

Downtown With The Browns: Winter Conference and Tokyo!



(New year, new look for our newsletter!)

Happy New Year! We have so many wonderful things to report from the last month!

January 2024

TOKYO! Visiting Tokyo was a dream come true! Jena led a team of 7 to witness what the Lord is doing in Japan and to determine whether or not a sending partnership with Tokyo would be feasible. While in Japan, we evangelized on two college campuses, met with and prayed for the Tokyo team, and took in the incredible history and culture of the Japanese (and ate the best food!). Surprisingly, **the Japanese are the second largest unreached people group in the world** (behind the sheik in Bangladesh). One highlight for our team was to go to the top of the Metropolitan Building Observatory and look down upon the city at night. The twinkling lights were up to and even beyond the horizon, and we each took in the breathtaking evidence of 37 million souls, the majority of whom do not know Jesus. Among all the glittering lights we were reminded of the Scripture : **For this is what the Lord has commanded us: “ ‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ” - Acts 13:47**

We are happy to say that we have now become a stakeholder in the Tokyo partnership! This means we will be actively recruiting students from our movement to participate in summer mission trips and to intern in Tokyo. We are thrilled to be able to serve in this way!



L to R: Wearing kimonos at a tea ceremony, spiritual conversations with students at Aoyama University, team photo at Waseda University.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray that the students in Tokyo universities would hear and respond to the gospel, and that Student Impact Tokyo would be able to serve the spiritual needs of the students well!
- Praise the Lord for the growth that occurred at the Winter Conference!

WINTER CONFERENCE!

Washington DC was one of six cities that hosted a total of 4,057 students for Winter Conferences this year. This year, we had 25 staff and students attend from Lynchburg schools to be challenged in their faith, learn about local and global opportunities (Jena also promoted Tokyo!), and learn new ministry skills. It was a joy to be able to pray in the new year with our precious students!

Melody from Randolph was on the periphery of our movement -- she knew of Cru but had never been to a meeting because of a class conflict and took a HUGE step of faith in coming with us to Winter Conference, really knowing no one. At the start of the conference she was shy and reserved, but we could tell **she was there to learn and grow in her relationship with God**, and having taken part in the community, now has scheduled her classes around Cru! She was won over by the fellowship and by seeing everyone take their faith seriously, and now wants to do the same.



L to R: Jena promoting Tokyo, group photo on NYE, Zyaiah on the main stage! (blue shirt)