

Shan Reed

Evangelism & Discipleship in Japan



Shan Reed 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 ten 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.



University found her studying elementary education in Minnesota followed by a move to Texas, her first cross-cultural experience, for a teaching job after graduation. Five years in Texas built on the solid foundation of her faith through involvement in her local church, First Baptist Church, Copperas Cove, TX, as well as involvement in the school and community. Shan's confidence in Jesus grew, and she began to experience the tug to go to Japan.

Late August of 1996, Shan stepped off the train in Tsu, Japan, excited about the adventure that lay ahead. Without knowing more than twenty words of Japanese or even where her apartment was, she knew she was home. This was the place God had been preparing her to share His love. Two years of teaching English in homes, businesses, and churches whet her appetite for ministry in Japan.

After returning to the U.S., Shan attended North American Baptist Seminary, now Sioux Falls Seminary, and studied Educational Ministries. Then, just weeks before Thanksgiving in 2001, she got back on a plane to return to more adventures in Japan, the first of which was language school in the mountains of Nagano. Shan has lived in Kyoto and Osaka since graduating from language school. Currently she calls Izumi, Osaka home, a suburb of Osaka City. It is a long way from the small town in South Dakota where she grew up, and yet it is right where God has called her to be.

Shan has had the privilege of being on a church planting team with Paul and Melissa Ewing at Komyo Christian Church. The church plant started in 2009 and was accepted as an established church in the Japan Baptist Conference in 2019, calling a Japanese pastor in 2020. She continues to minister at Komyo Church leading Bible studies in English and Japanese, teaching English conversation classes, and, generally, helping with all aspects of church life. Shan also works with Yuri Nakano in the women's ministry at Komyo Christian Church as well as at other Japan Baptist Conference Churches, designing and leading ladies' seminars on spiritual growth. She is also excited about being part of the youth committee for the Japan Baptist Conference and watching the students grow in their faith and love for God. Outside of church Shan enjoys participating in community events and building relationships with those she meets, including ladies from a gospel choir in which she participates and neighbors who live in the same condominium complex. God is at work in Japan as He continues to draw people to himself, leading people to deeper faith in him, and bringing glory and honor to his name.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

Hebrews 10:24

Birthday:
September 7

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