

Taking the Long View 長い目で見る

“You’re the first Christian we’ve met!”

My [Katie’s] neighbors shared this on our dinner date in early 2023. This date came after more than two years of praying for connection beyond our small talk, and after more than five years of my slow progression in the Japanese language.

A year after that dinner date with my neighbors, I had the opportunity to more fully explain the Gospel. I continue to be in touch with my neighbors, as I prayerfully hope for the Spirit to work in their hearts.

It’s not surprising that my neighbors had never met a Christian. Evangelical Christians in Japan make up 0.3-0.5% of the population*. People groups of less than 5% Christians are considered in need of outside help to be able to reach their own country.

The Lord used this tiny statistic **in 2014** to draw me to a place that I would find so easy to love. Still, I wouldn’t have been in the apartment above my neighbors in the first place had God not called a team of missionaries nearly 30 years earlier to move to Chiba, Japan– to plant churches where there were none.

During those same years, God was weaving long-term stories in our [Phil’s and Katie’s] lives, too...



Mode Gakuen Spiral Towers in Nagoya, Aichi, Japan

“If you’re good at making money, make sure you’re making money for God.”

This charge about the spiritual gift of giving helped me [Phil] form a vision for supporting missions. After my first mission trip to Japan **in 2001**, God shut the doors on long-term missions for me, but blessed my career instead. I sought to support and encourage other missionaries, while I served on 14 short term trips to Japan over 22 years.

During this time, my desire for long term missions grew stronger. I even thought about retiring early and moving to Japan as a missionary. **In 2022**, I had an opportunity to volunteer for 6 weeks in Chiba, Japan. Through God’s providence, I also met a beautiful young lady named Katie.

As Katie and I dated and got engaged, the idea of full time missions together grew in both our hearts. But what about my spiritual gift of giving? My pastor reminded me that there are more ways to give than just money. Giving time, effort, even giving up a career, can be used to serve God’s kingdom. It was a scary idea at first, but now it gives me great joy to be united with Katie in our desire to serve full time in Japan.

* Sources: <https://operationworld.org/>; <https://joshuaproject.net/>

Phil's Journey

God's Long View

Katie's Journey

- 1st mission trip to Japan
- 1st time serving the Church Planting Institute
- 4 more times serving CPI

- '01
- '02
- '04
- '05
- '07
- '08
- '09
- '11
- '13
- '14

In high school, figuring out nail polish
In college, with a minor in mocha-chip frappuccinos

1st year serving in China

1st time serving in Japan

Teaching, then leading at a Christian international school in Chiba, Japan

Helping lodge the CPI US volunteers in Chiba

... Maybe a spark flies

Tsunami relief in Tohoku
4 more times serving CPI

Phil & Katie are in the same room at CPI but never meet

1st time organizing the CPI US Volunteer Team

Many sparks fly!

A passion for missions draws Phil & Katie together

God joins Phil & Katie in marriage!

Move to Nagoya!

"Laying down our lives together for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ by establishing churches and transforming communities."

-Serge vision statement

How you can help

We believe the Lord calls some to be go-ers and others to be senders. He's laid it on our hearts to be go-ers, so we're looking for prayer and financial partners to help send us to Japan.

Why are we going with Serge?

Serge is a missions sending agency that believes that everyone, missionary or not, needs the Gospel at work in his/her heart, all the time. This emphasis on continual transformation in grace is especially needed in Japan. The cultural tide pulls everything (even the church) into a rigid recipe for doing things "right".

What will we do?

We are excited to join the Serge team in **Nagoya**, Japan! We will be joining team members Jessica, Steven, and Daniel in seeking to **support Japanese church leaders**, current and future.

In a group context (like church), Japanese culture appreciates a period of "observe and serve" for newcomers. So in our **first two years**, we plan to:

- **Partner with leadership** at a Japanese-led church
 - serving and getting to know the congregation
 - supporting the church's evangelism and other aspects of its vision
- **Engage in Japanese language and culture study**
 - intensive study for Phil
 - part-time focus for Katie
- **Support the broader Japanese Church**
 - continue working with CPI (Japan Church Planting Institute)
 - helping with conferences and retreats

Japanese people are patient, long-term thinkers — and so is our God! Christianity has existed in Japan for almost 500 years. The small Church is faithful, and the Lord is not finished with this beautiful nation. He has a **long view** plan for Japan, and we want to be a part of that work!

**Our total support need (below) reflects two salaries, taxes, benefits, ministry expenses, and administration fee.



contact us

Phil & Katie Tsai

serge.org/phil-and-katie-tsai

ptsai@serge.org

ktsai@serge.org

415-763-5345



support needed

2 Partners	\$1000/month
7 Partners	\$500/month
11 Partners	\$200/month
12 Partners	\$100/month
12 Partners	\$50/month
12 Partners	\$25/month

\$9,800/month**



how to give

Serge is a 501c3 non-profit committed to movements of grace reaching all people, renewing all believers, and restoring all things for the world's good and God's glory.

To give:

serge.org/phil-and-katie-tsai