends and family,

Praise God! Praise the Father for His many gifts, not least of all the relationships that I have with all of you! And praise Him for the awesome privilege to share a little about my calling to go to Japan and to invite you to join me in it. Indeed, missions is for all who have received Christ's gift of salvation, and I hope to encourage you to ask God for opportunities in His mission to spread His glory.



Sharing about missions takes me back to my junior year in college. I went on missions to Guatemala for three weeks, and it was one of the most blessing and God-filled experiences of my life. It amazed me to see God's love for the entire world, and to learn He uses even ordinary and flawed people like me. Three weeks flew by - too quick, I felt, to get to know the people, language, and culture of the indigenous Guatemalans. I decided then I wanted to go on a longer trip where I could really become a part of the lives of the people I served.



On missions in Guatemala

Soon after, I began to hear about missions in Japan. But why Japan? Why would anyone need to reach a country with one of the strongest economies, the highest life expectancies and literacy rates, and virtually no poverty? To put it plain and simple, Japan needs to be reached because they do not know God. It is estimated that there are less than 2% Christians in Japan despite having complete freedom of religion. Japan also has one of the highest suicide rates, increasing depression, and a myriad of other social issues hidden beneath the white picket fence façade so important to their culture. More personally, these issues resonated with my own

experiences and heart for those who hide their brokenness behind a happy front. I found I could relate to many of the same struggles that the Japanese face.

Thus, in the last couple of years, what was once a mild interest in the wildly eccentric Japanese culture God somehow turned into a heart for His lost. And it is not just a heart for the lost in Japan. More and more God has been showing me His heart for all His lost. There are people to reach wherever I am in the world be it Philadelphia, Hiroshima, or Timbuktu.

"No one **lights** a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a **bowl**. Instead he puts it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the **light**." Luke 11:33

This is one of the things I really hope to learn and share during my time on missions: how to be missional and live in a way that reflects God's light. To paraphrase Jesus, why would you stick your light under a bowl? His light is meant to shine through us no matter where we are. I don't really know God's plans for my future, but I do know I am called to share His word wherever I am, and I pray you will heed that calling too.

About a year ago, my prayers about missions began to change: God was telling me the time was now. This past summer I joined the missions organization Pioneers, and now I am writing to ask you to partner with Pioneers and me to go to Japan for two years. I am hoping to raise \$11,000 in initial funds and \$3400 in monthly pledges by next spring and depart for Japan in April. Would you consider partnering with me in prayer and finances? And this isn't just about the mission-minded or financially blessed cutting a check. This is about a community of people obeying God's commission to reach the lost to the ends of the earth, and I pray you would answer that call by joining me in an ongoing partnership as a part of my support team. And at the risk of sounding trite, truly what I need most are your prayers. I will not survive without them. Please walk this journey with me.

If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to call or email me. I would love to talk. May God bless you that you would be a blessing!



Gate at Itsukushima Shrine outside of Hiroshima

By the grace of His thoroughly astounding love,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jessica Lee".

Jessica Lee  
jylee14@gmail.com



[www.pioneers.org](http://www.pioneers.org)