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Dear Friend,

Do you know how the Bible says, “For when I am weak, then I am strong”? It always proves true that when I am incompetent and totally drained, God can still work powerfully. Nothing shows me this more clearly than my study of the Japanese language.



The week before last, my Friday evening began with dread but ended with joy. After a long morning of Japanese class and a busy afternoon, I was exhausted and wanted nothing more than to escape Tokyo’s humidity. I stood outside, waiting to meet two of my group members for our last session of Intercultural Communications class. Even though we were meeting at the new Lindt café for European chocolate, I wanted to run away. In my mind, there was pressure to share about Jesus, and I just didn’t feel up to it at all.

Inside the café, I ran into a friend but felt foolish because I couldn’t remember her name. Then, when I sat down with my classmates, Mai and Asami asked me about my plans for the weekend. I had been looking forward to going hiking for over a month, but I couldn’t remember the name of the mountain. Then, when we talked about our summer breaks, I couldn’t remember the name of whatever I ate at the fish market.

I imagined that these girls thought I was a crazy and stupid foreigner. However, my utter ignorance turned in my favor when Mai pulled out her English book. The truth is that Japanese students completely understand the challenge of studying a foreign tongue.

After my performance of English pronunciation, I had a chance to ask Mai and Asami for help with kanji. That morning, I had been trying to read, from the Bible, “Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you...” in Japanese. That afternoon, despite my distorted mindset and reluctance to share my faith with my classmates, God provided a beautiful and very natural way to have a conversation about the gospel of Jesus. The walk home after that meeting was one of my most joyful times in Japan!

In the process of strengthening my Japanese, God is giving me rich opportunities in the midst of my weakness. Please keep praying for me and for those I have the absolute joy of knowing here in Tokyo!

In Christ,  
Christina

Please pray for continued relationships from my Intercultural Communications class, especially with Mai and Asami!

