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Dear Friend,



Michiyo and I were thrilled to meet Mari and watch her decide to follow Jesus.

Twice a month my church has an outreach for international students. This was a great opportunity for me to invite my friends when I was in Japanese school. One time I went and a Taiwanese classmate came with me, but I hadn't attended the event in about two years. A Portuguese student I met through a couple from church was planning to go to the outreach and invited me to go too. I enjoyed talking with Erika and her Polish roommate over dinner and a concert, but honestly the highlight up to that point had to be the Costco pizza. When things were starting to wrap up, I kind of meshed into a conversation with a Japanese girl named Mari.

I thought we would never move on from the topic of Disney, but the other guy we were chatting with bowed out, and Mari asked me what I do in Japan. I told her my job is with a Christian NPO and we have Bible studies and events for both Christians and students who are

interested. She replied that she's interested.

As is not uncommon, Mari attended Catholic junior high and high schools and has a vague notion of God and the Bible. She also has continued to pray on her own since starting college, though somewhat superstitiously, asking to pass exams or for good health. We spent quite a bit of time talking about what sort of God we're praying to and about how the Bible describes God and his love. We moved on through a gospel tract and discussed together about sin and forgiveness. Then Mari decided to pray to have Jesus come into her life.

Almost immediately, as we continued talking, she started to question if she could be a Christian. All this time she had been praying to a different god and wasn't sure if that could change immediately. When I was a little unsure exactly what she was concerned about and started struggling with Japanese, a woman named Michiyo asked if she could join us. She confirmed that Mari did believe in Jesus and his grace through the cross. After a little more discussion, Mari felt confident that she could start a new life of prayer to the God who sent Jesus.

It also turns out that Mari's mother's cousin is a Christian. Please pray for their time together studying the Bible and that Michiyo and I can grow in our friendship and sisterhood with Mari too!

In Christ,

Christina

Please join me in praying for~

- ✧ Mari, as she has recently started a new life in Jesus Christ
- ✧ Rina and Tatsu who are serving as volunteers alongside our staff team
- ✧ Praise that Shiori is enjoying her job and Mari decided on a job
- ✧ Mio, who spent her 27th birthday in the hospital (fifth birthday in a row)