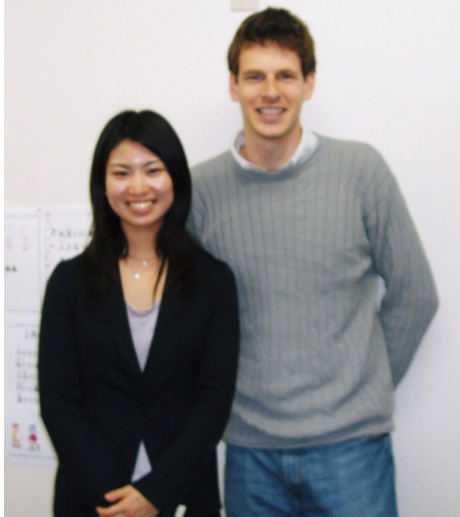


## Then and Now



*With Fumiko at her grad party*

*“Could you check this for me?”*

It was Fall 2004, and I was at a meeting for an English club I had joined to meet more students. That was when **Fumiko** asked me to help her with a speech contest.

Later, we met again to review my corrections. As we finished talking and Fumiko began to leave, I remember wishing I could have shared the gospel with her. Instead I prayed, “Lord, please give her another chance. Please save her.” Little did I know how quickly He would answer that prayer.

That next week, I showed up on campus to the news that Fumiko had trusted Christ over the weekend. *How in the world?!* It turned out she had visited the church of a friend I introduced her to the week before at lunch. After service, they had talked for a few hours before Fumiko eventually decided to pray.

Fast forward to today: Fumiko has just graduated and is set to begin work. Over the past 4 years, she has led numerous people to the Lord, including her little sister. She still serves faithfully at the church where she was saved. And when asked what she wants to be, she says, “An evangelist.”

It was such a blessing for me to see Fumiko again last month—the first time since I came back to Japan. I always tell her that my greatest joy in ministry has been seeing God use me in a small way to save her. She told me recently, “Ryan, if I hadn’t met you, I probably wouldn’t be a Christian. I owe you my life.” There is no greater honor on earth than to hear words like that. I give God all the glory.

All has not been easy for Fumiko since becoming a Christian, however. Her parents have banned her sister from attending church, regularly spy on their conversations, and even ripped apart all of their Bible study materials. Please ask the Lord to soften their hearts to the gospel.

## In with the New

With cherry blossoms and spring comes the start of the new school year in Japan. Throughout April, hundreds of clubs will be aggressively recruiting new members. Once students join, they will likely stay involved for the rest of

their college careers.

Our task is to seek out among the many freshmen those whom God has already been preparing to receive the gospel. We do this through language teaching and fun events, but our purpose remains the same: to share Christ with as many as possible, and to make disciples.

Please partner with me in praying especially for God’s guidance this month. May He bless you!

## Prayer Requests

- Salvation of Fumiko’s parents; protection for her and her sister
- To meet Christian freshmen and others open to the gospel
- Upcoming events
  - New Student Barbeque (4.18)
  - Welcome Picnic (4.29)

*Ryan*



*The team on campus this week*