

# THE BENEKES' JAPAN JOURNAL

Building Movements of Disciple-Making Disciples on Kobe Campuses



## Praises & Prayer Requests

- Praise God for protecting our family and friends in Japan
- Praise God that his word is not bound (2 Tim. 2:9) by space but is continuing to spread online
- Praise God for the thousands hearing the gospel through our evangelistic articles and videos
- Praise God for the student who recently trusted Christ!
- Pray for continued protection from the spread of Covid-19
- Pray for balance in my roles as a husband, father, seminarian, Kobe team member, and leader of the Digital Strategies Team
- Pray for wisdom to focus time and resources to best meet spiritual needs during this time
- Pray for our ministry to seize current opportunities by faith
- Pray for many Japanese people to turn to Jesus in this crisis

Dear Friends,

What a difference a month makes. When we last wrote you in March, Japan had just begun to close schools and limit large gatherings in response to Covid-19. Since then, the government has also declared a National State of Emergency. As a result, Cru's leadership decided to suspend all face-to-face activities until at least May 31. Like many of you, this means our ministry has had no choice but to move online.

Thankfully, over the past two years, God has been preparing us to face these very circumstances. Through events like Film School, our **Digital Strategies Team** has been able to train many of our staff and students in online ministry. Now we are using what we have learned to share Christ through social media and film our weekly worship services.

For example, here in Kobe, we pre-record our services a week ahead of time and stream them online every Friday night. Afterwards, our members gather for fellowship using video chat (see above photo).

Despite the restrictions on face-to-face meetings, God is moving across the country. Evangelistic articles and videos that we produced in response to Covid-19 have thousands of views. Just a few days ago, one student came to Christ when a staff member shared the gospel with him through video chat! Please pray that the ongoing uncertainty around this crisis would lead many more people in Japan to turn to Jesus.

We understand that Covid-19 has most likely affected you in many ways, as well. Please know that you are in our prayers. Feel free to reach out to us if there is any way we can be praying for you specifically.

Thank you also for your prayers for our family. We will update you again in a few weeks as the situation in Japan continues to develop.



Yours in Christ,  
Ryan, Jungshin, Lela, and Micah