

THE BENEKES' JAPAN JOURNAL

Connecting College Students in Kyoto to Jesus



Dear Friends,

Happy Holidays! This is a photo from when our team all gathered at our home for Thanksgiving dinner last month.

In early September, we had a group of 6 interns (4 new, 2 returning) join us from America. A few weeks later, a family of 5 joined us from Korea. Life has been pretty crazy since, as we've been helping everyone settle into life in Kyoto and get up to speed on our ministry. There have been some growing pains along the way. But now it seems like people are finding their routines as we enter the Christmas outreach season.

One of the most encouraging things this fall has been our weekly meetings. The number of students attending has doubled since last semester! Many of them are either non-Christians or new believers. We expect 50-60 students to attend our evangelistic Christmas Party this Friday (12/13) and the follow-up event the following week (12/20). Please pray that many of them would respond to the Good News of Jesus and experience a warm community that makes them want to come back.

On the family front, Lela (9) and Micah (6) celebrated birthdays in September, and Hannah turned 4 last month. We visited the local aquarium to celebrate (right)! After Christmas, we will be attending Cru Japan's biannual Staff Conference (12/26-29). Ryan will be emceeing, and Jungshin and Ryan will each be leading seminars. Ryan will then head to Dallas and San Diego to speak at two mission conferences after New Year's (1/2-7). Please pray for our family's protection throughout these travels, and for grace to make the most of our opportunities to serve.

As 2024 draws to a close, we want to say thank you again for your partnership in our life and ministry this past year. We pray you and your loved ones have a Merry Christmas, and we will write you again in 2025!

Praises & Prayer Requests

- Praise God for the safe arrival of 6 American interns and a Korean family of 5 in Kyoto!
- Pray for their continued adjustment to life and ministry
- Praise God for the many new students attending our weekly meetings this semester!
- Pray for our evangelistic Christmas Party (12/13) and follow-up event (12/20)
- Pray for service at Japan Cru's Staff Conference (12/26-29) and mission conferences in Dallas and San Diego (1/2-7)



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