



Japan Journal

| JANUARY 28, 2017

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

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! We pray this finds you well in 2017. For us, this past month has been a whirlwind of activity. It started the day after Christmas with Ryan traveling to the Bay Area to speak about Japan at a student conference (12/26-31). Several students came up afterwards to tell us that they were thinking about coming to Japan on a 3-week or even 1-year mission trip in the future. Thank you for your prayers!

Before the jet lag could even wear off, Ryan flew home again just in time for our annual New Year's Prayer Retreat (1/3-5). This year we asked local pastors to give most of the messages, which made the retreat easier to prepare and also more fun to attend! It's always good to begin each year in prayer committing ourselves and our steps to the Lord.

Last week, Ryan drove to Tokyo with our Kobe team for the inauguration of Japan Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru's) new National Leadership (1/23). Two of the four new leaders are former teammates from Osaka. We're excited to see how God will use them to guide this ministry in the years ahead.

By now most Japanese students are taking final exams, which means our ministry on campus for the fall semester has come to an end. Tomorrow our family flies to Thailand with an American teammate for a weeklong conference for staff serving in Asia (1/30-2/4). When we return, we will begin our preparations for the new school year starting in April.

Please pray especially for a planning retreat with student leaders to determine our ministry's direction for 2017 (2/13-15). Pray also that, in the midst of all of these activities, we would not neglect our relationships with God or one another.

Thank you for your partnership, and have a great month!

Yours in Christ,

Ryan & Jungshin



Speaking to students about missions at a conference in the Bay Area last month



Last day to share gospel on campus this semester with men that Ryan discipled

PRAISES & PRAYERS

- *Praise* God for a busy but fruitful month of ministry around the world!
- *Pray* God would lead 2+ students from the Bay Area to come to Japan as 1-year missionaries this fall
- *Pray* God would bless and guide 2017 ministry planning retreat (2/13-15)

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