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Dear Friend,

It seems easy to underestimate the power of breaking the routine and going to camp. Our high school ministry teamed up with a mission team of U.S. college students for ICU "Summer Adventure Camp". Along with sports, hiking, water wars, smores, and a lot of laughing, these kids opened up and talked about life and Jesus.



Each evening, one of the American students shared his or her testimony, including how he or she learned about Jesus and started to trust in Him. These life stories, coupled with short films about some of life's challenges, sparked thriving discussion groups. We also had "room times" where reflection on our camp experience continued. Mai and Yoko pleasantly surprised me as they participated in with interest and maturity.

Yoko (pictured above with her arms crossed) can seem cold at times. Getting close to her has been challenging for me over the past several months, but she faithfully attends our activities. Finally, at camp I sensed some softness in Yoko as we talked about disappointments and persevering through life's darker seasons. She shared how past experiences have made it tough for her to trust people. However, she also started understanding why depending on other people can be good, and that although people let us down at times, God doesn't.

In contrast, Mai is instantly willing to be your friend. She's an animated cheerleader who loves to talk. After just a couple times meeting Mai, however, it was apparent that beneath her lively exterior she has a lot of doubts about how to be happy. She's been learning about Jesus through summer mission teams, and at camp she shared the conclusion she's come to so far. Mai's confident she can get by and live a good life where she's at right now. But, she also wonders how believing in Jesus might bring a greater joy when she's lonely or down.



Please pray for all these high school students to continue thinking about the choice to believe in Jesus as shared in the testimonies they heard from the summer missionaries. Please also remember Yoko and Mai and pray for more opportunities to open up to the truth and grace of the gospel.

In Christ,

Christina

Please pray for~

- Post-camp students to continue seeing Jesus and to accept Him
- Yuu, who I will see one more time before she studies in London
- Wakaho, Rieko, and Naomi, sometimes coming to church