

# OPERATION SHIMONOSEKI

A 40 Day<sup>OR</sup> Week  
Prayer Guide for  
the People of  
Shimonoseki  
City, JAPAN



**IMPORTANT:** Please only share the enclosed confidential information with your family and church.

 **PIONEERS JAPAN**

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Dear Brother or Sister in Christ,

We are so grateful for your commitment to being on mission with God and for specifically desiring to glorify God by being used of Him to bring many Japanese into His Kingdom. This guide is intended for that very purpose. The PIONEERS Shimonoseki team understands the crucial role that prayer plays in God's pursuit of worshippers among the Japanese people. As our missionary team and the Japanese church move on the ground in Shimonoseki, as God's kingdom advances, we are grateful for the powerful work that is being done through the prayers of God's people around the world.

We trust that this prayer guide will be greatly used of God to change the course of history in southern Japan and all of Asia. The southern most island of Kyushu which is located just across the strait from Shimonoseki has over 17,000,000 people, only about 30,000 believers and 200 missionaries working there. The PIONEERS team praises God for the amazing work He has already done in this city of 300,000 people. In less than seventeen years God has raised up a Japanese church of some ninety believers. However, the church in Shimonoseki makes up maybe less than 1/20th of one percent of the total number of people in this city, so there is still much to be done and we believe the greatest work to be done is through the earnest prayers of God's people. As you pray each day or week feel free to take the **bold** words and phrases to make your focus and pray earnestly for God to grow His church throughout this city and into the different aspects of its society. Also, feel free to take one daily request and pray weekly with several others throughout the year. Again, thanks for joining us in this important ministry that will impact this city, Japan, and all of Asia.

Together for His glory,  
The PIONEERS—Shimonoseki, Japan Team

## Day 33 The Burakumin Outcasts and the Mafia

These are the "Samaritans" of Japanese society. Unknown to many there is a group of people in Japan that are considered outcasts and based on family lines are often treated unjustly. This is a VERY unpopular topic to modern Japanese and therefore is normally avoided in conversation. However, even in Shimonoseki there needs to be someone to reach these special people and the mafia. Pray for God to **awaken the church to pursue these often avoided and unloved people.**

**Today's Church:** Shimonoseki Zion (Assemblies of God) Church—Pastor Nakagawa

**Today's False Teacher:** Yutaka Shrine—located close to the church

## Day 34 Ongoing Advance into Kyushu



Pray that God would bless His church in Shimonoseki with several members that would be called to **plant His church in the neighboring cities of Kitakyushu and Moji** which have a population of more than a million. Pray for **strong, giving churches** to send them.

**Today's Church:** Yamanota Gospel Church (Brethren) Brother Okazaki, many Baiko teachers and professors attend; the church meets across the street from the Mormon "Church".

**Today's False Teacher:** Mormon "Church"—pray they God would either convert or confound their work.

## Day 35-39 Unserved Family Members

Please pray for these unserved parents and spouses of our church:

Mr. Asada	Mrs. Komatsu	Mr. Matsunaga
Mr. Muraki	Mr. Nishimura	Mr. & Mrs. Nagao
Mr. Suemura	Mr. Sato	Mr. Nakamura
Mr. Harada	Mr. Fujimura	Mr. Kameda
Mr. & Mrs. Yoshimoto	Mr. Uchida	Mr. Hayashi
Mr. & Mrs. Kanaoka	Mr. & Mrs. Yoshimura	Mr. & Mrs. Uchida

## Day 40 Focused Day of Prayer & Fasting

Spend today (or a more appropriate day) reading God's promises and asking God for 1% of Shimonoseki City's people to repent and become followers of Jesus Christ by the summer of 2008.

## Day 31 Gospel Music and Japanese Composers

There has been a trend in Japan for the past ten years for gospel music in Japan. A group of non-Christian ladies came to the church asking if they could start a gospel choir and use the church facilities. The church agreed if they were allowed to explain the biblical truths taught in the songs. Pray that God would continue to **bless the quality** of this choir



attracting more and more people in Shimonoseki to participate in the choir and to hear the gospel and pray that the **members would respond to what they are hearing with faith**. Pray also that God would raise up more and more Japanese Christians with the ability to write **excellent original Japanese hymns & praise music**.

