



# Japan Journal

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

Dear Friends,

In Fall 2014, **Shiho** was a freshman at Kobe University. One day a Cru intern named Heather approached Shiho on campus. Heather told her about Jesus and invited her to study the Bible together. They began meeting every week.

“At first, when I heard about Jesus and Christians' lives, I couldn't understand at all,” Shiho says. “I felt I didn't need God and I should live life by myself because I am responsible for my own life. But I wanted to know how Christians thought, so I took Bible study from Heather. But I just wanted to know about it, so I didn't try to participate in any events or parties, and I didn't try to apply it myself.”

But over the next year, as Shiho kept spending time with Christians and studying the Bible, her heart began to open. “I realized how many people pray for me, and I also realized how God blesses me and loves me. It's really mysterious that I entered Kobe University, met Heather, heard about God, and was changed to believe in Him. I felt this is the grace of God. When I took my test to study in America, I seriously prayed for the first time. I didn't know if studying abroad was good for me or not. I was anxious. But God knows what I should do. I decided to believe in God's plan.”

A week before Christmas, Heather and Shiho met for their regular Bible study. Sensing her openness, Heather asked Shiho how she felt about praying to express her faith in Jesus. Shiho says, “I didn't have reason to refuse that suggestion, so I prayed. At that time, I already had belief.”

Since then, Shiho has been attending our weekly worship gatherings. She goes to study in New York this fall. Until then, please pray her faith would grow and God would lead her to a good church. Thank you for your partnership!

Yours in Christ,

*Ryan & Jungshin*



New Christian **Shiho** (right) from Kobe University with our Cru intern, Heather



Lela is coming soon to a city near you!  
We'll be visiting the U.S. from 2/12-3/7

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray Shiho's faith would grow and God would lead her to a good church
- Pray for safe travels: 2/12-22 in San Diego, 2/22-24 in MN, 2/25-3/3 in VA, 3/4-6 in PA, 3/6-7 in NY
- Pray for a meaningful, refreshing time with family and friends in U.S.

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