

# 18.26 Network

## Turning Your Vocation into Mission

*Connecting, Coaching, Caring*

Newsletter – Vol III

June 2019

Spring has been a very fast moving and encouraging time for us! The excitement amongst our vocational missionaries continues as they progress in their service to further Kingdom work. We look forward to this summer as God continues to surprise and encourage us through our Network.

### People Connecting With The 18.26 Network

- **10 people on the field who have gone out through the 18.26 Network**
- **12 people who have applied and are looking for a job and a field to serve**
- **33 people who have contacted us with interest in serving as a vocational missionary**

### Praise

1. Support and encouragement from MTW, churches and individuals.
2. MTW teams and vocational missionaries working well together to advance Kingdom work.
3. Emily's outstanding defense of her dissertation.
4. More missionaries and MTW teams wanting to partner with the 18.26 Network.
5. Jan Lamos' improved health.

### Prayer Requests

1. We have several people interested in serving with teams who need jobs. Pray for them as they seek the jobs that God has for them.
2. Our vocational missionaries on the field and the others who hopefully will go in the next 6 months.
3. Our team as we talk to people who want to go and care for those going or who are on the field.
4. Carl and Becky Chaplin as they represent the 18.26 Network at the PCA General Assembly June 25-28.
5. Jud Lamos and Carl will visit Japan the first two weeks of July as the missionaries there want to have many more vocational missionaries serve in Japan with the MTW teams.
6. Pray for Tim and Emily W. who go to a sensitive country on June 6 and will begin language study.

### Highlighting One of our Vocational Missionaries



**Meet Michael Flayhart!** Michael JUST arrived in Japan in April where he is a graphic artist with Artgrafx, LLC. This is a huge praise and answer to your prayers that we presented to you in February! We asked Michael to share a little bit about his journey to becoming one of our vocational missionaries.

*Tell us a little bit about your journey that brought you to minister vocationally in Japan.* I first visited Japan on a short-term mission trip with my father in 2015 and I still don't exactly know how or why but by the end of the week I really sensed God was calling me to that country and its people. Over the course of the next year, I continued to pray over the possibility of moving to Japan and experienced confirmation as I learned more about the country and the unique struggles and barriers to the gospel faced there. I realized that I could offer myself to be used by God to spread the gospel. My work as a freelance programmer and artist meant I could continue doing that in Japan as well as join a church-planting team in Chiba city. Here I am 4 years later!

*What has been your biggest challenge working vocationally there?* The time difference. I've often had meetings at 11-12 p.m. or 4-5 a.m. in order to accommodate clients in the United States. It's also difficult if something happens in the middle of the day in the U.S. because that's when I'm asleep, so other people have to try to fix things or just put a "band-aid" on it until I wake up.

*What has been your most difficult cross-cultural experience?* In many ways, Japanese culture is the polar opposite of Western culture. That's part of what drew me here in the first place. I felt it would be healthy to learn about the world from an entirely different perspective. That being said, you almost start over as a child here. Especially for someone like me who had never studied the language or culture before, you end up learning many things in the same way as a child—by messing up. So every day is a new lesson in humility and that's a blessing but definitely a constant challenge as well

*What has been your most rewarding experience since moving to Japan?* I'm not sure I can point to a singular moment but I would say the continuing experiences of relationships are the most rewarding. Some of the friends I've made here are very guarded and it's been so cool to see the progression of the relationships to where we can talk openly about life together. As I show interest in the details of people's lives, they naturally begin to show interest in the details of my life, which opens up conversations about Christ in a very organic way, and that's been incredibly rewarding.

If you would like more information about the 18.26 Network, please email us at [info@1826network.com](mailto:info@1826network.com) or go to our web page at [www.1826network.com](http://www.1826network.com).

For His Glory!

### Meetings and Trips

**General Assembly, Dallas, TX, June 25 – 28**  
<https://www.pcaac.org/general-assembly/>

Jud and Carl in Japan, July 1-15

New Covenant PC, Natchez, MS, August 11  
Carl speaks and preaches

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