**Today's Church:** Shimonoseki Baptist Church—Pastor Mimura, this church has a long history in Shimonoseki but regretfully allows ancestor worship among other things; thankfully it has its own Christian preschool as an outreach in the city.

**Today's False Teacher:** Kameyamahachimangu Shrine—another famous and important shrine in Shimonoseki and is located near city hall.

## Day 32 Korean Population

In Shimonoseki there is a large Korean population because of WWII and because Shimonoseki is Japan's closest point to Korea, there is a ferry that runs there daily. They have their own Korean market and school in Shimonoseki and own most of the casinos. Pray that God would hear the prayers of many of our Korean brothers and sisters in South Korea for Japan, **save many of the Koreans** living in Shimonoseki, and use them to reach the Japanese. Pray that God would even make a way for some of them whose families are originally from North Korea to **return with the good news** of Christ.



**Today's Church:** Shimonoseki Church (Higashi Kanda area; Korean Church)—Pastor Chon; he and his wife are enthusiastic believers

**Today's False Teacher:** Houseiin Temple and Itsukushima Shrine are in the surrounding areas of the Korean Town.

*We are human, but we don't wage war with human plans and methods. We use God's mighty weapons, not mere worldly weapons, to knock down the Devil's strongholds. With these weapons we break down every proud argument that keeps people from knowing God. With these weapons we conquer their rebellious ideas, and we teach them to obey Christ.*

( 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, NLT)

### Understanding the Spiritual Strongholds in Japan

A stronghold is when Satan or his demons have been allowed and maybe have been invited by a person or people group to be a part of their life or lives and be worshipped by them. (1 Cor. 10:19-20)

- In the late 1500's Christianity entered Japan and in less than 15 years 2% of the population became Christian.
- In the early 1600's Dictator, *shogun*, Ieyasu Tokugawa and his grandson tortured and killed over 50,000 Christians and more than 200,000 professing Christians apostatized. Almost all outside influence and missionaries were from then on not allowed to enter Japan.
- In 1616 Ieyasu Tokugawa dies and his grandson, Iemitsu, the new leader, deified him as Japan's sun god and the largest shrine, Toshogu Shrine, was built to worship him and many mini-shrines to him were built all over Japan. The lords under Iemitsu had to worship god Ieyasu at these mini-shrines.
- All Japanese were made to register as Buddhists at their village temples. In every neighborhood was a neighborhood watch of five families. They checked on each other to make sure they were not practicing Christianity (which meant punishment to all five families) and had to report to the temples.
- In the 1850's Japan opened its doors again and missionaries came, but during World War II the Japanese people worship the emperor as a descendant of the sun God. Many Christian churches chose to bow down to the emperor. Since that day, many Japanese churches in Japan continue to allow ancestor and idol worship and stopped believing all of Scripture. These churches formed the **United Church of Christ (UCC)**.

For over 200 years Japanese society has been taught to fear Christianity and to make everyone think the same and practice the same traditions. Even with "freedom of religion" the Japanese mentality leads them to oppress Christianity and make sure that a Japanese doesn't become a Christian and go against the group.

## Day 1 Strongholds

Pray against these strongholds that are common in Japan:

- Pray against the **feeling of powerlessness**, the **need to conform**, and the **fear of being different**. Especially pray for strong, growing churches that are networked together enjoying the encouragement of a large community of Christians in Japan and a united force of prayer.
- Pray for Christians to be bold enough to stand out yet wise enough to remain influential in their communities.
- Pray for the salvation of Japanese men—conformity at work often discourages them from getting involved in a church and being pulled away from their allegiance to the “company”.
- Pray that Christians would rejoice in their new identity in Christ and would demonstrate that to be Christian means to become a **better** member of society, worker & family member.

*Adapted from **Overcoming Spiritual Barriers in Japan** by Keith Webb*

## Day 2 Pastors and their Families

Pray for these staff members of Shimonoseki Christ Bible Church:



**Pastor Tony Haug & Family**    **Assoc. Pastor Takayuki & wife, Aki**



Pray for clear vision, power in prayer and preaching/teaching God’s Word, purity in life and doctrine, passion for God’s glory, a deepening love for and faithfulness to their families and to Christ’s church, and protection for evil and harm.

## Day 3 City Officials

Pray for the salvation of Shimonoseki City’s mayor, **Kiyoshi Ejima** and the city’s government officials. Pray for laws that would be ethical and favorable toward Christians and churches.



