

MISSION IN JAPAN



November 2025 | Terceira island, Azores 

NEWS

Dear friends and partners in mission,

Welcome to the second newsletter regarding the mission in Japan! Our number keeps growing, and more and more people in Portugal and across the world have committed to following, supporting and praying for missions in Japan. In Luke 10:2, Jesus tells his disciples: *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest."* If we can trust Jesus's words, then there is a harvest that's ready, waiting for us, and the only problem is that there aren't enough workers for how much there is to harvest. As an answer to many prayers, God is sending me, but he is also sending you all. Thank you for responding to this call and for making yourselves workers by my side!

recap

After a few weeks of rest, I spent the months of September and October in training: as a GMP (Global Missionary Partner), I received a training called "IMMERSION" provided by IMB and JMM

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.

SHARING IN CHURCHES

Since July, presentations about the mission in Japan have been warmly welcomed in the following churches:

-  Evangelical Baptist Church of São Brás de Alportel
-  Evangelical Church in Olarias Meeting Point (Estoril)
-  Joyful News Evangelical Church (Terceira island)
-  New Life Baptist Church (São Domingos de Rana)
-  Christian Embassy in Carcavelos
-  Evangelical Baptist Church in Pinhal Novo
-  Bridge (Parque das Nações)

It's an honor to count on all your partnerships in a mission that surpasses us all!



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(World Missions Board, Brazil). It was two months of intensive training for pioneer missions, church planting, evangelism and discipleship: an extremely transforming and encouraging time. I have been equipped for life and am still processing the excitement of that experience!

One of the main prayer requests in the last newsletter was for my connection to an IMB team that's already in Japan and of which I can become a part when I arrive on the field. Conversing and praying with two teams, one in Fukuoka and another in Osaka, revealed that those weren't the cities God was leading me to for now. However, on the second weekend of November, a new window opened up.

status report

After gathering more information about me, a team in Yokohama reached out. We made a videocall and realized we have the same ministry vision and philosophy. The team leaders said they had been praying about the possibility of receiving a new member with my description, and that, now, after having met me, they felt comfortable taking the next steps to welcome me into the team. I shared the positive impression and am now in the process of meeting the remaining members of the team. If everything continues to go well, we shall begin to

SHARING IN PINHAL NOVO



IMMERSION

The IMMERSION training prepared me to **bring the gospel** to the lost with more sensitivity, boldness and cultural relevance, to **initiate and nurture** Christ- and Scripture-centered **communities**, to help groups of new believers **become healthy** and autonomous **churches** and to **train other leaders** to embrace and reproduce these same ministries.



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make more concrete plans regarding a visa and a trip to go.

Until then, it's important to continue to invest in sharing about the mission. We're about to reach 50% of the fundraising target, which is great news for a period of merely 4 months! I have realized, however, that my mission to Japan isn't only over there, but here in Portugal, too: I am being used by God to help brothers and sisters in Portugal reignite a more missionary, more international, more generous and bolder vision. Again, the problem with the harvest is not the field, but rather the workers – that is, the lack thereof!

scenes from the next episodes

Meanwhile, IMB invited me for a missionary opportunity in Senegal. It will be 19 days in December, all expenses paid, to do pre-missionary research about a community of Portuguese speakers there which are believed to be unreached by the gospel. After praying about it and seeking advice, I decided to take this valuable and unique chance to serve in a pioneer mission. It will be an excellent missions' field experience, both to prepare me to go to Japan and for IMB to get to know me better as a missionary.

Accepting this opportunity required, however, refusing a safe and stable job

PRAYER REQUESTS

-  For health as well as physical and spiritual protection in the missionary trip to Senegal.
-  For my continued learning of the Japanese language.
-  That more people may answer the call to be a part of this mission through generosity, so that the fundraising targets are met in the first half of 2026.
-  That God may send more workers to his harvest in Japan, be it those who go through prayer and financial support, be it those who physically go there.



RECOMMENDED!

This 45' video offers a deep and accurate presentation about the spiritual state of Japan:

<https://bit.ly/hard-to-reach>





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offer to teach the violin in Terceira island. I understood clearly that God was giving me two options: to pick a path where I have the illusion of control and predictability, or to pick a path where I will have to trust God completely for each cent, each step and each minute. A couple of missionary friends put it this way: *“The mission itself is already worth the risk of not having a stable job, but the very chance to trust God in a new way and see how he will act in your life when you deliver everything to him will also be worth much more than any job offer.”*

In faith, I felt led to embrace God’s calling for me in this season of life wholly, heart and soul, and, thus, to “dive head first” in the missionary route. Until I reach Japan, I will be serving full-time in Terceira island, applying “first in Jerusalem” everything I learned in the IMMERSION.

