



By Christ, Sport is also worship!

Athlete Church PRAYER REQUEST

Vision 2025

Mission Center Project in Japan

Making disciples of Christ in the world of sports!



God has given us “sports”. We need to start rebuilding this area that has been attacked by mammonism and triumphalism. The rebuilding of the walls of Nehemiah was a very large project, so we needed everyone's cooperation. We then shared our vision, presented clear goals, and suggested, “Let's do it together!” I propose that we do it together. We must restore this world of sports to the wonderful realm that God created it to be. We will pray together with you for the salvation of the 78 million people involved in sports who live in Japan, and we will start rebuilding.

★Using the rebuilding of the walls of Nehemiah as a model

- ① **Pray:** Pray for the devastated Jerusalem [the world of sports] and its people [78 million people living in the world of sports]. (Nehemiah 1:5-11)
- ② **Mission:** Petition to send him to Jerusalem (the world of sports), the land of Judah, to rebuild the walls (redemption of the world of sports). (Nehemiah 2:5)
- ③ **Careful investigation** ⇒ planning (Nehemiah 2:12-16)
- ④ **Shared vision/motivation** “Let's do it together!”. (Nehemiah 2:17-18)
- ⑤ **Depend on God alone:** God will accomplish the rebuilding of the city walls (redemption of the world of sports). Only God's people can accomplish this work. (Nehemiah 2:20)
- ⑥ **Importance of teamwork:** Each person has a role to play. They worked together to accomplish one goal: rebuilding the walls. (Nehemiah 3:1-32)
- ⑦ **Cooperation and Sharing:** When we share our roles, we can accomplish the great vision of rebuilding the city walls.
- ⑧ **Community Formation:** believing that it is God's will to restore the worshipping community and rebuilding the walls for this purpose. Need for many peoples. Need for worship platforms.

Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.”

I also told them about the gracious hand of my God on me and what the king had said to me. They replied, “Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work. -Nehemiah 2:17-18 NIV

(1) Athlete Church Worship & Prayer Meeting

Athletes are glorious and seem to have everything. However, behind their glory, they are suffering from various problems and fighting against loneliness. Since before and after the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, many problems have come to light in the sports world. Drugs, athletes arrested for shoplifting caused by eating disorders, tackling problems in football, adultery, power harassment, and other sad news are all over the world of sports. In addition, many athletes, who are fighting beyond the limits of victory supremacy and are in the realm of God's will, are seeking spirituality. There are many books and videos of the kind that answer that call, but unfortunately, none on Christianity in Japan. Even though Jesus Christ can satisfy their hearts, these athletes are not even given the opportunity to encounter Him and make a choice.

As you can see from the chart below, Japanese athletes have difficulty relating to the church and need a platform to worship in their language. Therefore, we would first like to create a platform for Christian athletes in Japan to gather together to worship, pray, and encourage each other. Initially, this will be done in multiple sports, and in the future, prayer groups will be formed for each sport, and leaders will be appointed to lead these groups. We also believe that if there is a visible platform, non-Christian athletes may come to us for healing.

Reasons people in sports find it difficult to connect to church

	Church	Sports
Sunday	worship service	training, games, camps
time	service time is set	free time is when churches are closed
age	on average, mostly people over 60	all ages represented
place	set	moving (tournaments, training camps)
talk	no messages about sports	seeking solutions to the struggles and hardships of sports
environment	not really anything sporty	lively, active
Eric Liddel	Kept the Sabbath	When I run I feel God's pleasure

