

# THE BENEKES' JAPAN JOURNAL

Connecting College Students in Kyoto to Jesus



Dear Friends,

“Hi, we’re Christians visiting from another part of Japan. How can we pray for you?” After Cru Japan’s annual Spring Camp, Ryan led a team of Japanese students to do outreach in an unchurched village (3/7-9). 2/3 of Japan’s rural communities lack even a single church, and very few Christians live there. This trip’s purpose was to prayerfully search for locals who might become the center of future church planting efforts.

Ryan paired up with Ryosuke, a student he helped lead to Christ in Kobe. Ryan was encouraged to see how Ryosuke has grown over the past 3 years and to have the chance to minister together before he graduates. They spent the afternoon knocking on doors and interacting with people around the neighborhood (above). While most responded by saying “I’m not interested” or “I’m a Buddhist,” they were still able to have several conversations about the Bible and to pray for one family.

After returning to Kyoto, Ryan was asked to lead Cru Japan’s in-country mission trips. Our vision is to mobilize college students to bring the gospel to unchurched areas through short-term outreach. With many local churches and mission organizations, we are trusting God for 2% of the Japanese population to become Jesus’ disciples by 2040.

Back on campus, we have also seen God work in many ways since the new school year began in April. We outgrew our previous space for our weekly meetings. We formed our first student leadership team. We have several new students involved in Bible study. We also started outreach on a couple new campuses, including the largest Buddhist university in Japan. Praise God with us, and pray we could finish this semester well.

Thank you as always for your partnership! We will write again in July with an update on the end of the semester and our summer plans.

## Praises & Prayer Requests

- Praise God for the chance to do outreach with Ryosuke in an unchurched village!
- Pray for the 14 million people in rural Japan who still live in a town or village with no church
- Praise God for all the ways He has worked in our ministry on campus this semester!
- Pray for the ministry of the Korean mission team coming to Kyoto next month (7/1-18)
- Pray that we could finish the last month of the semester well before summer break



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