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Dear Friend,

I've seen some very beautiful steps toward Jesus in the lives of the people around me. My friend Wakaho asked where she can get a Bible to read on her own when outside of church, and Hiyama Sensei asked what "the gospel" means. There seem to be constant opportunities to help people know Christ. But in Japanese culture, there's typically very little understanding of Christianity and it can be a long road. My French classmate from Japanese school, Arnoult, and his wife Naomi expressed this last week when they joined one of my roommates and me for lunch.



**My roommate helped me celebrate Naomi's birthday with lunch, cake, and some heart to heart conversation.**

Naomi said that her and her family don't really believe in any religion. However, like most Japanese people, religious rituals are embedded in their lives. As a child, Naomi's parents gave thanks and dedicated her in a Shinto shrine. After the recent death of her mother, who had been battling cancer, Naomi's family conducted a Buddhist funeral. Because these kinds of practices are deeply rooted in her life, Naomi said that it would take a long time but that maybe someday she would come to believe in God and the Bible.

With her recent loss and other challenges, Naomi is really questioning genuine love and peace right now. I can discuss her thoughts and questions with her, but of course there's no way to truly impact her life apart from God's hand. So I would really love your prayers for all of us. Naomi and Arnoult live very close to me (with her father) and have recently often been attending my church. She finds the content to be pretty foreign and challenging but seems to be persevering. Please pray for the comfort of her and her family and for them to clearly experience Christ's love.

As I see your prayers impacting the people around me, it causes me to want to praise and pray more and more. So please join me in continuing to pray for the people of Japan!

In Christ,

Christina

Please praise God and continue to pray for~

- Wakaho, now attending an Intro to Christianity class and reading the Bible on her own
- Hiyama Sensei, who on Saturday asked me what "the gospel" means

New requests for~

- Naomi as she mourns the loss of her mother and begins to explore Christ's love
- My friend from Japanese school, Andrew, who came to Bible study for the first time
- A dinner outreach on May 10<sup>th</sup> for new college students

P.S. For more pictures, please visit my blog at <http://christinaeads.blogspot.jp/>