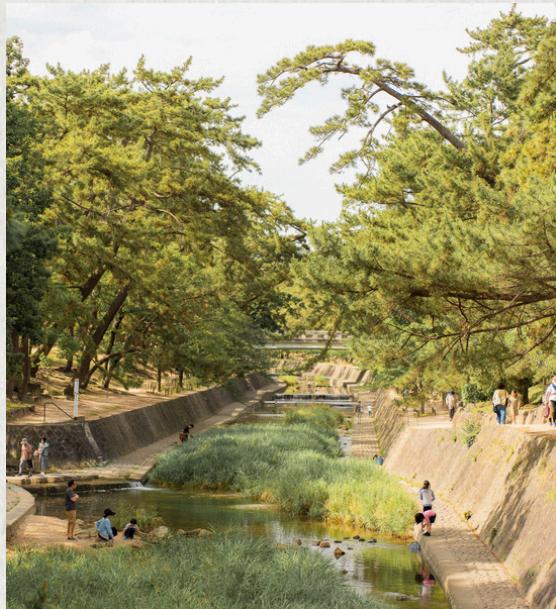


I say “YES,” Jesus

Kobe, Japan Testimony ‘24

First and foremost, thank you.

I want to express my gratitude to you all for partnering with me financially and/or prayerfully. Your support has not only blessed my team and I, but **it has also blessed every Japanese student that we met**. With that being said, let me share with you all that the Lord has done and taught me throughout this mission trip!



pictured: a river next to the church we stayed at!

For those of you who didn't know, this was my **second time** going to Kobe, Japan for summer missions (my first one being last year). Coming back to Kobe this year, I knew what ministry in Japan was like and how **it can get discouraging sometimes**. Ministry in Japan is very slow because most Japanese students are hardened towards religion, leading them to ghost or cut ties with us when they find out we are Christians. However, during missions last year, I easily let myself be **taken over by discouragement and hopelessness**: feeding the lies that there's no hope for these students to know Christ and that my work is going in vain. Although in my head I knew these lies were not true, I had a **difficult time clinging onto what is true**.

Unfortunately, this mindset carried onto my second mission trip to Kobe (which is this mission trip). As I went witnessing on campus or prepared for events, I knew deep down in my heart that **I did not have faith that God would move**. I would do all these ministry activities just for the sake of the schedule with no hope that God would use this to bring life to students. This brought so much **turmoil** within me because I didn't want to do ministry **“just cause.”** I wanted to do ministry because **I knew who God is and what He can do**. When I look back at it now, I really think that the Spirit was fighting for me to seek truth. Because as a person who has been struggling with doubt and discouragement for so long, it felt so new to desperately seek for more...**knowing that Christ has something better in store**. I kept praying to God, “God, I know You have something wonderful planned for this mission trip and **I don't want to let discouragement blind me from seeing Your workings**. I don't want to do all of this just cause. **I want to do it because I know and love You.”**



[left to right] Ayana (a girl that came to Christ thru our mission team last yr!), me, Komari, and Rachel touring Kobe Uni!



Yui, the first girl I witnessed to with Ayana on our first day on campus



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Rachel (my evangelizing partner) and I witnessing to a student @ Kobe Uni

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praying for the Japanese students before our California Friends Party



This switch of understanding that discouragement and doubt **were not from God** and that God desired me to experience **the fullness of who He is** taught me how to **desperately seek Him in spiritual warfare** (or moments of hopelessness). I started learning what it meant to worship Him even when circumstances didn't line up, when discouragement came creeping in, or when shame was telling me that I wasn't enough. As Jesus unblinded my eyes from the doubts and discouragements, I started to see **His markings and fingerprints all over Japan and each Japanese student**. Seeing His people as how He sees them, I was humbled to realize that God has already **been moving in Japan for generations** and that I was simply **being invited** to join His movement. **It was His agenda that I was called to follow and His doing that I was privileged to witness.**

In Acts 9, Luke shares Saul's conversion story. In Saul's redemptive story, you can see that it took **multiple people's simple obedience to the Lord** for Saul to come to know Christ. If even one person in between Saul's redemption story decided to disobey and say "no" to the Lord, I'm not sure if Saul's testimony would have been the same. Someone like Ananias God used, and ultimately, Ananias' **"yes" to trust the Lord** brought Saul to a place where he can be transformed. Just like how God used one man's simple obedience to change one's eternity, I believe that **God used my "yes" to look to Him instead of discouragement to bring these Japanese students nearer to knowing Christ.**



[left to right] Sakura, Chiaki, and Maya are our friends who came to our hotdog party!



the sisters in our team!! <3
I was so blessed to do ministry with them



Hanging out with [left to right] Yuri, Ena, and Chisako!

I believe that God has a wonderful plan for all the Japanese students that we met. Whether they heard the Gospel and rejected it, weren't able to hear the good news but learned about God for the first time, or left our conversations desiring to seek for truth, I truly believe **Christ has been, is, and will continue to move in their lives**, and I am just grateful I was able to be a part of the process of them coming back to know and love their Creator.



Next, I will love to share with you some of the stories and testimonies that really couldn't have happened without your "yes" to pray and send our team this summer!



"This abundant life is for you too" - Miaowei's story

Miaowei is a Kobe Uni student who came to almost all of our events! We got to share with her our personal testimonies and the Gospel! She was also able to get connected with KobeCCC!

When Miaowei first heard the Gospel, she said she never heard or thought about God before. She shared with us that her life purpose is to make a lot of money so that she can continue hanging out with friends and living a fun life. But, she also shared how she has been hurt by a lot of people in the past, expressing how lonely life can be sometimes. So, when we shared to her about what it looks like to live life with Christ, it was something **so new to her**. Rachel and I both shared our personal testimonies because it dealt a lot with the things Miaowei was struggling with, sharing to her that **God actually has something far greater and better for her than what she thinks is the best** right now. I believe this opened a new perspective for Miaowei, coming to learn that perhaps there is something **more to this life than what she knows**. I believe **seeds were planted** for her to seek for the joy and abundant life we as Christians live.

Pray that Miaowei continues to seek to know Christ personally.
Pray that Miaowei continues to have an open heart to God and KobeCCC as the Stinter (CCC staff) builds a relationship with her!

"This Creator loves you!" - Miki's story

Miki is a Kobe Uni student that we met alongside her freshmen friend group. Her other friends came to our hotdog fellowship, but she wasn't able to come.

Still wanting to come to one of our events, she ended up coming to our last event (California Friend's Party) **by herself**. This event was one of the few events where we had a Gospel presentation. So, Miki was able to **hear the Gospel for the first time!**

After she heard the Gospel, she shared to us that she never heard something like this before. She said that it amazed her to know there was a **Creator who loved His creation to the point of dying for them**. She shared that she struggled with self-love because all the people close to her didn't love her for who she is, but she said **it was so freeing** to know that there was someone who could possibly love her for who she is. She kept expressing how happy she is to come to know this and thanked us for inviting her to the event. She said that because this is all so new to her, she still needs to learn more about this Creator before she accepts the Gospel for herself. However, she said she **desires to learn more about this Creator, God!**

This truly reminded me why I love doing ministry...we are simply standing in the gap for those who do not know Christ, helping them to come know their Creator. Seeds were planted, and we pray that God will water and grow these seeds in due time!

Pray for Miki to be **connected to someone** who can teach her more about God!
Pray that she will come to **personally know and accept Christ** as her Creator, Savior, and Lord!