## Day 29 Business Men/Women and Golf

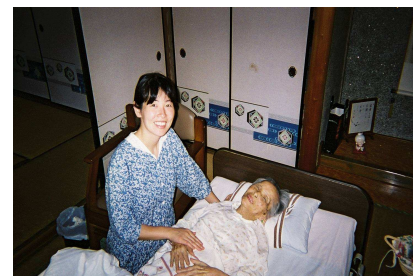
The church has been seeking to reach the men and women of Shimonoseki at times when they feel they can excuse themselves from work (i.e. golf). Pastor Tony and other members of the church and occasionally, Tomi Nakajima, a Japanese Christian pro-golfer, hold tournaments to befriend these men and share the gospel. Pray that many of the men will begin opening their hearts and their schedules to listen to what God wants to say to them.



**Today’s Church:** Shimonoseki (Lutheran) Church—Pastor Koka-tsu & Shimonoseki Christ Church(Gospel Flock)—Pastor Okano  
**Today’s False Teacher:** Kamiyama Hachimangu Shrine

## Day 30 Hospitals and the Elderly

Recently several members of the church have been ill with cancer but to their great encouragement Mr. and Mrs. Yamaguchi who attend the church are both nurses and have helped them greatly. Pray that Christian medical workers **Mrs. Yamaguchi**, **Mrs. Kameda**, and **Ms. Kimura** and others in Shimonoseki would grow in their walks with the Lord and be bold and loving witnesses at work. Pray for the **multiplying of the number of Christian medical workers**. Pray specifically

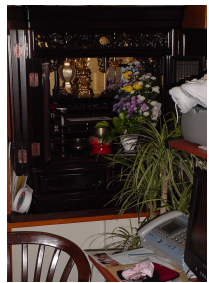


that Mrs. Yamaguchi’s husband, **Ryuji**, and two friends of the church, **Hi-tomi** and **Mizue** would repent of their sin and put their trust in Christ.. Pray also that more Christians would **minister to the needs of the elderly** in Shimonoseki.

**Today’s Church:** St. Francis Xavier Church—Priest Furumoto  
**Today’s False Teacher:** Ikuno Shrine and Enkouji Temple—both are located near missionaries Brian and Yoko and have strong influence over many of the elderly that live in their neighborhood.

## Day 27 Family altars—idols—god shelves

A brief walk down the alleys and paths of any area of Shimonoseki will reveal an idol of stone or a prayer rope wrapped around some object of nature. In most homes, relatives who have passed away are to be appeased through daily food sacrifices and incense at the Buddhist family altar, and in most businesses success is



beckoned by the god shelf in some corner of the office. In reality, whether you are inside or outside one soon realizes that Shimonoseki is physically one large altar of demon worship. **Pray against the evil darkness that blinds** the understanding of those who live here. Pray that Christ's light would break through by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit and that

one by one these objects would be **torn down and destroyed** glorifying the true, living God.



**Today's Church:** Yasuoka Church—Pastor Tanaka, UCC Immanuel Shimonoseki Christ Church— Pastor Hirase

**Today's False Teacher:** Nakayama Shrine—a large shrine that is near to where many church members & Pastor Tony lives.

## Day 28 Economy



If the economy in Shimonoseki does well then more people will come to Shimonoseki and will have an opportunity to hear the gospel. Pray that God would

**bless ethical companies and close down unethical ones.**

Pray that the believers in Shimonoseki would discover even more the joy of **giving** and would be **involved in God's work both locally and globally.**

**Today's Churches:** Shin—shimonoseki (Bretheren) Church— Brother Hirokawa and Shimonoseki (Bretheren) Church— Sister Sekitani

**Today's False Teacher:** Sumiyoshi Shrine—the oldest (circa 1300 AD) in Shimonoseki and draws worshippers throughout the year.

## Day 4 Demonic Influences in the Government

Pray against **the spiritual forces at work** even in the government as seen in this picture of a shrine found right behind Shimonoseki's City Hall. Pray that this shrine would be torn down one day soon.



