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February 27, 2017





Dear Friends,

Shortly after coming back to Japan this New Year's Day, I was reminded of a simple fact of living as an American in Japan: people want to talk to me. Many want to practice English, and I think a lot of people are just intrigued, but it's an amazing opportunity. One Sunday before my evening church service, I sat in a café reading. I had eased back into things after Christmas vacation, but was exhausted after a full week of meeting students and friends. As I sat down, I remember telling God, "I'm not talking to anyone today. I'm resting."

Well, as people came and went on both sides of me on a busy weekend afternoon, I started to feel convicted. Rest is important, but it's not good to be to adamant about ignoring people. I really believe the Holy Spirit started preparing me. Next a girl sat down, and immediately I knew that I should talk with her. But somehow I just kept reading, unsure of what to say. Eventually, I came across an interesting expression. I asked my soonto-be new friend if she could help me understand it. It turns out she's studying to be a teacher and gave me a perfect example of how to use the phrase. She told me a lot about herself, and finally said she was really hoping to talk to me as soon as she noticed me reading in Japanese.

It shouldn't have surprised me, but Muzuki then came to one of my Valentine's Day baking parties and got to meet a Japanese Christian for the first time. It also turns out that she went to church with her homestay family in Vancouver several years ago. I invited her to church, but she's busy for the next couple months studying for exams for her teaching certification. Please pray that this valuable new relationship, as well as all the ones that grew during our time of making red velvet cookie sandwiches together, would continue to thrive!

In Christ,

Christina

Please join me in praying for~

- Akane, Marina, Megumiko, and Risako to continue growing closer to Jesus and sharing Him
- Students exploring the Bible or interested in starting (Natsuki, Erika, Maiko, Chie, and others)
- Spring Camp, March 14th-17th, to be good preparation for reaching out in the new school year