The times ahead will demand a lot of courage and full trust in God’s providence, but only those who put their feet outside the boat will get to experience walking on water. And what a privilege it is to be used in this way! *“To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.”* (Ephesians 3:8)

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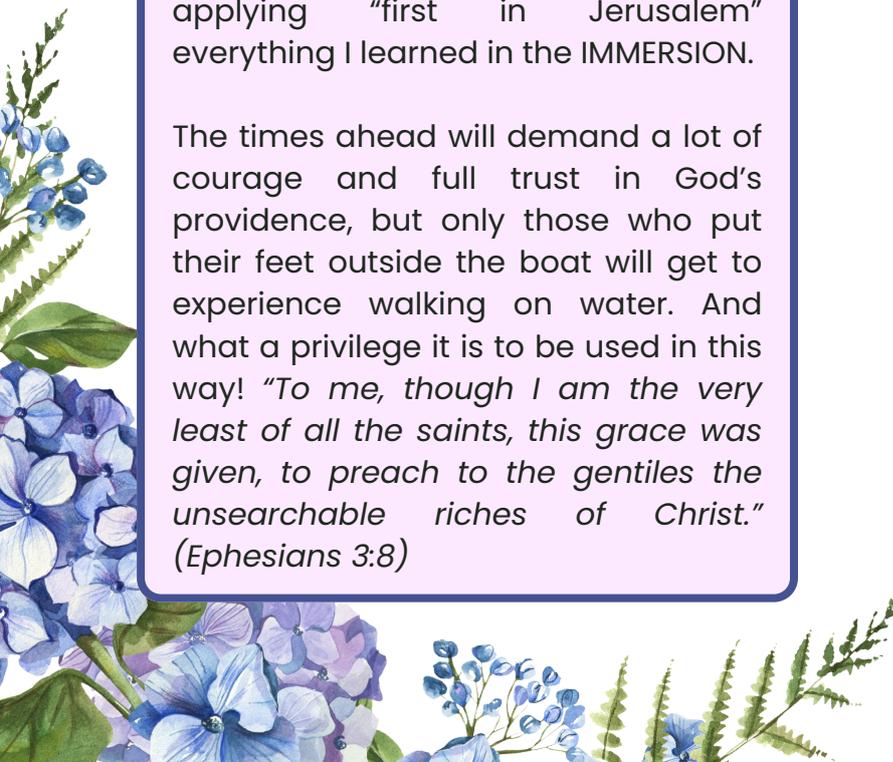


That God may continue to call more people and, in particular, more portuguese believers to get involved in international missions – both in Japan and in so many other places that the Gospel has yet to reach.

RECEIVE LIVE UPDATES FROM THE MISSION IN JAPAN!



JOIN THE WHATSAPP COMMUNITY.



MISSION IN JAPAN

SENDING REBECA ROXO COUTO AS A MISSIONARY

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE?

This mission receives a **ministry aid from IMB** and is, otherwise, **entirely fundraised**.

We're getting closer to the target! In this month's newsletter there's **more information regarding the budget**: check it out in the following pages!

This mission already has supporters guaranteeing 1971€/month. We are at 49% 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

MB Way: 912479395

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.

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SENDING REBECA ROXO COUTO AS A MISSIONARY

BUDGET

The following budget, which has been adapted to my case, is based on the budget of a taiwanese GMP who recently trod a path similar to what I will likely undertake. He lived in Tokyo and the expenses reflect a calculation for the worst-case scenario.

INITIAL EXPENSES (ONE-TIME)	Trip to go	€3.000	} €2.860/month
	Furniture; insurances; security deposit; others	€7.000	
	Language learning visa	€15.000	
MONTHLY EXPENSES	Rent	€900	
	Utilities	€200	
	Groceries	€400	
	Transportation	€150	
	Ministry & leisure	€250	
	Unforeseen expenses	€100	
	Portuguese Social Security	€370	
	MEVIC fee	€370	
	Retirement plan	€120	
YEARLY EXPENSES	1 month trip to Portugal (vacation/visiting supporters)	€3.000	
	Portuguese insurance; others	€1.000	

Total budget for the first 3 years: €139.960

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ABOUT THE BUDGET questions & answers

Is Japan really that expensive?

Yes, Japan is an expensive country for residents. However, the total budget for the first 3-year contract is especially high because it includes the tuition for language learning and a calculation of monthly expenses counting on a worst-case scenario. The **total budget of €139.960** results in a **gross amount of €3.887/month**. After the first 3 years, if there is a decision to remain on the field for longer, the budget will be recalculated.

What happens to my donations?

What is the "MEVIC fee"?

MEVIC acts as the missionary's employer entity, receiving every donation and transferring them to the missionary in the form of a **monthly salary**. MEVIC collects a 10% contribution from every donation to cover for administrative expenses, and **each cent** of the remaining 90% is sent **directly and exclusively to the mission in Japan**. If at any point my expenses on the field go beyond my monthly pay, as a MEVIC missionary I may always request the transfer of a specific amount from my fund in the MEVIC treasury. It is of utmost importance to indicate **"Rebeca Couto JAPAN"** on each donation's description so that there is no mistake regarding the amount of funds I have available.

If the final budget is €3.887/month, why is the fundraising target €4.000/month?

Both MEVIC and IMB's leaderships, as well as other mentors and missionaries who advised the composition of this budget, **recommended** that the monthly fundraising target be **rounded up** to €4000/month because, in their experience, **donations won't always be consistent**. Not every partner will be able to meet their commitment every month for 3 years, for which MEVIC needs leeway to deliver my salary regardlessly of variations in the influx of donations.



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SENDING REBECA ROXO COUTO AS A MISSIONARY

ABOUT THE BUDGET questions & answers

How long will the mission last?

With the GMP program, I will sign an **initial contract for 2 to 3 years** with the IMB. After that, the situation will be reevaluated and the contract **may or may not be renewed**. The Japanese culture is hard to penetrate and it typically takes at least 2 to 3 years before one begins to establish relationships of trust, which is why, while it is still open, a scenario where I need more time on the field and must continue fundraising is still on the table.

This mission already has supporters guaranteeing 1971€/month. We're at 49% of the goal!



4.000€/month

Have any more questions about the budget?

Send them by email and I'll reply individually or on the next newsletter!