## Days 5-6 Church Leadership



Pray for the members of the church's leadership/cell group team. The names of the members in the picture moving from left to right around the table are: **Mr. & Mrs. Fumoto, Mr. Kubota, Pastor Tony, Mrs. Nakayama, Mrs. Asada, Mrs. Harada, Ms. Yokoyama** (Ms. Yokoyama also serves on the church staff) Pictured here is another cell



leader, **Mrs. Fujimura**, who serves part-time in the church office along with **Mrs. Matsue** (bottom right picture). Pray also for **Mrs. Sato and Pastor Takayuki** who serve in the leadership. Pray for growth in wisdom, grace, and walking in the fullness of the Spirit. Pray for their oneness of heart and vision and

a deep love for each other and for each believer under their care. Pray for physical strength and that God would raise up even more mature believers who would shepherd and disciple the believers to grow and multiply throughout their spheres of influence.



## Day 7 University Teachers and Students

Pray for the whole gospel to be proclaimed at the liberal mission schools in Shimonoseki called **Baiko University** and **Baiko Junior College**. Many young people have the opportunity to study the Bible for the first time and to hear messages in their chapels, but the message is often watered down. Also, pray for the city community college, city university and Towa University. Pray that God would raise up evangelical Christian teachers for these schools.



## Day 8 Pre-schools, Primary & Secondary Schools

Pray that **Angel Preschool**, a Catholic school where our church has an English class, and other pre-schools like **Seiboen**, where one church member works, would have clear Bible teaching. Pray for the elementary, jr./sr. high schools in Shimonoseki. Two private schools to specifically pray for are **Baiko Jr./Sr. High School** and **Hayatomo Sr. High School**. Pray for the walk and witness of the following Christian Japanese teachers from our church: **Mrs. Nishimura, Mr. Hirata, Mrs. Funatsuki, Mr. Iwaki, and Ms. Harada**. Pray that God would raise up more **Christian teachers and administrators**. Pray that God would send many Christians through the government sponsored **JET Programme** that hires thousands of native English speaking university graduates to teach in Japanese public schools including Shimonoseki. Pray that God would raise up **youth pastors** and various ministries for the youth of Japan.



## Day 25 Prayer for Revival

The Christian Center with its bookstore has provided a “safe” place to meet believers and pastors from other churches. Pray that God would by his Holy Spirit move on our hearts and their hearts to begin **meeting regularly to pray** for revival and that God would **purify His**



**church and unite his people** to see His kingdom come and His will be done in Shimonoseki. Pray that God would also **send many prayer-walking teams** to pray on site for the Spirit’s outpouring on His chosen people in Shimonoseki.

**Today’s Church:** Hikoshima Church—Pastor Nakahara, UCC Shimonoseki Church (Hikoshima)—Pastor Amou, UCC

**Today’s False Teacher:** Hikoshima Hachimangu Shrine

## Day 26 International Outreaches



Every month the English-teaching missionaries along with the church have been leading a bilingual (English/Japanese) event to build bridges to those in Shimonoseki who either like meeting foreigners or want to speak more English. During this meeting friendships are made and the gos-

pel is shared in creative ways. Several internationals (ex. Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Hungarian, Thai) in the community are being reached or are joining hands in this ministry (ex. the evangelical Christian Baiko University and Jr./Sr. High School teachers). Pray that **many will attend** and that many more **attendees will put their trust in Christ**.

**Today’s Church:** Maruyama Church—Pastor Murashima, UCC, many members are staff at the Baiko schools.

**Today’s False Teacher:** Sokka Gakkai—Japan’s fastest growing sect of Buddhism has a large training center near the Christian Center.

## Day 23 Literature Distribution

In a country with almost a 100% literacy rate, providing Bibles and related literature is a huge opportunity. The new Christian center houses Yamaguchi prefecture's (i.e. "state") only Christian bookstore. Pray that God would **fill the churches in Shimonoseki with plenty of solid doctrine literature**



to feed the flocks and that they would **distribute the literature** to their friends. Pray that **people off the street** would not hesitate to visit the bookstore. Pray that God would **multiply the number of workers and writers** for the growing **Japanese Christian publishers**. Pray for **Mr. Kubota** who manages the store, especially that God would give him wisdom, physical strength, and a **good team of volunteer workers**.

**Today's Church:** Chofu Church—Pastor Matsuura, UCC church

**Today's False Teacher:** Konzanji Temple and Anyouji Temple—these two temples have had strong influence in the Chofu area of Shimonoseki for hundreds of years.

