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

Dear Friends,

Ah, springtime in Japan... The cherry blossoms are in full bloom, and college students are dressed in suits-and-ties for school entrance ceremonies. It's a season for new beginnings. It's also one of our most critical ministry times of the year.

Freshmen arrive on campus each spring open to new ideas and experiences. But as time goes by and they establish their normal routines and relationships, this openness slowly fades. Reach them in that first semester and there's a good chance they'll stick around until they're seniors. Miss that window of opportunity and, well, better luck next year!

To introduce as many of these freshmen as possible to our ministry, **from April 1-5, we handed out almost 4,500 fliers advertising our events at 7 different universities around Kobe.** Classes began a few days later, and last week was our first full week of ministry back on campus this semester.

So far we've been encouraged to see some new students coming to our weekly events (English/Korean conversation time on campus, and Friday night worship service at a local church). Other students have told us they plan to attend the **International Friends Picnic on April 23, which is our first big evangelistic event of the new school year.**

Of course, we would love to have a huge turnout for all of our events, since that would mean more people for us to tell about Jesus! But more important than the quantity of students is the quality. Please pray God would lead us to students He has already prepared to believe the gospel, that many freshmen would trust Jesus and grow as his disciples this semester.

We look forward to sharing how God will answer your prayers for us next month. Until then, thank you again for your partnership in the gospel, and God bless!

Yours in Christ,

Ryan & Jungshin



Cherry blossom viewing with our team



Handing out fliers in a sea of students at Kobe University's Entrance Ceremony

PRAISES & PRAYERS

- *Praise* God for all of the fliers handed out and new students met during **Freshman Orientation** this month!
- *Pray* freshmen would trust Jesus and grow as his disciples this semester
- *Pray* for upcoming outreach events: International Friends Picnic (4/23), Coffee Time (4/28), Sports Day (5/7)

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