

Site Report: Okinawa, Japan

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Introduction: The targeted area is Okinawa, Japan. It is a small island located off mainland Japan and near Taiwan. Okinawa City is the largest city on the island.

Need: Okinawa needs a Presbyterian and Reformed Church to serve the American Military Community and to reach out to the Japanese. The American military consists of approximately 55,000. This would include service members, family members, and Department of Defense civilians as well as civilian contractors. There are a number of bases on the island. Kadena Air Force Base is the largest. It includes heavy lift capability (cargo) and fighter squadrons. There is also a large number of Marines, Navy and Army personnel on the island. The military has a reasonably young population. Generally, they are married, but there are a number of young single Marines. The service members tend to be highly motivated, well educated and professional. The military provides on post chapel and chaplains. The military culture embraces all faith groups and considers them as equals. There are also a number of off-post churches. They include several Baptist congregations, a Calvary Chapel, Assemblies of God, Mormon, Nazarene, and Episcopal. There is a small group of Presbyterian and Reformed believers there. They are members of Okinawa Covenant Church (PCA). OCC is a daughter church of Trinity Reformed Church in Landstuhl, Germany and a mission church of Southeast Alabama Presbytery, PCA.

Project Description: God is raising up a covenant community to worship and serve Him on the island. In serving the Lord, the church will reach out and impact the community for the glory of God. The core group needs an under shepherd immediately. There is a salary package. Funding for the church is provided by the local mission itself, along with support from Trinity Reformed Church in Germany. There is a two year commitment to full support for the pastor. Approximately \$100,000 has been given to the work to date. We are looking for someone who is willing to work hard, who will preach and teach the word of God without shame, who has a burden to see Christians to grow in the faith, who desires to reach the lost, and one who will promote close fellowship among the saints in the community. We are looking for someone who is strong in the Christian faith and at the same time tender and loving toward the flock.

Conclusion: The military community is a wonderful community that needs what the Presbyterian and Reformed community has. The Chapel system was instituted by the government and by its nature it must be inclusive, pluralistic. It sees all faith groups as being equal. It does not have the marks of a church because it is not the church. It has a place especially with war fighting units, but local covenant communities can best serve the people of God. It is the church that God has ordained to faithfully preach the word of God, and faithfully administer the sacraments, and exercise biblical church discipline. It would be helpful if the pastor understood something of the military culture. I believe a

willing learner could get up to speed pretty quickly on the cultural aspects of the military. The pastor should simply be a man who works hard and prays hard. He should understand that he will have little like-minded fellowship because of the distance from the States. He may occasionally find himself in the company of a good, reformed chaplain stationed on the island.