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

Dear Friends,

A week after returning from Taiwan, I had the privilege of attending the **Japan Congress on Evangelism (9/27-30)** here in Kobe. This conference is held once every 7 years and brings together pastors and full-time ministers from around the country. Over 2,100 of us gathered to learn about issues currently facing the Japanese church, as well as to discuss how we can begin addressing them in the years to come.

The conference's final message was a call to unity in the body of Christ. Although the evangelical population of Japan is only 0.5% (about 630,000 people), there are around 180 different denominations. Churches may share a common goal of reaching the remaining 99.5%, but they are often wary of partnering with one another to achieve it.

This conference encouraged me to keep building bridges with the larger body of Christ outside Cru. For example, we recently started attending a monthly meeting for local pastors. Within that group, we also joined a committee that helps to organize youth events for churches in our area.

Working together with churches that might not share your theology or ministry philosophy isn't always easy, but it is worth it, and we thank God for the opportunity. Our desire is to bless the body of Christ in Japan, to promote its unity, and to help strengthen it in whatever ways we can.

For that reason, this year we are inviting local churches to join students for our annual **Personal Evangelism Seminar (11/4-5)**. Please pray that many church members would be able to attend, and that they would take and apply what they learn to encourage evangelism in their own communities.

Thank you again for partnering with us to serve the body of Christ in Japan! We hope you have a great month.

Yours in Christ,

Ryan & Jungshin



Main speaker Christopher J.H. Wright at the Japan Congress on Evangelism



Our students after the Japan Congress on Evangelism Youth Gathering (10/1)

PRAISES & PRAYERS

- *Praise* God for his work through the Japan Congress on Evangelism!
- *Pray* for a greater spirit of unity and cooperation among Japanese churches
- *Pray* **Personal Evangelism Seminar (11/4-5)** would equip students and church members to share their faith

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