

KOBE

MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

6/11-6/20



WITNESSING

We have officially finished our mission trip in Kobe, Japan! Over the past few weeks, our team continued meeting new friends and introducing them to STINTers (CCC missionaries).

223

APPROACHED

Since our time in Japan was very limited, our hope was to ultimately connect our friends to the local church and STINTers, who will continue to walk alongside them on their journey in learning more about God when we leave.

233

CONVERSATIONS

101

SPIRITUAL CONVO



44

GOSPEL PRESENTATIONS

6

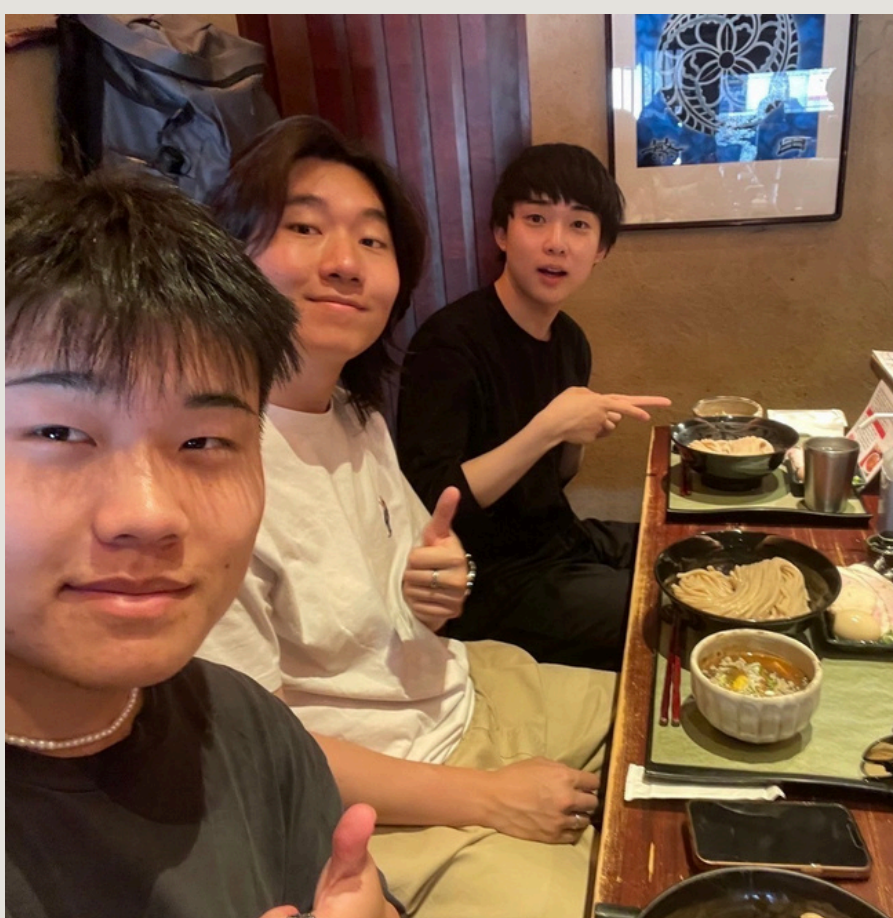
PRAYER TO RECEIVE CHRIST



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FOLLOWUPS

WITNESSING!



TESTIMONIES

from left to right: Jubeen, Johannah, Kage



Kage was a friend Johannah (my teammate) made during last year's mission trip. He had heard the gospel a few times through last year's events, but he did not quite believe or fully understand. Johannah stayed in contact with him and invited him to all the events we held at Shukugawa Church this mission. Kage came to almost every event! During our last week in Japan, Kage explained that he found the gospel to be very interesting, but not fully understanding hindered his belief. We ended up sharing a more structured version of the gospel (Knowing God Personally) and even got to share our testimonies with him. His eagerness and questions truly displayed child-like wonder. We explained to Kage that there is still so much we don't understand as well, but our faith in His goodness leads us to believe. He decided that he wanted to know more of Jesus and prayed to receive Christ in English. There was still a lot of fear and shame in praying in public in Japanese, but he wanted to pray with us first and think on it more at home. I was incredibly blessed to have witnessed Kage's prayer because it reminded me of mine. There was so much I couldn't understand or fully believe, but I prayed in faith that God would increase my belief and He revealed a whole new life to me. I'm so excited for Kage because I know God has a wonderful plan for his life, even if he doesn't fully see or feel it right now! - JUBEEN

Through meeting Haru and Ryosuke, two of my friends, I was able to really see God's faithfulness to me. I got to meet them the first day I went witnessing at Konan University. They were actually the ones who approached me as I was trying to witness to a different student. When we shared about our events, both of them said they couldn't make it. However, upon meeting them the second time, they grew fond of us and surprised me by saying that they would like to come to one of our events on Sunday. Even when I told them it was a Christian event, they wanted to come. The previous two times I had met them, I didn't get the opportunity to share the gospel. Therefore, I had a lot of fear and worries as this event was our first one where the gospel would be presented. When the event came, they were extremely opened to the gospel. I remember Ryosuke saying how maybe it was God's provision that I got to meet him unexpectedly. They even stayed until the event was over and got to talk to the church members. God really loves Haru and Ryosuke! They weren't able to receive Christ but I became comfortable to share the Gospel to them. I know God will continue to watch over them, and I will continue to hope for my friends! - ALEX

from left to right: Haru, Ryosuke, Benny Peter, Alex, Eric



EVENTS

AMERICAN FOOD & GAMES PARTY



We hosted our American Food & Games Party on 6/13. During this time, we played two games, Soularium and Bridges, which encouraged deeper talks. We got to learn about one another's struggles, fears, and dreams. This opened up opportunities for us to share with our friends how Christ has shaped who we are and how we live.



