

KOBE, JAPAN

BENNY'S MISSIONS TESTIMONY

June 2- June 23

Before coming to summer missions, I felt called by God to go overseas to share the gospel in places where it was unheard of. Originally I wanted to go to Southeast Asia but God placed me on the Japan Summer Mission team. Leading up to the departure for Japan my team and I spent multiple weekends in preparation for the ministry events we planned to host and learned how to evangelize to Japanese university students. I was amazingly blessed to be grouped in a full Berkeley team so we all knew each other before being sent off for Japan. I also wanted to mention how blessed I am that all of you graciously decided to send me to Japan financially and not once did I ever doubt I couldn't raise enough funds to go. Thank you!



Gospel sharing with students!



My university team!



Haru/ Ryosuke



During the mission trip, I witnessed how this country desperately needs God when they don't even know Him. Talking to numerous new students every day gave me a clear indication that a majority of Japanese university students placed their identity in hard work and how much they could simply accomplish. I quickly empathized with the students because I knew that the purpose of life is not only about how much a person can accomplish. It gave me a higher calling to preach about the Good News of Jesus where our identity is solidified in Christ. I can live free knowing that I am a Child of God because what Jesus did on the cross for us was more than enough.



Some memorable moments during this trip happened towards the final week of this three-week-long journey. Most notable is meeting with two students named Haru and Ryosuke. I met them on my first day at campus and we continually met every week for lunch. They expressed interest in hanging out with me because I was from America and wanted to make friends with university students. We got lunch, explored Kobe together, and welcomed them to our ministry events at church. I shared with them what it means to be a Christian and how God loves them so much. Haru and Ryosuke gravitated toward the fact that there could be a God who loves them and wants to have a personal relationship with them. Although they did not expressively say they wanted to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior, I simply got to witness how God placed a seed in their hearts so that one day they may truly know and experience God. My God-size prayer for them is that God will continue to shape their hearts and attitudes to have a Gospel-centered mindset to become disciple-makers in the future.



Haru giving my partner(Alex) and I a gift before we said our last good bye



Yoshisan and Kaito, us after eating dinner and watching the sunset together



Church staff blessing us with gifts for our last day in Japan



Mingsu and Kenta after California Friends night



Getting ice cream with the students after a ministry event



Worship and prayer night with the local missionaries



Haru and Ryosuke giving us a tour around Kobe

As this mission trip comes to an end, I am beyond blessed at how God was able to not only use me but my whole team to share the Gospel with students who have never even heard of the name of Jesus. My team and I may not be able to immediately see the fruits of our labor but we are still ecstatic to be a part of their story of how God will forever change their lives. One of the biggest takeaways for me from this summer mission trip is that God can be glorified and exalted to the ends of the Earth no matter which country I am in. If I was able to evangelize to Japanese students with broken English and Google Translate, there is no barrier where the Gospel can't be reached. I pray with the help of the Holy Spirit, I can bring the Gospel to college students in America where I am not afraid of simply taking the initiative in sharing the Gospel and leaving the results to God.



THEN HE SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, "THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW; THEREFORE PRAY EARNESTLY TO THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO SEND OUT LABORERS INTO HIS HARVEST." MATTHEW 9:37-38

THANK YOU!



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