



The 18.26 Network

A New Wave of Missions

Fall 2019 Newsletter

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Lives of not-yet-believers are being touched in Chile, Japan and Hungary by vocational missionaries who live and work in these and other countries. More and more people are contacting us with an interest in vocational missions.

OUR GOAL IS TO SEE CHRIST LIVED OUT IN EVERY VOCATIONAL CONTEXT AROUND THE WORLD.

A Love for Japan

A Vocational Missionary Feature Story

Anna McLendon served in Japan for a couple of years as an intern with MTW. She is now returning as a vocational missionary with the 18.26 Network. She will work with [Community Arts Tokyo](#), a ministry of the MTW Tokyo team, led by Roger and Abi Lowther.



To help you know more about Anna, we interviewed her for this Newsletter.

1. Tell about your interest in Japan and why you want to minister there vocationally.

I've felt a connection to Japanese culture since high school – the language, the mannerisms, the way of life just made sense to me. Not everything, of course – it's still a different culture. But enough of it resonated with me that I felt like these were my people, or they could be. I long to see Japan impacted by Jesus in the same ways I have been.

As for why I want to go vocationally, specifically, there are a lot of reasons. Most generally, vocational missions is a biblical model that seems under-represented and under-supported in the current missions landscape, at least in America. It seems to be a powerful tool that we're letting rust. But I also think vocational missions is a spectacular fit for Japan. For one, Japanese daily life is completely dominated by work, and having a more "normal" vocation makes you seem less alien to the population. You get to bypass the "Oh, you're missionary," effect. For another, Japan is an expensive place and the amount of support missionaries need can be a huge obstacle. Those going vocationally can get to the field faster and have more flexibility once they get there.

2. What will be your work and how will it help the current ministry in Tokyo?

My work will be freelance web design. I anticipate that it will split into two different fronts – websites I do "for business" and websites I do for ministry, especially those in Japan. Different ministries and individuals always need websites and they generally can't spare the time or the money for the web design process. As a freelancer, I'd be able to offer deep discounts and more flexible timelines to those in full-time ministry.

3. What do you think will be the most difficult cross-cultural challenge you will face living/working in Japan?

Meeting people is difficult in Japan. I'll be stationed in downtown Tokyo, the largest city in the world. To begin with, I'm not the most outgoing person. But I would very much like to get to know people in my neighborhood, at coffee shops, in the park. It's going to be hard for me to be brave and forge relationships, but I want to try!

4. What do you think your most rewarding experience will be living/working in Japan?

I love slow-build relationships, moving from acquaintanceship to deep trust. I'm most looking forward to expanding the number of people I consider "family." Also —and this is sort of intertwined — I want to show people a different way of living. A way of beauty without the bitter aftertaste. I know there are so many who avoid thinking about things because it only depresses them, because they don't have any answers. I think in Jesus they can find some answers they haven't heard before.

Anna needs to raise some support for non-salary expenses. [Go here to give to Anna.](#)

A Marriage for One of Our Own

Joyfully we announce the marriage of one of our first vocational missionaries – Karina Legradi. She and Jacob Starnes were married in Budapest, Hungary in August. Their US wedding will be in Texas in December.

Please pray for their marriage and future ministries.



More Missionaries Serving

Give thanks with us that after only 2 years of operation the 18.26 Network has 11 people serving in 7 countries.

So far in 2019 we have had 10 people apply to serve overseas vocationally. We are thrilled with how God is bringing people to us and the growing interest from people and churches in vocational missions.

A Fruitful Trip to Japan in July!

Japan is an example of how national leaders in a country and the missionaries who work there want more vocational missionaries. The MTW country director in Japan invited Carl and Jud to come to Japan so the missionaries and Japanese pastors could learn how vocational missionaries could increase their outreach efforts. In Tokyo alone Jud and Carl met 55 expat workers who fit the profile of a vocational missionary. Several are interested in the 18.26 Network.

We are presently working with Japanese church leaders, several expats and MTW missionaries to sponsor the 18.26 Network Japan. We would like to start a vocational ministry incubator there in order to facilitate many vocational missionaries in one location. Expats need support, a local church and training to work and build relationships with the Japanese people – which will be the main purpose of the vocational ministry incubator.



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Serving people who work, live and minister globally

Our Team: Debbi Beers, Carl Chaplin, Jud and Jan Lamos



Tax-Exempt 501c3 Organization!

Several churches and individuals have given financial gifts to the 18.26 Network through MTW. We are thankful for these financial gifts.

In June we received our tax-exempt approval so financial gifts can now be given directly to the 18.26 Network: [click to support the 18.26 Network ministry.](#)

Two of our vocational missionaries, Anna (see above) and Lance, are raising some support. Give to Lance – [click here to give to Lance.](#)

Pray for 18.26 Missionaries

What can you do to help? When we asked our vocational missionaries and those wanting to serve for their prayer requests, **everyone responded and sent us their urgent prayer requests and concerns.**



We need prayer partners for our members and for those wanting to serve. **Would you commit to pray for people who are currently serving and for those who want to go?**

If so, please click on the link below and we will send you a list of 18.26ers for whom you can pray.

[Click to send an email that you will pray.](#)

- Pray for these 18.26ers to find a job in the country where God has called them to work and to minister: Isaac, Jordan, Bruce and Melissa, JoLynn, Adele, Luke, Travis and Kimberly.
- Pray for Patrick and Courtney and also for Lance as they moved to their new foreign fields of service in September (Lance) and in October (Patrick, Courtney and children).
- Pray for Anna and also for Lance as they are raising partial support so they can serve more effectively in their respective countries of ministry.

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