



- NEWSLETTER iii -

# MISSION IN JAPAN

May 2026 | Azores, Portugal ♀



## EWS

Dear friends and partners in mission;

**Welcome to the third newsletter for the Mission in Japan** – the last one to be sent out before going to the mission field!

I'm less than a month away from my arrival in Japan. This journey began 9 years ago when I decided to learn Japanese as nothing more than a hobby. Today, it is thanks to your partnership in prayer, friendship and financial support that I can confidently say the time has



*The Life We Lost...*

## RECOMMENDED!

*This video by a Japanese man speaks about one of the "dark sides" of Japanese culture that make Japan an*

because I witness the way God not only calls me, but calls you to go with me that today I have the unshakable certainty that this mission does not belong to us, but to the Lord, and that's why *"I am certain that God, who began the good work within [us], will carry it on to completion until the day when Christ Jesus returns."* (Philippians 1:6).

### recap

Here are the things that happened since the last newsletter!

- I got to know the IMB missions team in Yokohama a little better, and we formalized the decision for me to integrate it!
- I spent 19 challenging and edifying days on mission in Senegal.
- I spent my last Christmas with my whole family before moving to the other side of the world.
- I ran across continental Portugal and Spain to share about the mission in Japan with many new churches and longtime friends, and even play a few fundraising concerts.
- I had the opportunity to share about the mission on multiple podcasts, radio and TV shows, as well as on the 2026 Portuguese Evangelical Forum.
- The mission in Japan gained new partners in prayer and financial support, and we crossed the 80% mark on the fundraising process.
- The missionary contracts between MEVIC, IMB and myself were signed, officially making me a Global Missionary Partner and member of the Yokohama team. My job description is "Church Planter"!
- My request for a Working-Holiday Visa was immediately accepted on the first try, and I got the Visa within 7 days.

attractive country for tourists but a harsh place for those who live there.

### FUN FACT

JP During the Tokugawa Period, when Christians were persecuted in Japan, the Japanese came up with a way to practice their faith in hiding. It was called *Kakure Kirishitan* and veiled faith in Christ behind apparently Buddhist rituals. In 1865, on the country's transition into religious freedom, around 30,000 *Kakure Kirishitan* "emerged from the shadows" in Nagasaki.



### MISSION

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

affordable price, and available for reservation from abroad – a rare opportunity that showed up exactly at the right time!

- I bought my ticket – I will arrive in my new city on the 3rd of June!

### status report

The funniest thing is that, after 8 years of praying, waiting and preparing, the 6 last points on the list above all happened within the span of 3 weeks.

At the moment, I'm on Terceira island, in final preparations and goodbyes before my departure.

Plans to be carried out in Japan are starting to be put down on my calendar, and things begin to feel very real.

Likewise, reaching 100% of the required mission funds becomes increasingly urgent. For the first 3 years of mission to be carried out free of obstacles and anxiety, I must raise the final €750/month. Dear reader and partner in mission, if you don't yet support this mission financially, would you consider doing so?

### scenes from the next episodes

- **May 24th: COMMISSIONING SERVICE** at my sending church, at 11:30 (AZOST, GMT+0). This service will be transmitted on a videocall, and friends near and far can share a word of prayer or encouragement, live or by recording a short video to be played at the service. Reach out if you'd like to join!
- **June 1st: DEPARTURE** from Portugal
- **June 3rd: ARRIVAL** in Japan

During the month of May I shall finish my JLPT N5 studies (a level equivalent to A1) with my luso-japanese teacher, and pack my bags. On the 1st of June, God willing, I will be headed toward the Land of the Rising Sun.



### FUN FACT

JP Even the foreign exchange rates lined up in favor of this mission, and one day in April the Holy Spirit prompted me to convert into Yen some of the funds that have already been set aside for the mission. With a quick search, I soon discovered that that very day was the day when the Yen was the weakest against the Euro since this currency was created in 1999.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

🌸 That more people decide to be a part of this mission through financial support.

🌸 For physical, mental and spiritual health in this stage of moving, long travels and adapting to a new place.

🌸 For an easy entry into Japan, especially with my violin, which must be declared in customs.

Japan Cluster Meeting: a conference with all IMB missionaries in Japan, which only happens once every 4 years. I'll be able to meet most of my mission board's workers on that field and hear about what they've been doing; how their ministry has been faring in Japan.

On this going, I bring with me every prayer, hug, and word of encouragement that has been shared with me in the last months, and I will not last long without your friendship and continued support. A new chapter is opening up; the journey has thus far been long and rich, but this story has only just begun!

For my learning of the language.

That I'll make friends in Japan and successfully integrate a few social groups where I can witness for Christ!

### FUN FACT

JP Portugal has never sent an evangelical missionary to Japan. That is about to change!



ar i g a t o u   g o z a i m a s u

ありがとうございます！

o s e w a   n i n a r i m a s u

お世話になります！

*Thank you so much!  
I gratefully rely on your care!*



*Rebeca Roxo Couto*





We're at 80% of the target!



This mission needs  
**+ €750/MONTH TO HAPPEN.**

That could be...

- 150** partners giving **€5** per month,
- 75** partners giving **€10** per month,
- 15** partners giving **€50** per month, or
- 7** partners giving **€107** per month.

**CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE IN THIS WAY?**

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CONTRIBUTING](#)

## MEVIC

IBAN: PT50 0035 0653 00001351930 05

TRANSACTION NOTE: Rebeca Couto JAPAN

MEVIC sends out receipts for every donation. To receive yours, send an email to [secretaria@mevic.pt](mailto:secretaria@mevic.pt) indicating your NAME, PHONE NUMBER and TAX ID NUMBER. Your personal data will not be used for any other purposes.

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