

Jessica's Joy's JAPANjournal

APRIL 28, 2008



✧ Shinkan Edition ✧

As the cherry blossoms have already blossomed and fallen, so has the Japanese school year already come and gone. March marked the graduation of our senior Student Impact students and April marked the beginning of a new school year. Japanese colleges kick off the year with the "Shinkan" period - literally meaning "Freshmen welcome". Student Impact participated in this season on Tokyo campuses through classroom surveys, English lunches and welcome events. Through new relationships and the Holy Spirit's leading, we've been able to share Jesus with many during this special time.

*"People are like grass;
their beauty is like a flower
in the field.
The grass withers and the
flower fades.
But the word of the Lord
remains forever."*

*And that word is the Good
News that was preached to
you.*

*1 Peter 1:23-25
NLT*

New School Year

This past month has been one crazy month. But good. The Shinkan period started April 1st which meant we were assigned to new campuses and campus teams. One of my new campuses is Sophia University. At our first Sophia English lunch, 70 students came out (mostly freshmen)! Every English lunch has a short English lesson and Bible point

as a way to build relationships with students while introducing the Bible in a non-threatening way. Honestly though, I'm passionate about sharing Jesus and if I'm not talking about the gospel it's easy for me to feel drained by so much people interaction. I begin to wonder if what I'm doing in Tokyo is worth it. Then I look at the students who have come to Christ and have



brought others to Christ and remember that they were students we met in the same way a few years earlier - through the Shinkan period or random outreaches. And I'm reminded it's worth it.



"Plant your seed in the morning and keep busy all afternoon, for you don't know if profit will come from one activity or another - or maybe both." Ecclesiastes 11:6

New Believers

The new believers from gospel choir that I shared about last month (Kohei, Mika and Midori) started a weekly Bible study that Kel and Laura are helping to lead with Jeremiah. I love getting to hear about their



questions and ways that they've been growing. (Mika and Midori are the Japanese girls pictured above.) Mari, the ICUHS senior who prayed with Laura and I last year became a freshman at ICU this month. We see her, but right now she's too busy for Bible study. Please pray for her faith and growth as well.

New Personal Update

Most of you know of the process I've been going through in the past year and a half in deciding what to do in my future after this STINT year. Through prayer, reading the Word, talking with trusted friends (many of you), recognizing the gifts, talents and

passions that Jesus has given me, I've decided to join staff with Campus Crusade for Christ. And I'm applying to return back to Japan long-term. The application is due June 1st, and I'll find out about my acceptance and placement in August. Please pray for continued wisdom in this process. In my mind I've decided, but I'm always open to hear if the Lord directs otherwise. I'm learning to live a surrendered life and I'm continually learning that my plans are not always His plans - though I want them to be!

As always, thank you so much for your partnership in bringing the gospel to Japan. I really appreciate your prayers, generous giving, notes of encouragement and love! I praise the Lord for you!

Love, Jessica Joy

Prayer Points

- 1) That I would keep Jesus my first love - especially during busy times.
- 2) Wisdom and humility for Paul and I as we continue to lead our STINT team during a crucial time in learning how to love Jesus and each other well and also in how to work with the Japanese staff on new campuses.

3) Kohei, Mika, Midori and Mari's continued growth in their faith and understanding of the Word. Pray that their families and close friends will notice a transformation in their lives.

4) Staff application process - please pray for continued guidance, wisdom and peace about my future.

