



Shan Reed Mobilization Director



Shan was raised in South Dakota in a family rooted deeply in God. Growing up going to church almost every time the doors were open, Shan had many opportunities to observe God's family as the body of Christ working to share Jesus' love in their church, in their families, and in their community. These experiences led her to acknowledge Jesus as her Savior and to be baptized when she was 10 years old at her home church, West Center Baptist Church in Madison, South Dakota.

Years of Sunday school, youth group, VBS, and youth camps, along with modeling from her parents, gave Shan a solid foundation in her faith. During this time of faith development, her family invited students from Japan to stay in their home during a summer English study program. Learning about Japan from these students opened her eyes to an amazing world. (Can you think of anything more opposite of South Dakota than Tokyo, Japan?!) It was during her junior high and high school years when God began to develop in Shan the desire to go to Japan someday.

After teaching elementary school in Texas for five years, God called Shan to explore missions in Japan. In 1996, Shan quit her teaching job and moved to Tsu, Japan, for a two-year, defined-term mission assignment. Shan felt at home right away upon arriving in Japan, where her love for serving Jesus grew as she taught English and Bible classes and helped to start a new bilingual worship service with the other missionaries in Tsu.

Shan returned to the US to attend seminary in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, at North American Baptist Seminary (now Kairos), with the intention of returning to Japan upon graduation. She then spent the next 25 years in Japan, serving in various Japanese churches of the Japan Baptist Conference, helping to plant a church, teaching Bible classes in Japanese and English, and getting to know people in the community through participating in a Gospel choir in her neighborhood and spending time with new friends in her condominium complex. One of the joys of her ministry was helping with the youth ministry of the Japan Baptist Conference.

In 2023, God surprised Shan by calling her to return to the US. After some time of wrestling with God about this, she relented and prepared to return to South Dakota. As she prayed about what ministry God might have planned for her, she noticed there were very few young adults moving overseas to become missionaries. With this thought planted in her heart, she boarded a plane in 2025 to move to a new country.

Shan started in her new role as director of mobilization in September 2025, upon the request of the Vice President for International Missions and the Executive Director of the NAB. She now serves the churches of the NAB by inspiring, educating, and activating God's people into their specific and important role in the Great Commission.

Birthday: September 7

Life Verse: Hebrews 10:24

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