



Japan Journal | JULY 10, 2018

Updating You on the Benekes' Ministry to College Students in Kobe!

Dear Friends,

Well, a *lot* has happened in the past three months since we wrote you! Here are some of the highlights.

In April, we passed out about 8,000 fliers on 12 campuses around Kobe. It was 2,000 less fliers than we passed out last year, but because we spent most of the month praying for each of the 12 campuses, we had a much better response.

Many students at schools where we had no ministry saw the fliers and ended up coming to our **Coffee Time (4/19)** and **Welcome Picnic (4/28)** outreach events. Some of them have kept coming to other events throughout the semester. Now we are beginning to visit their campuses with short-term mission teams. *Please pray that God might allow us to expand our ministry onto these new campuses in the near future.*

Our family moved into a new apartment on April 27. It took a few months to settle in, but now most of the cardboard boxes and suitcases have finally been put away. This week we are also getting a couple of air conditioning units installed after some recent 90-degree heat (most Japanese homes do not have central air conditioning).

Since we moved, we have appreciated the larger space for our family and closer proximity to church and teammates. Jungshin can walk with Lela to her weekly women's ministry events, and Ryan is able to ride his bicycle to campus and staff meetings. It also saves a lot on public transportation! We are planning to buy a car before Baby #2 arrives in October. *Please pray for God's provision of the perfect vehicle for our family and ministry needs.*

In May, our previous 3-year visas expired and we had to apply for new ones. In spite of some complications with our paperwork, I'm happy to report that we finally received our new 5-year visas last month. Now the Beneke family is free to stay in Japan until June 2023. Praise the Lord!

In May, we were also privileged to attend the wedding of two former students, **Atsushi** and **Sumika**, who met through our ministry. We helped to mentor both of them when they were in college. Their wedding was a wonderful testimony of



Handing out ministry fliers on campus during freshman orientation (4/1-6)



Dinner with students at the first Coffee Time of the semester (4/19)



Celebrating Atsushi and Sumika's wedding with staff and students (5/26)

God's love to the many non-Christian friends and co-workers who attended.

In June, a junior from Konan University named Kosuke became a Christian! He met one of our students at driving school this spring and put his faith in Jesus after hearing the gospel from a local pastor. Now Kosuke has started to attend our meetings and go to church with the friend who first shared Christ with him. *Please pray for his spiritual growth.*

Unfortunately, some of our teammates were recently kicked off Konan University after security guards caught them talking with students last week. They are continuing to meet their friends off campus and have started ministering at other schools in the area. *Please pray for wisdom on how to proceed with ministry at Konan University in the future.*

In June, we also had the first of our summer short-term mission teams arrive from the United States. This month we have five teams visiting Kobe from Taiwan and Korea. Most of these teams are partnering with local churches to help us reach new campuses. *Please pray for fruitful ministry for the churches and short-term mission teams this month.*

The last few weeks have seen several natural disasters in our area: the largest earthquake we have ever experienced (5.3) and a record-breaking three days of torrential downpour leading to floods and mudslides. We are fine, *but please pray for those who have been affected and are still recovering.*

Ryan continues to enjoy his online classes at Western Seminary. However, his studies have also made it difficult at times to focus on other responsibilities. That's why Ryan has decided to cut back on his course load beginning this fall. Hopefully this will allow him more time to focus on family, ministry, and communicating with you!

This semester's campus ministry ends on July 30, and Ryan's seminary semester ends on August 6. *Please pray for God's grace to finish the month well.* Thank you again for your partnership in our lives and ministry. We apologize for sending this update so late, and we will do our best to write again in early August!

Yours in Christ,

Ryan & Jungshin



New Christian **Kosuke** (left) and the friend who shared Christ with him



Small group discussion at "California Friends Night" outreach event (6/15)

PRAISES & PRAYERS

- *Praise God for his faithfulness in our lives and ministry the past 3 months!*
- *Pray for Kosuke's spiritual growth and wisdom for the Konan University team on how to proceed in the future*
- *Pray for those affected by the floods and earthquakes in western Japan*
- *Pray for mission teams ministering on new campuses, and for us to finish the semester well this month*
- *Pray for Jungshin and baby's health, and for God's provision of a vehicle*

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