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## The World's Largest City

Maybe you didn't know...

- Greater Tokyo is the largest city in the world with a population of 33,200,000.
- Compared with New York City and London, Tokyo is the highest in population density with 131 people per hectare. New York is a little lower with 112, and London is the lowest with 72.
- The total city population of Tokyo is about 1.4 times that of New York and 2.2 times that of London. It is Tokyo where the population is most integrated as a whole among these cities.
- The population of the city is divided into juveniles, working age population, and the aged. The juvenile age groups range from 0-14 years, the working age ranges from 15-64 years, while the aged population is 65 years and above. As per the figures provided in January 2003, the three age groups constitute nearly 11.9 percent, 70.9 percent, and 17.1 percent respectively.
- Because of its huge population and wealth, many world records are or were held there, including the most expensive real estate ever (\$1.5 million/sq meter in 1990), the most expensive city for over a decade running, the most passengers served by its train system, and it has the largest GDP of any metropolitan area in the world.
- The five most common foreign nationalities found in Tokyo are Chinese (120,331), Korean (103,191), Philippine (31,505), American (18,043), and British (7,585).
- Tokyo is Japan's largest domestic and

international hub for rail, ground, and air transportation. Public transportation within Tokyo is dominated by an extensive network of clean and efficient, if often very crowded trains and subways run by a variety of operators, with buses, monorails, and trams playing a secondary feeder role. Railway stations are not only transport, but the center of Tokyo and Japanese urban life, as everything is judged in relation to it, taking on the significance of highways in the United States and elsewhere.

- Shinto and Buddhism are Japan's two major religions. They have coexisted for several centuries and have even complemented each other to a certain degree. Most Japanese consider themselves Buddhist, Shinto, or both.
- Religion does not play a big role in the everyday life of most Japanese people today. The average person follows the religious rituals at births, weddings, and funerals, may visit a shrine or temple on New Year, and participates at local festivals (matsuri), most of which have a religious background.
- Most Japanese people do not believe in one particular religion; they incorporate features of many religions in their daily lives in a process known as syncretism. Many people, especially those in younger generations, claim to feel that the religions in Japan are part of the traditional culture.
- Shinto and Buddhist teachings are deeply entangled in Japanese everyday life, though the Japanese people themselves may not be aware of it. One of the main characteristics of Japanese

religion is its tendency towards syncretism. The same person may have a wedding at a Christian church and have a funeral at a Buddhist temple.

- About one percent of the population in Japan is "Christian" and there are about 3,500 missionaries in the country.
- Thirty-eight percent of high school girls admit to having sex for money. This is called "subsidized dating."
- Seventy percent of married men have affairs. Often, husbands are away at work from 8:00 a.m. to midnight six days a week.
- On average, 100 people commit suicide daily — the highest rate in the world. Many do so because of stress, depression, hopelessness, and/or they feel they are a bother to others.

### OBSERVATIONS

Attempts to find Tokyo-focused missionaries from any evangelical group turned up little (ex.: Overseas Missionary Fellowship, 50; International Mission Board-SBC, 17. BBFI missionaries have planted churches in Tokyo now pastored by nationals). If you narrowed the observation to Baptist church-planting missionaries, you would do well to find even a handful. Why might this be?

### QUESTIONS

Should the largest concentration of humanity on the face of God's earth be one of our largest concerns? Is Tokyo on our prayer list? What might be the ripple of influence worldwide if 100 churches were planted in Tokyo in the next 25 years? "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"