



Japan Journal

| JANUARY 19, 2016

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

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! Thank you for praying for our outreach last month. We had about 15 students attend our **Christmas Party** and **Christmas Worship** events, and many of them heard the gospel for the first time. Here's what one student, **Ken**, wrote about his experiences in a recent Facebook post:

"A few weeks ago, I participated in a Christmas Party held in Shukugawa Bible Church by Kobe Student Impact. As you know, I'm not a Christian and won't be. However, my friends always welcome me warmly, and it makes me happy.

"On that day, we sang a lot of hymns in Japanese (I didn't know most of them), listened to testimonies and messages of two men, celebrated the birth of Jesus, and ate cakes and snacks. We talked about the definition of happiness, the purpose of our lives, and so on.

"Through the conversations with my Christian friends, I was able to deepen my understanding about Christianity. However, it is but the 'understanding,' and I don't think to believe (or accept) God in the real meaning. (It is not that I deny my friends.)

"There are a lot of differences between Christian and non-Christian. For example, do you believe the universe was made by a big bang or God made the universe. It takes a lot of time if I start talking about the differences, so I'll do it next time. I'll meet them about one hour later, and I've been looking forward to it."

Ken's perspective is typical of many Japanese students: skeptical of Christianity for cultural or scientific reasons, yet still drawn to the love of Christian community. Please pray God would continue working in these students' lives as the school year ends this month. Thank you for your partnership!

Yours in Christ,

Ryan & Jungshin



Ken (right front) and other students at Christmas Worship event last month



Our team attended the National Staff Retreat near Mount Fuji (12/26-30)

PRAISES & PRAYERS

- *Praise* God for the 15 students who heard the gospel at Christmas events!
- *Pray* Ken and these other students would trust Christ in the near future
- *Pray* for our family's spiritual health: that we would prioritize our time with God and finish this school year well

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Please Pray for the Benekes - Ryan, Jungshin, and Lela (born 9/19/2015)
Serving with Cru in Kobe, Japan

