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Dear Friends,

I was extremely encouraged by a recent experience, thanks to two interns who persevered through a long day. We were all debating whether to call it a day or meet a few more students. They rallied with me, and we met three lovely girls at Gakugei University.

Manami, Yoshi, and Minori all enjoyed the conversation despite being hesitant at first. We basically just brushed the surface, learning where they're from and what clubs they're part of on campus. There was nothing super promising about meeting them, but we were all glad we kept going that day.

For the past couple weeks since meeting these girls, we've started to rejoice and thank God for letting us meet. They've been consistent in coming to our lunchtime on campus and came to the interns' special English class called "Song and Story." This gave them the opportunity to hear testimonies from Japanese Christian students for the very first time. And last Friday was when I could say without a doubt how happy I was to meet them.

Minori came to our annual "Friend's Night" which is the last event the interns attend before heading back to the States. It's somewhat of a farewell party, where we thank them for coming to Japan. We also have one of them share their experience in Tokyo and intertwine the gospel, the primary reason they came to Japan, into their account of their year. At the end we all have dinner and dessert together, and I had the perfect chance to talk with Minori at that point. She had started building a friendship with Alison, but because of her limited English ability, we could deepen the conversation in Japanese.

Minori shared how the Christians she met all seemed to share stories of how God is close, not far away as she had always loosely imagined god. She heard testimonies about how He protected or guided them in a personal way. She asked me about my life, and I shared how big of an impact the Bible had on me. Then she described how thick the Bible is and how difficult it seems to understand. That is always my perfect segue into sharing the gospel, the four main points of the Bible, and Minori said that she really enjoyed learning about the God Christians believe in. Please pray for her and many others who heard the truth about Jesus for the first time!

In Christ,

Christina

Please join me in praying for~

- ❖ Christian students as they testify about God's goodness on their campuses
- ❖ Minori, Manami, Yoshi, and many others who are encountering Christ for the very first time
- ❖ Summer mission teams that are in Tokyo until 7/23