

Jehovah's Witnesses in Japan





Who Are Jehovah's Witnesses?

Worldwide, Jehovah's Witnesses are a well-known religion. Currently, there are over 9,000,000 Witnesses in 240 lands.

Jehovah's Witnesses respect the authority of governments. They obey the law and pay their taxes conscientiously. Through their publications and public ministry, they encourage everyone to be law-abiding.

“*Let every person be in subjection to the superior authorities.*”

—Romans 13:1

Local History of Jehovah's Witnesses

- 1913:** A Japanese person becomes a Witness in the United States and returns to Japan.
- 1927:** First branch office is established in Kobe.
- 1949:** First missionaries arrive in Japan.
- 1949:** Branch office is moved to Mita, Tokyo.
- 1953:** Watchtower Bible and Tract Society is registered in Japan as a religious corporation.
- 1972:** Branch office is moved to Numazu, Shizuoka.
- 1982:** Branch office is moved to Ebina, Kanagawa.
- 1982:** *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* is released in Japanese.
- 2000:** Supreme Court rules that forced blood transfusions violate patients' rights.
- 2024:** Approximately 214,000 Witnesses are active in Japan.



Beliefs and Activities of Jehovah's Witnesses

Beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses

Jehovah's Witnesses view the Bible as the inspired Word of Jehovah God and consider it a reliable guide for modern living. Many Witnesses have found that by applying the Bible's teachings in their lives, they have improved their character, their physical and emotional health, their family life and their personal relationships.

Sharing Their Beliefs

The Witnesses are known for their Bible educational work and for sharing the positive message of God's Word with others. They respect that each individual has his own beliefs and opinions. The Witnesses modestly present what the Bible says, recognizing that each person has the right to choose what he or she will believe.

Like all parents, Jehovah's Witnesses want the best for their children. They take seriously their responsibility to provide religious education for them and teach them to live by moral principles. As is internationally recognized, parents have the right to educate their children in conformity with their own convictions. However, when the children grow older, they must decide for themselves if they will become Jehovah's Witnesses.



What Non-Witnesses Say

"I conducted interviews with those who underwent bloodless surgery and learned that they had a strong faith and deep respect for life. They simply chose medical care without blood transfusions. They had a strong desire to get well soon and kept a positive attitude, which seems to have been reflected in their smooth recovery process. ... Jehovah's Witnesses, by their strong religious passion and firm stand on blood, have helped the medical profession to make progress in the field of bloodless surgery."

— Atsushi Amano, M.D., Ph.D.
Juntendo University

"Heart Nursing," MEDICUS SHUPPAN, Vol.9, No.9, 1996.

International Law

Article 18.4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights protects the rights of parents as follows.

"The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to have respect for the liberty of parents and, when applicable, legal guardians to ensure the religious and moral education of their children in conformity with their own convictions."





Top-left and Bottom-left: Witness volunteers repair damaged homes after the Kumamoto earthquakes in 2017; **Top-right:** Bible production at the printery in Ebina, where Bibles and Bible-based literature are produced in more than 280 languages; **Bottom-right:** A place of worship under construction

Do You Know?

Disaster Relief Efforts

Jehovah's Witnesses place a high priority on disaster preparedness. When disasters strike, they are prepared to take immediate action to provide practical assistance as well as ongoing emotional and spiritual support. When the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred in 2011, the Witnesses delivered food, water and fuel to victims within one day. Within two days, three Disaster Relief Committees had been formed. Witnesses throughout Japan offered temporary accommodations to survivors. Witness volunteers repaired 970 damaged homes and distributed furniture, appliances and household goods.

Financed by Voluntary Donations

All activities of Jehovah's Witnesses are performed by volunteers and financed by voluntary donations rather than by tithing or taking collections. The Witnesses have distributed billions of copies of Bibles and Bible-based literature without charge. Their official website, jw.org®, has articles, videos and audio content in over 1,000 languages, including 100 sign languages and nearly 50 Braille editions.

To Know More About Us

Please visit our official website, jw.org®.

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