



Becky & Eriya Kato

Becky and Eriya's story is a beautiful tapestry of two cultures and one shared heart for the Japanese people. Becky, raised in Japan by former NAB missionary parents (Bill & Luci Lengefeld), always felt a pull to share the Gospel with the unreached people of Japan. After confirming her calling at NAB College and earning an MA in Religious Studies at Taylor Seminary in Edmonton, Alberta, she dedicated years to leading the Christian Education Center in her hometown of Tsu.

Meanwhile, Eriya—a second-generation Christian from Japan—experienced his own spiritual “awakening” while visiting a church in California in 2000. That moment sparked a God-given dream: to minister to the Japanese diaspora living abroad. After years of preparation through an internship in Florida and ministry in Japan, that dream is finally becoming a reality.

Since marrying in 2014, Becky and Eriya have been serving a church plant and preschool begun by Eriya's parents. Now, they are following a new call to Southern California in the summer of 2026. They are moving to reach the Japanese community in Los Angeles—the second-largest outside of Japan. Statistically, Japanese people are 70% more open to the Gospel when living abroad, and Becky and Eriya plan to connect with this unique population through creative outreach—collaborating with local churches in hosting English groups, cultural events, and a vibrant mix of Gospel music and freestyle cyphers—while deepening faith through bilingual Bible studies.

They aren't making the move alone! Joining them are their three energetic children, who are currently busy mastering the world of Pokémon and preparing for their own big adventure.

NAB Church:
Edmonton Japanese Christian
Church (Becky)

Sending Church:
18th Street Church
Sioux Falls, South Dakota



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