



Japan Journal

| FEBRUARY 6, 2013

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

Dear Friends,

In Japan, there is a belief that how you start the New Year can set the tone for the entire year to come. That is why, on January 1, many Japanese people visit local shrines to ask the gods for health and good fortune. **Our Kobe ministry also wanted to start 2013 well, so we met for four days to pray, fast, and ask God to work powerfully in our lives and the lives of those around us this year.**

The next week, our church gathered every morning at dawn to pray that the Japanese people might be set free from idolatry to serve the true and living God. (At the same time, a nearby shrine was hosting a three-day festival to *Ebisu*, the fisherman god of good luck. **Worshippers bought charms made of bamboo leaves and prayed for prosperity by pinning their money to a giant tuna.** It was estimated that more than a million people attended the festival—roughly equal to the number of Christians in all of Japan.)

We desire that 2013 would be a year for us to pray for Japan and personally come to know God better. Now that the fall semester is done, we are focusing on our personal development as we get ready for the new school year in April. **I was privileged to take an intensive Bible class in Tokyo last week, and later this month, we are heading to Manila for a week of training with other young staff leaders from throughout Asia.**

Please pray that we would make the most of this season to pray, draw closer to God, and become the kind of leaders he wants us to be. We appreciate your partnership, and we pray that you would also come to know God better in 2013!

In Him,

Ryan & Jungshin



With the guys in my small group at our Prayer and Fasting Camp last month



Thanks for praying for our Christmas outreach! It was a meaningful time to worship and share Jesus with others.

PRAISES & PRAYERS

- *Praise* for a prayerful start to 2013!
- *Pray* for our leadership training in the Philippines, **February 18-23**
- *Pray* that many Japanese might be set free from idolatry and come to know the true and living God this year

Ryan & Jungshin Beneke, Minamimukonosono 4-19-13-404, Amagasaki, Hyogo, 661-0033 JAPAN
E-MAIL: ryan.beneke@cru.org / kobe4christ@willcom.com | PHONE: (+81) 070-6685-5211