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Dear Friend,

I don't always get the chance to hang out with our guy students. Even when we all eat together after our weekly meetings, it can feel like junior high dances when the boys and girls were on opposite sides of the gym. But sometimes I get to fellowship with the guys too, and last week was one of those times.

A group of us planned to get together and ended up going to one of Tokyo's newest popular spots, Skytree tower, for lunch and to read the Bible together. I was so impressed with how enthusiastic everyone was to do a devotional time. It was somewhat spontaneous and reminded me how hungry we are in Japan for heart to heart conversation and connection.



We decided to read Ephesians 2 to ourselves and then share our thoughts. Koki, a sophomore from Japan Lutheran College, shared last. He kind of hesitated. Then he went on to say that he accidentally read chapter 1, but that it was closely related to what he had just been learning at camp. The topic of the Holy Spirit really struck him at his church's youth camp. When he read in Ephesians that we "were sealed with the Holy Spirit" it reminded him again how Jesus didn't leave us alone when He parted from us on earth. Koki seemed really impacted with a new, deeper understanding of God's presence with us through His Spirit. He got kind of excited and shared passionately how Jesus' presence is still actually with us.



Lately, I've felt a little discouraged and unsure how to show God's love to some of my friends. But Koki's reminder that God is with me gave me a needed boost. Even more than that, I won't forget the image I have of his passion as he shared with us what God has been teaching him.

It was also so nice for me to get away to a camp for my church as well. It seems like many of my friends and I have been blessed from the fellowship and teaching of summer camps this year. I was struck by the challenge to put my own name into where it says "you" in Genesis 12:1-3. God told Abraham that he would be a blessing to "all the families of the earth." When I think about how God brings all sorts of people into my life, and that He wants to bless each one of them, I get a little pumped up like Koki.

In Christ,

Christina

Please join me in praying for~

- ✧ Koki and other students to continue learning about and being filled with the Holy Spirit
- ✧ Praise that Rena is settled in Minnesota and prayer for her student life and ministry there
- ✧ Our Taiwan mission trip to join staff and students at universities in Taipei, September 4<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>