

こんにちは！さしぶりです！

Hello from Japan! It's been a while since I've written and there's so much to share. If you read through this whole update, you're a champ. ;)

Seoul Sisters:

The highlight of February was a trip to Seoul, Korea for visa renewal. Two of my sisters flew from the States to meet me, and we spent five days exploring, resting, meeting new friends, and eating lots of kimchi. My re-entry to Japan went well and I'm settled in for my last three months.

Thank you for praying for safe travels and a smooth visa renewal! It was refreshing and fun trip.

Hirosaki Happenings:

English Cafe

English Cafe is going well. Several new people are coming, and there have been good spiritual conversations.

This past Friday was the last English cafe for two of the short-termers. One of the students, as he said goodbye, thanked Bridonie (one of the short-termers) for sharing her testimony. He said that through her story about how God had worked in her life, he realized that she had something he didn't. He had a few tears in his eyes as he said it and shared that he wants to learn more.

Please pray for him, and for other students, to continue seeking. Pray also for the Christian students who attend, that they'll share with their peers about the joy they have in Christ.

Valentine's Outreach

On February 17th we held a Valentine's dinner at the church. We prepped a four-course meal for over forty people, mostly couples who are parents of English class kids. The kids served as waiters and waitresses for their parents - it was so cute!

During dessert a church couple told their testimony of God's work in their marriage. It was a great opportunity to share God's love in a culture where love is often misunderstood.

In the feedback forms collected after the event, thirteen people expressed interest in knowing more about the Bible, and one said she wanted to study the Bible.

Pray for these couples and families, that they'll come to know the true love God shows us in Christ.

Pilates, English Classes, and Bible Study

Tuesday morning Pilates is going well - new faces have come the past few weeks which is fun to see. English classes are also going well, and I've been teaching an individual class for a junior high student on Wednesday nights. I'm also meeting weekly for Bible study with M, which has been encouraging.

Please pray for continued connection through each of these ministries, and for good conversations.

Aaaaaand Exciting Possibilities!

In the past few months God's given me a real love for the Japan. I've been praying about next steps, as my time here ends in May. I don't feel like my work here is done, and I want to keep growing in my knowledge of the language and culture. I don't know where God will lead long-term, but I do know I want to continue to encourage the Japanese to grow closer to Christ - whether that's here in Japan, or interacting with internationals in America.

So, I'm praying about (and pursuing!) a three-year term here to continue language and culture study and keep building relationships. I'm excited about the possibilities! But there are also a lot of details to work out, and I need your prayers. Right now, I'm not sure which visa options are the best for me, and what time-frame I'll be allowed to come back for.

Please pray that:

- God will give wisdom regarding visa options, and that the processing will go smoothly.
- God will grant patience as I return to the US and work out stateside details.

- I will grow in faith through this process - I'm already struggling with worry about details, timing, etc.
- I will find a good temporary job when I come back to the States in May, one that allows me time to keep working out return details for Japan.

Thank you so much for your prayers!

Over the past three months I've seen God work in incredible ways. I wish I could sit down with each of you, grab a cup of tea, and tell story after story of His faithfulness. The Japanese nation is hungry for hope and meaning, and even though people are slow to respond to the hope found in Christ, God is planting seeds.

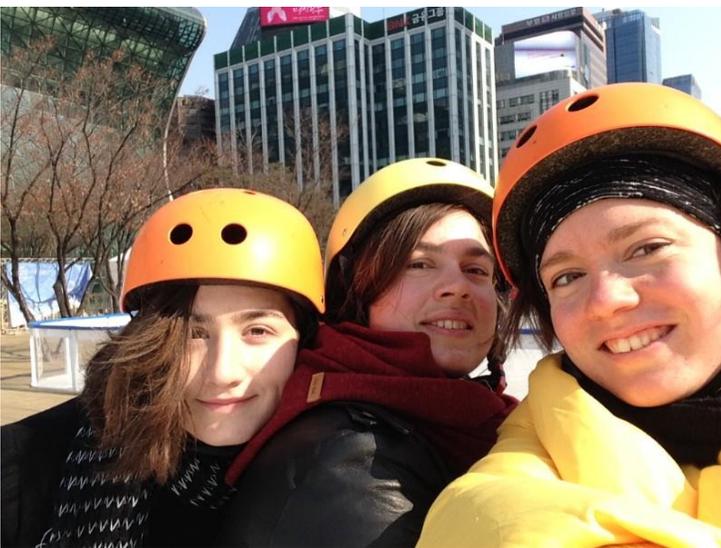
May the gospel fall on Japan as thick as the Hirosaki snow, bloom like the cherry blossoms, and bear fruit as delicious as Aomori apples.

Love in Christ, from Hirosaki,

Morgan Hildebrand



Beautiful Seoul. :)



Beautiful sisters.

See more pics on Instagram and Facebook!



English cafe shenanigans.



February happenings. From the top:

- Me, learning to ski and trying not to die.
- Valentine's event preparation.
- Exploring Hirosaki Castle Park with Bridonie (last three).