



Japan Journal

| DECEMBER 20, 2016

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

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas! Here in Japan it's that wonderful time of year again when people are most open to hear about Jesus. So every December, our ministry hosts a series of Christmas outreach events. And every December, God faithfully uses them to bring new students to our ministry.

Last year one of those students was a girl named Natsumi. Although she was a theology major, she was not a Christian when she showed up for the first time at our Christmas Party. But Natsumi heard the gospel there, and she began attending more of our outreach events this year.

After an event this summer, the same friend who invited Natsumi to the Christmas Party shared the gospel with her again. This is what happened next, in Natsumi's own words:

"She told me Jesus Christ died on the cross in my place. That made me very happy, but I still wasn't sure if I could fully trust in God. My friend told me faith was a gift from Him that I had to receive. If I wanted to believe, I could ask Him to help me. So I prayed with her and thanked God for forgiving my sins. That's how I became a Christian."

A year after showing up at one of our events for the first time, Natsumi shared her story in front of 30 people at our Christmas Party on 12/9. We're praying some of the other students who came to our Christmas events will have similar testimonies next year!

As we look back on 2016, we praise God for all He has done in our family's life and ministry over the past year. We also look forward with great anticipation to what He has planned for us in 2017. Thank you again for your partnership in the gospel, and have a very Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,

Ryan & Jungshin



Natsumi (far left) at the Christmas Party last year. Fumika (second from right) is the friend who first invited her to come.



Merry Christmas from the Benekes!

PRAISES & PRAYERS

- *Praise* God for blessing our Christmas outreach and for Natsumi's salvation!
- *Pray* students who came to Christmas events would continue to seek God
- *Pray* for our team leader and Ryan as they go speak about Japan at a student conference in San Jose (12/26-31)

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