



# Japan Journal | JULY 30, 2014

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

Dear Friends,

Japanese high school students *dream* of attending Tokyo University, the top college in the country. Getting in is the subject of numerous comic books and TV shows. **Akitomo** was one of the fortunate few who actually made it. But after two years in Tokyo, the constant drive for success had worn him down. He returned home to enroll in medical school at Kobe University. That's where one of our **Summer Mission Teams** met him last month.

At first, it was the chance to speak English and make friends with American students that drew Akitomo in. But as he continued spending time with the team and coming to their events at church, the gospel started to sink in. A few days before the team left, Akitomo met with our pastor for Bible study. That night, he joined the team at dinner to make a big announcement: he had decided to become a Christian. When they heard the news, many of them wept for joy.

Akitomo's parents also cried when they heard he had become a Christian. But they were not tears of joy. For now, they have forbidden him from going to church on Sundays. It's a common reaction in a land where Christians are few and many are suspicious of anything too overtly "religious." But Akitomo's faith has not been shaken. He has continued to grow as he meets with the pastor for Bible study on weekdays and watches the service online on weekends.

Next month, Akitomo will also be attending our yearly **Summer Camp**. Please pray that he and everyone else who attends would grow in their commitment to live as Jesus' disciples, no matter the opposition. Thank you!

In Christ,

*Ryan & Jungshin*



New Christian **Akitomo** is a 1st year med school student at Kobe University



**Akitomo** (middle) with the Summer Mission Team on the night he told them he had become a Christian

## PRAISES & PRAYERS

- *Praise* for Akitomo's salvation and the Summer Mission teams' ministry!
- *Pray* for growth and effective follow-up of new believers this summer
- *Pray* for Summer Camp, 8/14-8/16. The theme is "Make Disciples."

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