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Dear Friend,



Before going to Taiwan last month, I really didn't know what to expect. I suspected that the mango would be really good, and that was definitely true. The tapioca milk tea also earned four stars in my book. Plus, the people were unbelievably open and friendly.

Two weeks of ministry in Taiwan caused me to reflect on some of the challenges in Japan. One of the first days on Campus at Tamkang University, I met a girl named Lisa (thank goodness students choose American names for themselves, because I cannot pronounce their Chinese names to save my life.) A Japanese

student named Shion and I approached Lisa and her friend Judy, who happened to be a Christian and attends the same church where we were staying. God gave us the opportunity to share the gospel with Lisa along with Judy's help. She later expressed thanks to us for coming to Taiwan and telling her friend about Jesus. It was incredible that we randomly met Judy and could all discuss the Bible and God together with her and one of her friends. What amazed me even more was how quickly Lisa opened up to us.

In Tokyo, people are very busy. They are polite and willing to talk most of the time, but they rarely pursue a friendship after meeting one time. Lisa on the other hand, immediately accepted our invitation to church. She came both of the following Sundays and attended our outreach, "Japan Night" during the week in between. At that time Shion prayed for her and emphasized again the love that God has for her and that he wants her to live an abundant life with true joy. She stuck around until we had cleaned up everything and waved goodbye from afar until we were around the corner to the bus stop. Then, because our internet wasn't working, I couldn't contact her, but Lisa sought out Judy's help to get one of my Taiwanese co-worker's cell phone numbers. She was adamant about meeting us on our last day in the country.

Lisa was one of many students seeking friendship and a deeper meaning for her life. For us living in Japan, both staff and students, time in Taiwan was another reminder not to give up. Although it might take more time to develop trusting relationships, there are tons of people around us desiring love and truth. The friendliness of the Taiwanese people and strength from God to serve in a foreign land and language gave us a great boost!

In Christ,

Christina

Please join me in praying for~

- ✧ Lisa to continue enjoying fellowship with Judy and to put her identity in Christ, not academics
- ✧ Blessing for the Taiwanese staff and Christian students who are serving their people faithfully
- ✧ Rina and Tatsu (volunteer staff in Tokyo) who took great steps of faith to go to Taiwan (and loved it!)