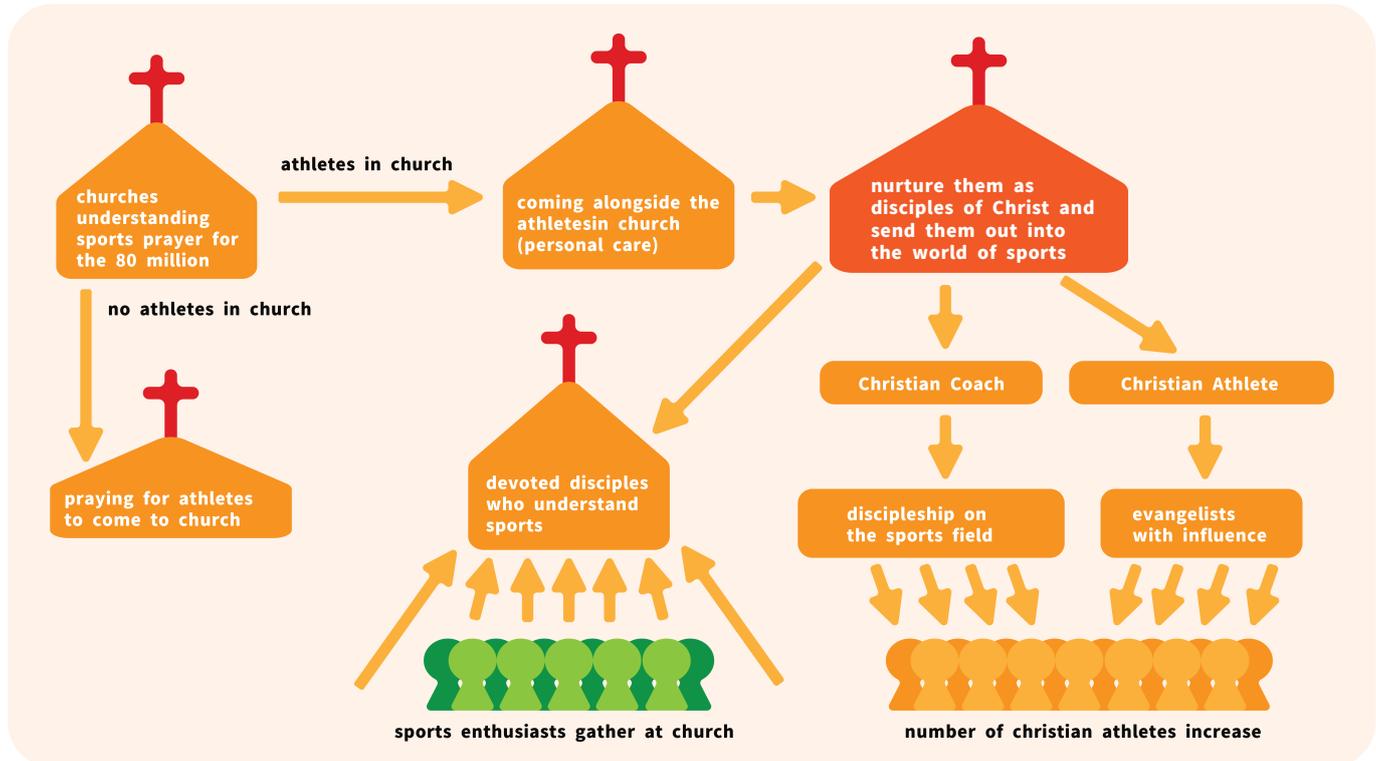
- Start with online worship services once a month
(Pastors involved in sports ministry around the country will be asked to share in preaching)
- Face-to-face follow-up when necessary
- In the future, cell groups will be formed by sport and region, and leaders will be appointed.
- If the mission center is a building, we could have regular worship and prayer meetings at that location

(2) Mission Center

It is necessary for those involved in sports to raise up and send out Christians and missionaries who worship on the sports field in order to share Jesus Christ in gymnasiums, soccer fields, swimming pools, and all other sports fields.

There is a need for places of worship on sports fields, and there is a need for Christians in the Japanese sports world. We want to create the following cycle for the salvation of 78 million people in the world of sports.

We believe that the Mission Center has a role to 'nurture them as disciples of Christ and send them out into the world of sports.'



● [Training of the next generation and missionaries]

Need for a mission center where people can receive training while competing in sports and coaching sports.

- Sports ministry training - learning and practice
- A system that allows people to learn while being in their respective regions (also using online).

(e.g.) Online courses - Kids Games/Festival Training

Mentoring through sports/Sports ministry with Kids ministry
Athletes and Faith, etc.

(e.g.) Train people involved in sports → send them to YMCA

→ send them to school club activities (outside instructors as personnel)

● [Contact point for accepting and dispatching mission teams.]

Matching the needs of mission teams and local churches to be dispatched.

