

## Paul and Melissa Ewing

Church Planters and Field Director in Japan



Paul grew up in a Christian home, accepted Jesus and was baptized at a young age. As Paul grew spiritually God gifted him with an outgoing personality and a desire to help others. While attending Crystal Springs Jr. High camp Paul was challenged to use his gifts for the Lord. Since he always loved science and helping others he thought God was leading him to pursue a career in Medicine. Later in life and after much prayer and discernment, God revealed to Paul that he never asked God how he was to use his gifts. It was at this time God lead him to seminary to get his Master of Divinity to help people spiritually instead of physically. While pursuing medicine Paul always felt he would use his gifts in Foreign Service and while at seminary he knew he wanted to help others who had not heard about God come to know Him. He felt God calling him to fulfill the Great Commission by going to the utter ends of the Earth. Thus began a time of prayer and discernment as Paul and Melissa looked at the NAB fields to see where God was calling them to use their gifts.



Melissa is the youngest in her family and from a very young age she was able to know and witness the love of God. Her parents divorced while she was very young and she was able to witness the love of God as her home church gathered around her mom and family, supporting them through needed physical gifts, prayers, and emotional support. If the church doors were open her family was there participating. She accepted Jesus and was baptized in her third year of elementary school by Pastor Larry Burd. She feels blessed to have been discipled by the many pastors that were a part of her life while growing up. She studied Elementary Education and had the privilege of teaching in various grades and school settings. She can see how God allowed her many experiences in order to draw on those experiences throughout the years.

Paul and Melissa were married August 14, 1993 and have three sons. Both Paul and Melissa know that it was God who brought them together and that He is their strength. Paul and Melissa were appointed as NAB missionaries in June of 1999 and arrived in Japan April 24, 2001. They arrived just in time to participate in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of NAB work in Japan. The Ewings began their ministry adventure in a small mountain village called, Karuizawa, where they spent two years learning the Japanese language. The language is quite challenging and they praise God for Paul's gift of language and being able to learn quickly and preach each week in Japanese. When Paul and Melissa arrived in Japan there were three couples, one single woman, and two short-term missionaries beside themselves. With the passing of time there are now two single missionaries beside Paul and Melissa. Paul has been the field director since 2010, when he took over from Doug Woyke.

Paul wears many hats as he leads the mission, plants a church, coordinates with the Japan Baptist Conference and sits on various boards and committees. His days are full and we praise God that he is used daily to advance the Kingdom. Melissa is still working on learning Japanese on the heart level but is thankful that she understands enough to be able to shop and participate in daily life events. Her days are spent managing the household and teaching English classes. Paul and Melissa are often asked how long they will be in Japan and they share that God called them here and until He changes that call they will remain. They know that they can do all things through Christ who strengthens them and that having the privilege to lean on God daily is a humbling experience.

### Birthdays:

Paul: September 4   Melissa: December 2  
Noah: April 20   Jonah: March 6   Elijah: March 11

### Anniversary:

August 14

For more information, visit our website @ [www.nabconference.org](http://www.nabconference.org) or email us at [serve@nabconf.org](mailto:serve@nabconf.org)

# Komyo Christian Church



In 2009 the Komyo Christian Church plant began. At the start it was the Ewing family 5, Shan Reed and three temporary supporters from their sister church, the Kongo Bible Church. The church began meeting in a rented space on the second floor of a business building in February 2009 and its attendance and membership have grown slowly but steadily through the power of the Holy Spirit. The average church membership in Japan is 25 people and it takes multiple times of a person being exposed to the Gospel before they accept Christ. The work is slow but once you experience the joy of seeing a life set free all the hours of prayer and hard work are worth it. We have also seen tremendous growth as members of the church mature in Him. In 2020, the church became an official member of the Japan Baptist Conference and called Mr. Hiroyuki Saijo to be our pastor. As we continue to learn about God's mission here on earth and how we might join in that mission as His church body, the future is full of possibilities.



Please continue to pray that God will draw the people of Japan to Himself. Pray for workers, both missionaries and national pastors to sense His call and commit to working with the wonderful people of Japan. Pray as well that as we trust and follow Him here in Japan, He would provide for our needs.

