

Dear Friends,

**Nana** was a quiet, young Christian who hadn't had much experience sharing her faith with others. Like most of us, the thought of starting a spiritual conversation with a stranger made her pretty nervous. But during our March **National Student Conference**, we went out to talk with people in the famous Harajuku fashion district of Tokyo.

Because Nana and her partner were both anxious about approaching someone at first, they requested that I start. I asked an older man studying a map if he had time to take a survey. "Find someone younger," he said brusquely, and walked off. Not exactly the inspiring start I was hoping for!

Next, we spied a younger woman sitting on a nearby park bench. I suggested Nana and her partner try talking with her while I prayed at a distance. "But what do I say?!" she asked worriedly. I gave some brief advice and walked a little ways off to watch. A short time later, the girls returned smiling. "It went great!" they said. "But...oh no! We forgot to share the gospel with her after we finished the survey!"

Thus went the next few hours, as Nana and her partner approached people and I gave feedback afterwards. With each passing conversation, however, their confidence and the quality of their sharing slowly increased. By the next day, they told me they didn't even need me to go with them! **And that afternoon, Nana had the privilege of personally leading a high school girl to Christ.**

Nana sent me this message after the conference: *"Ryan, thank you for the past four days. Through you, I learned the confidence to share about God without fear. You were a real encouragement to us. From now on, I want to keep sharing the gospel by myself, so please pray for me."*

Like Nana, most of our students also left the conference motivated to share the gospel with their friends on campus once the new school year started in April. One of those was



**Nana shares Christ in downtown Tokyo during the National Student Conference**



**Our Kobe University team on campus during freshman orientation, early April**



**Jungshin with friend at our Welcome BBQ for new students, April 27**

**Ayumu**, a junior at Kobe City University of Foreign Studies. During our time in Manila, God had given me the idea to contact some Christian students about starting an English Bible study where they could invite their non-Christian friends. Ayumu was one of those excited to get involved.

The day of our first Bible study arrived, and I was a little disappointed to see that only one of Ayumu's friends had shown up. His name was **Keiji**, and though he'd never read the Bible for himself, he listened intently as we talked about how God's Word influenced our daily lives.

As we finished up the study, Ayumu said to Keiji (in Japanese), "Hey, if you're really interested in the Bible, I have this booklet that will explain it for you." Then, using a version of the *Four Spiritual Laws* called "Knowing God Personally," Ayumu spent the next hour sharing with Keiji about who Jesus Christ is, what He had done, and how Keiji could begin a relationship with Him.

Ayumu's joy and earnestness in sharing his relationship with Christ were infectious. Keiji was obviously moved, and he told Ayumu that he also wanted to pray to receive Christ as his Savior. So they bowed their heads, prayed, and then made plans to meet up the next week and begin a new believer's Bible study together. Praise God!

In both Nana and Ayumu's stories, it wasn't me that led anyone to Christ—God worked through *them*. But seeing that, I can honestly say that my satisfaction was greater than if I'd done it myself. **Why? Because my ultimate goal here isn't to "win" Japan by myself; it's to help develop Japanese student leaders who will reach their own campus, society, and the world for Christ.**

By God's grace, we are grateful that we're starting to see those leaders developed this semester. Thank you for being a part of what He's doing here in Japan through your generosity and prayers!

Yours in Christ,

*Ryan & Jungshin*



**Ayumu and new believer Keiji (right)**  
after he accepted Christ during our  
first English Bible study this month



**Teaching *Christianity Explained* Bible study for teammates to use on campus**

### **PRAISES & PRAYERS**

- *Praise* for our Japanese students' growing desire to share Christ after the **National Student Conference!**
- *Pray* for the salvation of pre-Christian students and the growth of Christian student leaders this semester
- *Pray* for the effective ministry of our summer mission teams, **5/31-7/16**
- *Pray* that we would always prioritize our time with God and one another, especially in the midst of busyness

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