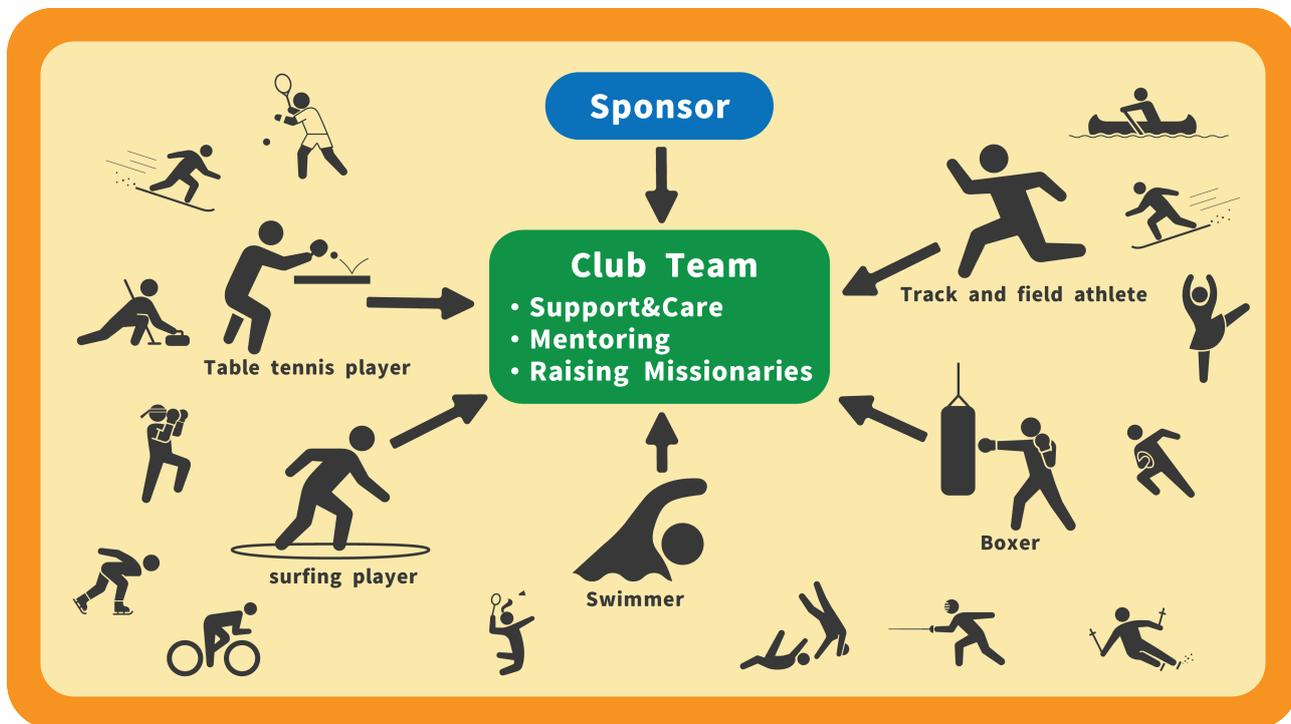
● [Missionary Cooperation]

Rather than creating new ministries, incorporate sports ministry into ministries that Japanese churches are involved in (children's worship service, church schools, child support, children's cafeterias, orphanages, etc.) in cooperation with local churches.

- If the mission center is a building, it can be used as a place where training takes place, where sports ministry can be practiced, or as a place for exchange.

(3)Club Teams

In Japan, Christian athletes are active individually in small numbers. They are active as amateurs and professionals, but most of them are working part-time while living a competitive life. Instead of just working part-time for nothing, a team is needed where they can learn as disciples of Christ while receiving support as athletes. In the future, it would be desirable to be able to work as gymnasts, mental trainers, physical trainers, etc.



- Support a few Christian athletes. Target athletes who are seeking personal sponsorship or a team to belong to, regardless of their sport.
- Establish an identity as a Christian athlete.
- It is difficult for individuals to find sponsors, but by bringing athletes together, it will be easier for them to receive support from sponsors.
- Formation of a community of mutual support.
 - Support and care for Christian athletes
 - Mentoring
 - Nurturing them as missionaries
- If the mission center is a building, it can be used as a training camp.

[Future possibilities for discipleship training related to sports ministry]

- Training and formation of teams to be dispatched for overseas missions
- Training and forming teams that can be useful in disaster relief
- Responding to the needs of the community by being close to the community together with local churches

アスリートチャーチ / Athlete Church

TEL 090-6376-8231

HP <http://www.athlete-church.com>

EMAIL athlete.church@gmail.com



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