KOREAN FOOD PARTY

During our Korean Food Party, Shukugawa Bible Church's head pastor, Pastor Hata, gave a Gospel-based message. After the message, we got to discuss the message with our friends and share parts of our testimonies with them. This party was also time for our friends to fellowship with members of the church, as we played icebreaker games and ate jjajangmyeon and tteokbokki.



CALIFORNIA FRIENDS NIGHT



California Friends Night was an event where we were able to introduce the Gospel message in various forms. Our team prepared body worship and a Gospel-centered skit for our friends. Sungcheol GSN, from JCCC, gave a message, explaining the Gospel in depth. For many of our friends, this was their first time hearing the Gospel. This event was truly a blessing, as we got to witness many of our friends gain new perspective and express a desire to know our Creator.



PERSONAL TESTIMONIES

Coming into Japan missions, I knew what it was like to do ministry in Japan. Ministry can get discouraging or easy to undermine here. However, I've been humbled to learn that God has been actively moving in Japan for generations and that I've been given the privilege to be a part of the work He has already been doing. Thus, I've learned to pray these prayers during the mission trip: "God, help me to see what You see and help me to move with You".



Although this mission trip was certainly something I was not initially expecting or planning for myself, I am so thankful that God led me back to Kobe, Japan this summer. I have been so blessed to witness students open their hearts to our team and, more importantly, to Christ. Although visible fruits are hard to come by in Japan, I truly do believe God is at work in Japan, and that He is moving in the hearts of the Japanese students.

I came into this mission with the smallest mustard seed of faith, but God continually revealed to me how He can work in the broken and lost. He planted more seeds of faith into the people of Japan, and I watched dry bones come alive as they grew in their curiosity and wonder for the Lord. There is no one who is too far gone for His salvation and grace, and my life is a testament to His unfailing love and faithfulness.



Through this mission trip, God showed me more of His love and showed me how much He loves the people of Japan. Japan was such a challenge, but I was able to realize that God is intentional and his mighty hand is upon everything we do. I do all this for God.



I was so blessed to be given just a glimpse of what God is doing in Japan through Shukugawa Bible Church and JCCC, and it was such a privilege to join in this mission for this short time. I walked and acted by the Holy Spirit during my time here, and will continue to do the same as I return to where God has called me to be a light in the workplace!



Japan is a very honest mission place. There is no work that goes in vain, and there is no luck. It's only through God's plan and our obedience.

God showed me what it meant to truly care for the salvation of another being. While it was heartbreaking to see the hopelessness of the people in Japan, God revealed to me the hope of the Gospel. I came to truly understand the joy and fulfillment that comes with inviting Jesus into one's life, including my own.



During this trip, I simply got to witness how God placed a seed in the university students' hearts so that one day they may truly know and experience God. My God-sized 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.

I was so blessed throughout this mission trip because of how challenged I was. I got to experience more of God's love for me and His love for others as well, challenging me to share His love and goodness to those who don't know Him. He showed me how good He has been in my life and how He was able to redeem my life, also reminding me that He is able to redeem the lives who don't even know His name.



Coming into missions, I was most excited about enjoying Christ and basking in His love. This sustenance required maintaining a heart posture rooted in gratitude and humility. Now, I can confidently proclaim that throughout this journey, I have enjoyed Christ with such joy, such delight.



Since last mission, God has challenged me a lot more by widening my heart for the Japanese students. I learned that God is in control, and I want to continue to see what He sees. God is so presently working through the lives of the students at Konan University, Kobe University, Kangaku University, and Gakuin University.



The "spiritual deadness" of Japan made the movement of God clearer. It is evident the LORD loves His people in Japan, and He is mobilizing leaders. It was an incredible blessing to watch our students grow and share the depths of the Father's love to those who have never even heard the word "Christian" before.



To truly live for Jesus in this lifetime means war, but through this trip I realized to have the daily heart posture that says 'Here I am Lord, I'm in' is what He truly truly desires from me. To even be engaged in the battle to contend for souls is a daily choice that many days I say no to because of the severe difficulty and discouragement I personally face. But I desire to give my daily 'Yes' to the Lord wherever He sends me. Jesus is worthy of my life and the gap I stand in contending for souls is where I want to be all the days of my life because He deserves to be known and He deserves to be praised; He is the reason for life (John 17:3).



PRAAYER REQUESTS

1.

Pray God would continue to grow the convictions our team has gained here during this trip and they wouldn't just be passing thoughts, but true convictions that direct us to greater delight and dedication to Him and serving His people when we come back to America

2.

Pray that the students we connected with in Kobe would grow in their curiosity for Jesus and get connected with Shukugawa Church and the campus ministry (JCCC) there so they can continue to grow in their walk with Jesus

3.

Pray God would raise disciple-makers in Japan who have earnest hearts that desire to reach the lost in Japan and be bold in proclaiming the gospel to their communities





And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

