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Ayaka and I stepped outside bright and early to soak up the beautiful sights in Kamikochi, Nagano.

Dear Friends,

The summer season brought several fresh opportunities for time with students off campus. The most original was a two-night trip to Nagano, host to the 1998 winter Olympics. Aside from a rainy start, these mountains provided a breathtaking getaway and plenteous trails for talking and reflecting.

Toward the end of last semester, Ayaka said her calendar was empty in September, so we started dreaming up some potential destinations. Shortly after, our volunteer staff Kouki invited me to join him and some students to one of their hometowns. He was thrilled about Ayaka's interest to travel too.

Looking back, Kouki said he thinks God intended the whole trip for Ayaka. She's been a regular member of Wednesday English class and has studied the Bible with us before. But going to Nagano, she got nine meals, three trips to the onsen (public bath), and countless stunning views of incredible nature alongside five Christians. She had been afraid to share her honest thoughts about God, but while hiking I reassured her it was ok to have a different opinion. She finally opened up, and it was clear she saw some gaps in her worldview, as I just mostly listened. She later got to hear how Koji, the one from Nagano, decided to believe in Christ and continued to sort through different thoughts during the trip.



Ayaka also joined us the following week for two more nights in the heart of Tokyo. We gathered with our new team of interns to get acquainted, talk about teamwork and functioning out of God's love, and start preparing for the new semester. Please pray for Ayaka (and other seeking students) who are attracted to our community. We desire to faithfully show them the love of Christ and that they would trust Him soon!

In Christ,

Christina

Please join me in praying for~

- ❖ Ayaka and others who are attracted to the body of Christ to trust fully in Him
- ❖ Praise that Natsuki is growing in faith as a brand new believer
- ❖ Praise that Mayu and Chito returned from the Taiwan Mission trip encouraged and inspired