## Day 24 Bible Institute

Presently the PIONEERS Shimonoseki team leader, Tony Haug, and the church are praying about organizing a course and teaching staff for such an institute. The Christian Center with its two classrooms, one seminar room, and worship hall



provides a great opportunity for hosting a Bible institute program. God also may be providing the church with another facility in the northeastern section of the city, Chofu. Pray that God would **open the doors, raise up the workers, and provide the funds** for the training of many of the future church-planters and church leaders for southern Japan and even for sending missionaries to Asia.

**Today's Church:** Ozuki Church—Pastor Shinohara, UCC

**Today's False Teachers:** Kindom Halls (Jehovah Witnesses), Some of the younger generation of JW's may be doubting their beliefs. Pray God's people would be equipped to defend their faith and love well those in "Bible" carrying cults.

## Day 9 Families

Though divorce is not as high as in some other countries, emotional divorce and mistresses are common. In addition, fathers are often transferred and the family remains behind leaving the moms to raise the family. Pray for the **church's parenting class** outreach and for **Marcia Haug** who is training teachers for this growing ministry.



## Day 10 The Media

Pray that God's message would be broadcast through local media sources such as **COME-ON FM**, the local radio station, the cable network, and the major newspapers in the area.



## Day 11 Places of Destruction

Pray against the **bars, pachinko (casino) parlors, prostitution houses**, and other places of darkness and destruction in Shimonoseki. Pray against the **amateur pornography videos** that are being produced in downtown Shimonoseki. Pray that God would prevent high school girls from selling themselves through **"dating" services**.



## Day 12 Children Outreaches

Pray for the **children's ministry team** of the church; pray that they would have enough workers and be effectively teaching God's Word and following up the Japanese families of the children. Pray for **Mrs. Sato** as she leads this ministry. Pray that God would provide **at least eight children for each teacher** to love and disciple in Christ.



## Day 13 Suicide and Professional Counseling



In a society that also has chosen to teach its children the belief in a chance-born impersonal universe and whose educational system's testing process allows students one-chance opportunities on "the ladder of success", there is no surprise that Japan has one of the highest suicide rates in the world.

More than 32,000 Japanese took their God-given lives in 2005 which is almost five times higher than the nation's death toll in traffic accidents. Japanese are even meeting on the internet and committing group suicide. Pray that God would **connect his people in Shimonoseki with those who are considering suicide** (usually men in their 50s & young people in their 20s and 30s). Pray that God would raise up a **team of Christian professional certified counselors** that would have a clinic in the Shimonoseki area as a ministry of the church and would work hand-in-hand with the church in Shimonoseki. The potential to touch many hurting lives is great.

## Day 14 Ghosts and Superstitions

The Japanese are often driven by fear and most of the religious activity in Japan is centered on the avoidance of offending the spirit world. For this purpose lucky charms are often purchased at temples and shrines (like this traffic safety sticker bought at a local shrine that shows that the priest prayed over the car). Horror stories are the number one choice in books and many of the old Japanese folk stories involve ghosts and spirits. Pray that the people of Shimonoseki would come to Christ and be **set free from the many fears** that are bound them for years.



## Day 15 Festivals and Japanese Traditions



Many of the Japanese traditions and festivals throughout the year are connected to some kind of false worship. Even attending Buddhist funerals is often avoided because one will be expected to offer incense and bow to the deceased person's spirit that is said to have become deity. Pray that the church would exercise spiritual discernment **in choosing activities that would honor Christ and love others.**



**PRAYER STRATEGY:** Over the next fourteen days we are going to advance throughout Shimonoseki by also praying for other churches in Shimonoseki and praying against some of the places of false teaching like shrines (animistic worship) and temples (Buddhism), and others. There are about 245 temples and 35 shrines in Shimonoseki. Some churches in Shimonoseki refuse to have anything to do with Shimonoseki Christ Bible Church and often refer to her as a cult because of her stance on God's Word, the expectation of personal holiness, and her abstaining from idol worship (Please see "United Church of Christ" on p.3). Pray for a return to Scripture and for the spiritual leadership to be pure in life and doctrine, filled with wisdom and the Holy Spirit, and to feed and watch diligently over their sheep. Pray that all the churches would faithfully preach the gospel, grow, and multiply.

## Day 22 Shimonoseki Christian Center

In 2003 God blessed Shimonoseki Christ Bible Church with another wonderful facility near downtown Shimonoseki and the city's main train station. The city's largest bank offered the church a two-million dollar building for almost a fourth of the price. The building has been remolded into a worship/training center. Today, pray that God would put on the hearts of various people, churches, and foundations the desire to spur on the work in Shimonoseki by **paying off the \$600,000** for the building and also the **\$150,000** covering all the remodeling expenses on what used to be a bank building.



