

THE BENEKES' JAPAN JOURNAL

Connecting College Students in Kyoto to Jesus



Praises & Prayer Requests

- Praise God for deepened relationships and increased commitment among students who attended Summer Camp!
- Praise God for new interns' arrival in Kyoto this week!
- Pray for the spiritual growth of Japanese students as disciples
- Pray for the interns' smooth adjustment to Japanese life, language, culture, and ministry
- Pray for the interns' visas to arrive soon so they can leave Japan to receive them at the best possible time this fall

Dear Friends,

How do you respond when God's answer to your prayers is "No"? All summer, we prayed our new interns (above) could come to Kyoto by September. We even scheduled our Summer Camp (9/15-16) for a time when we assumed they would be here. But as the weeks went by and their visas did not arrive, it became clear that they would miss not only Summer Camp, but also the start of fall semester. What was God up to?

Looking back now, we can see his purposes in the waiting. Extra time in the U.S. gave the interns more opportunities to serve their local campuses and mobilize students to come to Japan. Because they were not here at Summer Camp, it also encouraged students in Kyoto to fellowship more with one another. That meant deeper relationships and increased commitment to our community. Finally, the delay gave our family more time to rest as we slowly prepared for the interns' arrival.

Yet thankfully, as I write this, our new teammates are at the airport preparing to board their flights to Japan! No, their visas have still not arrived. As a result, they will have to leave the country at some point to receive them. But we trust God's timing and purposes in that, too.

Please pray for the interns' visas to arrive ASAP, and for their smooth adjustment to life and ministry in Kyoto. We are excited to see how God will use them in the lives of Japanese students this coming year.

Thank you for your prayers and partnership. May the Lord bless you abundantly this month as you also continue to trust him in the waiting!



Yours in Christ,
Ryan, Jungshin, Lela, Micah, & Hannah