

MISSION IN JAPAN

July 2025 | Leuven, Belgium 



MISSION STATEMENT

Art in a culture of silence, friendship in a culture of loneliness, forgiveness in a culture of shame: shining the light of Christ in the Land of the Rising Sun.

NEWS

Dear friends and partners in mission;

Welcome to the first newsletter for the mission in Japan!

It is not easy to describe the enthusiasm and expectation with which I write this text and, thus, initiate the journey we shall walk together in the coming years. As in Luke 8:1-3, we are all called to be a part of Jesus's mission to bring redemption to the ends of the earth. Some go "*on through cities and villages, proclaiming*", others give testimony of the miraculous works of Jesus in their lives, and others "*help support them out of their own means*". As for me, in that for which I have been called, I am only able to obey the commandment to go because I don't go alone, and because the mission . . .

PRAYER REQUESTS

 For the planning: may God continue to orchestrate the chronology, and may everything happen at the right time.

 For the process of being connected to the right team: may I become part of a missionary team that has a vision of ministry that is similar to mine.

 For my learning of Japanese language and culture.

 For the process of fundraising: may God continue to call people to be a part of the mission, and may we cover the remaining 2/3 of the necessary support!

 May God prepare opportunities for me to put my musical skills into practice in Japan.

 May the Holy Spirit continue to act among the Japanese, and may he already be working in the hearts of the people with whom I will someday cross paths.

MISSION IN JAPAN



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is not mine. The mission is from and of Christ, and I know that because he hasn't only called me, but all of you, too! Therefore, thank you for answering that call and for being a part of the very first portuguese evangelical mission in Japan!

recap

On the 4th and 7th of May, IEBPV (my homechurch in Portugal) and MEVIC (the portuguese mission board) decided, in cooperation with IMB, to send me as a missionary to Japan. I shall go as a GMP (Global Missionary Partner), in the context of a program that aims to promote international partnership and cooperation in world missions.

On the 16th of June I successfully presented my final recital and thesis on a Master in Violin Performance, and thus concluded my chapter in Belgium.

status report

Meanwhile, dialogue has been established with an IMB team in Fukuoka that seems to have a similar view of ministry to mine. This team was searching for new members, and there is a chance that I might join them. The main question, for now, is regarding my visa. IMB leaders are trying to mobilize the possibility of GMPs having their visas sponsored by local japanese churches, but that process may take a while. The next best option is to obtain, in the first two years, a language learning visa.

FUN FACTS

 The Portuguese were the first westerners to arrive in Japan (1543).

 The last portuguese missionaries to be sent to Japan were the jesuites at the end of the XVI century.

 During the Tokugawa Period (1603 to 1868), Japan banned Christianity and only came to affirm religious freedom in 1889.

Fukuoka is a harbor city in the southernmost of the 4 main islands of Japan.



UPCOMING

OCTOBER 2025: practical training for missions with IMB in Lisbon.

2026: Lord willing, I go sometime between the beginning of the year and the first week of June.



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Be it for the purpose of a visa or not, taking on a Japanese language course will be one of the first steps upon arrival in the field. It will guarantee a better and quicker immersion in the culture and will grant me credibility to build bridges among Japanese people. That is why in the fundraising process we are already taking into account the necessary amount to join a language school for 2 years: around 15.000€. To apply, it will be necessary to prove, upfront, access to that entire amount, which is why we already need to have it when I arrive in Japan.

For this reason, I would like to invite you, those whom the Lord may have called to participate financially, to initiate your donations as soon as it is possible for you (for instance, in September), and thus already begin to directly contribute to the advancement of this missionary project!

scenes from the next episodes

My next step is to return to Terceira island, Azores, and, as I continue to have private Japanese lessons and to educate myself on the country's culture, proceed with the fundraising.

In that sense, I am amazed by the ways in which the Lord provides and extremely grateful to all those who have already made a commitment to

support. Even before I had begun the fundraising process, I could already count on 1/3 of my monthly target, and meanwhile more individuals and churches have demonstrated interest in participating.

Philippians 4:18 describes the offerings which contribute to missionary livelihood as *"a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God"*, and our prayers are described the same way in Psalms 141:2.

In deep gratitude for all the ways in which you all have already accompanied this mission and will continue to do so, I make for you the same prayer Paul made for the Philippians (4:19): *"my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus!"*



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SENDING REBECA ROXO COUTO AS A MISSIONARY



HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

This mission is **partly supported by International Mission Board** (10%), and will depend on **churches** and **individuals** around the world who might be called to partner up and contribute financially. Since **MEVIC** is the primary sending organization, **all donations must be sent their way.**

The high cost of living in Japan and the limited visa options raise the expenses of this mission to an estimated one-time initial investment of 10.000€ and, then, a yearly budget of around 45.000€. In other words, the monthly fundraising goal for the first 2 to 3 years is of 4.000€.

This mission already has supporters guaranteeing 1506€/month. We are at 37% of the goal!



4.000€/month

ONE-TIME EXPENSES
10.000€
STUDENT VISA
15.000€
TRIP BACK TO EUROPE
3.000€/year
MONTHLY EXPENSES
3.200€/month

MEVIC sends out receipts for every donation, which must contain the following description:

Rebeca Couto JAPAN

MEVIC
secretaria@mevic.pt
IBAN: PT50 0035 0653 00001351930 05

IF YOU FEEL CALLED TO BE A PART OF THIS MISSION THROUGH FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION...

You can join this mission by giving a one-time gift or becoming a regular supporter. Any amount is an immeasurable blessing and will contribute to the advancement of the Gospel in Japan.

MEVIC is a Portuguese organization. To avoid international bank fees, you might prefer to do a single transfer, or to donate yearly instead of monthly.

To get a donation receipt, send an email to **secretaria@mevic.pt** indicating your NAME, CHURCH, PHONE NUMBER and TAX ID NUMBER. Your personal data will not be used for any other purposes.