

Christina Eads
3509 Paseo de Colombo #57
Oceanside, CA
92056



Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru)
christina.eads@gmail.com

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Dear Friends,

It's clear from working with students in Japan and international students here in the U.S. that there are often misconceptions about Christianity. People may think that Christianity is about being a good person. They may picture half a day each week devoted to the church. What is Christianity?

Our Bridges leaders at UCSD and SDSU are hoping to point international students to Christ. But sometimes they aren't sure how to help guide them. Many have never heard anything about who Jesus is beyond Christmas. "Christianity Explained" is one resource that can help.

This month, I trained these leaders who are willing and able to clear up some common misconceptions about following Christ. They already have some great tools, including their own testimonies of coming to know Jesus. But for many students, hearing the gospel just once can leave them with a growing number of questions. We discussed how "Christianity Explained" is a resource that can be a good next step.

First, I shared about my own experience of going through the resource with students like Natsuki in Tokyo. So many of my co-workers and I saw students gradually grow in understanding of what Christ did for them. In six sessions (or more depending on the pacing) students can learn about some key beliefs that Christianity is based on. Topics like the authority of Jesus, the cross, the resurrection, and grace are covered in depth. Students who have heard the gospel explained can then learn about the various truths and how they are connected.

Then I showed them the actual materials and how the conversation can go. Each session has Bible verses, illustrations, and questions that can be asked. We walked through the majority of the first session, and I offered additional questions they may want to ask a friend with whom they'd share the resource. Everyone seemed excited but hesitant about the possibility of breaking down the gospel for an international student friend. We have friends from Spain, Germany, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Brazil, Italy, and more. Please pray that through "Christianity Explained" or other biblical resources the gospel will go forth to our friends from the nations.

In Christ,

Christina

Please join me in praying for~

- Bridges leaders at UCSD and SDSU to take steps of faith in explaining the gospel to international friends
- Mayu, who is joining staff with Cru in Japan, training in Nagoya; Shion who is interviewing to join staff
- Praise for the start to my marriage on January 16th