



Japan Journal

| AUGUST 7, 2013

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

Dear Friends,

Shikoku is the smallest, most rural, and least evangelized of Japan's four main islands. It's also a short drive from Kobe across the world's longest suspension bridge. After hosting so many short-term mission teams this summer, our team decided it was time to go on a mission trip ourselves. *Shikoku* seemed like the perfect destination.

Besides helping our host church with their neighborhood outreach, we spent time ministering at a local university. Because traditional religion is strong in *Shikoku*, at first we thought students might be less willing to hear about Jesus than in Kobe. Instead, it turned out to be just the opposite!

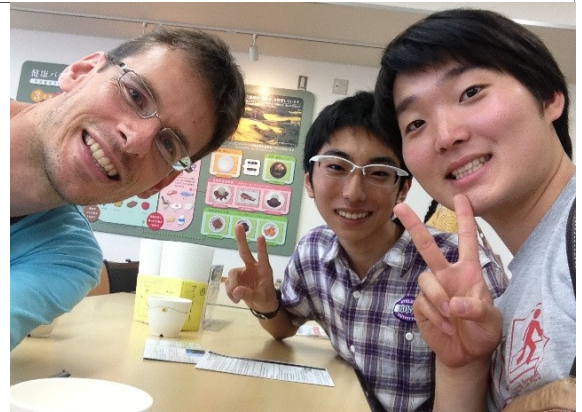
Even though most students had no prior exposure to Christianity, they were curious to learn about our beliefs. I talked with one student named **Yamato** who later sent me this text message: "Thank you! It was good to come across a way of thinking I might never have known otherwise."

On the last day, we hosted a "Korean Party" for the church's neighbors and students we met on campus. Around 15 people came, and after hearing the gospel, three of them prayed with us to receive Christ! Please pray for the church's follow-up of these young believers. God blessed our short stay in *Shikoku*, but we know the real ministry has to be done by those living there long-term.

Where we live is Kobe, and we're ready to get back to our ministry of discipling students here at **Summer Camp** next week. Thank you for praying and partnering with us to reach students throughout the islands of Japan!

Yours in Christ,

Ryan & Jungshin



With **Yamato** (center) on campus; we were able to share the gospel and give him a New Testament before we left



Korean Party with church neighbors and students on our last day in *Shikoku*

PRAISES & PRAYERS

- Praise God for our time in *Shikoku* (7/24-29) and 3 new believers!
- Pray for the church in *Shikoku* and the follow-up of those we met there
- Pray for our Summer Camp 8/13-15. The theme is "Being a Disciple."

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