**Today's Church:** Shimonoseki Church (Tanaka area) Pastor Miwa, belongs to the UCC (see p. 3 article), this church (see picture at top of page) is strongly opposed to our church and its evangelistic efforts; Pastor Miwa leads the Shimonoseki pastors meeting & has influence in the politics of Baiko's schools.

**Today's False Teacher:** Akama Shrine, Shimonoseki's most famous shrine is the center of worship for a dead child prince. The ladies of his court in 1185 AD became prostitutes because he had lost the war. They would annually worship him at this shrine. Every May, a city-wide parade carries on this annual procession of idol worship.



## Day 19 Missionary Team

Pray for the **unity, love, and oneness of vision** in the PIONEERS Japan teams. Pray for pastor and the Shimonoseki team leader, **Tony Haug and his wife, Marcia**, as they lead the Shimonoseki team. Pray that God would **raise up more "missionaries"** from among the Japanese people and from all over the world.



## Day 20 Christ in the Workplace

Pray that God will continue to open doors for missionaries to share the gospel in the businesses of Shimonoseki and that Japanese believers would be bold in sharing Christ on the job. Pray specifically for the English language outreach class at the **Hikoshima Refinery**. Pray specifically for **Aki Asada**, their English teacher, and the **Sakaue and Miyaji families** that are responding positively to the Christians they have met.



## Day 21 English Language Class Outreach

Pray for **more English-teaching missionaries** to come and serve at Shimonoseki Christ Bible Church for two year terms. Pray for the fruitfulness of our present teachers, **Jennifer and Lena**, as they reach out to about 100 students and finish out their term this year. Pray for **Brian, Yoko, Mr. Yokoyama, Naoko, Pastor Takayuki, and others** as they daily teach God's Word to these students.. Pray for new teachers, **Jenn** from Canada, **LaVonne**, and for **Dave and Marcy Crane** who are raising support and plan to move to Shimonoseki starting in the fall. Pray that the Holy Spirit would **convict of sin, righteousness, and judgment** and that by April 2007 there would be at least **one person in every class** who would become followers of Christ.



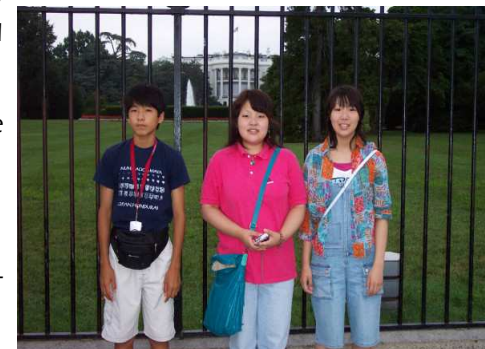
## Day 16 Summer Ministries

Ask God to provide a **great team of university students** to serve six weeks in Shimonoseki in 2007. Pray for **wisdom in the preparations** for this team and other teams that will come to Shimonoseki. Pray that God would enlarge the faith of the church through **mission trips in Asia** and fellowship with God's people in those countries.



## Day 17 Home Stay Programs and Returnees

Annually more than 1500 Japanese are returning to Japan claiming to have become Christian while working or studying overseas. Many of them are seeking a church that would provide them a bridge back into Japanese society. The international flavor of Shimonoseki Christ Bible Church makes it a good place for returnees to find their niche as they transition. Pray that God would send many of these new believers to Shimonoseki and that the church will have **wisdom in discipling and encouraging these new believers**. Pray also for the Japanese who are participating in Christian home stay programs. Pray for the effective follow-up of the Japanese youth from our city that the church is sending to live with Christian families and to experience Christianity outside of Japan. The students who participate often consider Christianity for the first time while being away from family and friends.



## Day 18 Rural Areas of Shimonoseki

Most of the population of Shimonoseki City lives in the southern tip of the peninsula. Shimonoseki borders also include some very traditional, countryside (examples are **Toyoura, Kikugawa, and Utsui** areas). Presently, Shimonoseki Christ Bible Church has two families that are living in these northern areas of the city. Pray that God would multiply the witness of the **Kameda family** (Toyoura) and **Fujimura family** (Kikugawa) in their respective communities.

