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Dear Friend,

At our all-Tokyo student meeting last week, we reflected on how God has blessed and changed us this semester. One question was about the relationships we've been given, and immediately Maiko and Erika came to mind.



I loved sitting down to Thai curry, made with Maiko and Erika, Yuri-chan and her friend Hikari, and some of our interns!

Since last fall, Maiko has been one of the students I see most consistently. She comes to our lunch on Rikkyo University every week. Although she's fairly quiet, she's gradually opened up (even in English, thanks to our interns who have also spent a lot of time with her.)

Erika, on the other hand, has been too busy with her part-time job to come to lunch very often. Honestly, at one point I wasn't sure if I'd see her again. Then one day she popped up and had more time than

any of the other students. The conversation was incredibly blessed. I'm still not sure exactly how it ended up this way, but after sharing the gospel with her, we successfully challenged Erika to memorize Ephesians 2:8, 9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not of your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Our relationships with Maiko and Erika have really continued to flourish. We had one of our best times together recently, making dinner and dessert together. It was nice to see we're truly building trust with one another. I was also encouraged we could talk about New Year's resolutions, and some of us could talk about desiring to deepen our relationships with God. Both Maiko and Erika seem to love spending time with us and learning about Jesus. Please pray we can help them to grow in understanding of who Christ is and how He loves them.



And because we girls have a sweet tooth, we made coffee cake AND brownies for dessert.

In Christ,

Christina

Please pray for~

- ❖ Opportunities to continue getting to know Erika and Maiko and share more about Christ with them
- ❖ Yuri-chan as she continues to share Jesus' love with friends like Risa and Moeko and Hikari
- ❖ Our sports outreach and fellowship time on January 29th