

# Resonate™

## GLOBAL MISSION

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### Days of blessing

Japan is without a doubt one of the most challenging places in the world to do evangelism & develop churches. Like the society at large, church members are also aging and the population shrinking. Yet we are thankful that we continue to have freedom to spread the Good News, and people do come to faith! But with more than 99% of the nation “unchurched,” there is still a tremendous amount of work to do. We are very pleased to see 4 new building programs going on among the West Saitama group of churches we work with. In April I showed you a ground-breaking ceremony; now I can show you the new chapel!



2 more churches will have ground-breakings this week! Pray with us that the Lord will gather his people in these new houses of worship where the cross is lifted up! And please continue to pray that we can recruit and deploy new workers here. ***This is a very urgent need!***

### Days of grief

As the hours go by, images of the unbelievable destruction left by the recent torrential rains and flooding in western Japan are showing more and more of the damage, and the numbers of dead, missing and displaced persons just keeps going up. At this moment the Japanese national broadcasting system NHK is reporting 130 dead and 64 unaccounted for. Maps will have to be redrawn, as many villages have been washed away or buried in mud. It brings back very painful memories of the tsunami of 2011. Though we and our colleagues are not directly affected by this, we are waiting to see what kind of a response will be mounted and to consider how we can be involved. Stay tuned. I plan to post updates on my Facebook page (go to FB name: Lawrence Spalink).

### Enriching worship: check these sites out!

<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2fTDWmlHCc>>  
<<https://sanbikashi.net/here-i-am-to-worship/>>

One of the strategies for helping churches to be more joy-filled and more effective is worship enrichment. Taking things to a new level and implementing changes is a big challenge, but I believe in this! I am again recruiting a group from Japan who will attend the annual worship symposium in Michigan. I have 6 so far and need 3 more! This year I am helping Kamifukuoka Reformed Church, where I work the 2nd Sunday of each month, to try some new things! We tweaked the order of worship and did a dramatic reading of Psalm 118 at a service in May. We are planning a more “contemporary” style service for November 11 and hope to engage more young people. I have spoken twice at gatherings of leaders & plan to speak two more times yet this year about some of the issues I see that the churches need to wrestle with, one of which is worship! We’re trying to “sing a new song,” and we pray for the Spirit of God to bless and use these efforts.

### Plans for the new fiscal year: miles to go...

1. Thank you all for continually praying and being our ministry partners! I am very grateful to report that we did reach our fund-raising goal for FY 2018. Thanks so much to all who gave to make this possible! Now we start anew with the goal (given to us by the home office) to raise \$124,731 for July 1, 2018 thru June 30, 2019 (FY 2019).

2. January 2019 will end with worship symposium, but I expect to visit some of you also that month.



We are planning to visit prayer and financial partners mid-June through mid-August, and do the same in 2020, instead of spending 6 months doing that, which is less disruptive of our work.



3. We enjoy those precious times God gives us with our growing family! Ruth is in the US right now, and I plan to join her on Monday, just for a couple of weeks. We will be on the road and hope we’ll be able to see everyone, but in 4 different places between Chicago and New York City!

***Thanks for standing with us*** as we carry one with telling the people of Japan about our Lord!

Gratefully yours,

Larry & Ruth Spalink