

こんにちは!

I can't believe it's almost February. I've been in Hirosaki three months, now. Crazy how much has happened in that time:

I've met new friends, tasted new foods, learned new words, and made new memories. But most of all, I've experienced the old, solid, never-changing, everlasting faithfulness of God. It's such a blessing to see Him at work, and be a part of it.

## Stories from this week:

There's a new mom who came to some of the holiday events. She brought her daughter to the sledding party, and while there she heard about Pilates and English classes.

She's now attending Pilates on Tuesdays, a kids' English class on Wednesdays for her daughter, and an adult English class for herself on Thursdays. She's even come to two Sunday services and stayed for fellowship lunch after.

Last week after Pilates, she was chatting with two of the church members. She started asking them questions about the Bible, and how they became Christians. Again at English class on Thursday, she shared that she was really curious about the Bible and wanted to know more. This week she asked Hoi-Yan (one of the long-term missionaries here), to do Bible study with her. So exciting!

Please pray for this mom, and her daughter. Pray that her interest would turn to understanding, conviction, and salvation.

---

English cafe was also a blast this week. We had brownies and ice cream, played a fun game, then had a discussion time about decisions.

We asked the questions:

- Do you like making decisions? Why or why not?
- How do you make decisions? (I make them myself, I talk to my family or friends, etc.)
- What is the biggest decision in a person's life?

- Do you want God to be involved in your decision making? Why or why not?

Bridonie, a short-termer from Australia, shared her testimony of how God had led her in making some important decisions.

Many of the students had good questions. For instance, Bridonie shared some passages of the Bible that had impacted her decisions. One of the girls asked if she read the whole Bible when she made decisions, or if she read the Bible everyday, and what that looked like.

It was a good conversation starter, and exciting to see the students are expressing interest in the Bible.

Please continue to pray for these high school and university students. Pray that their curiosity about Jesus will grow, and that we'll have many opportunities to share the joy and purpose we've found in Him.

I hope you've had a blessed January (can't believe we're one month into 2018!). Please let me know how I can pray for you and your family. You're such a blessing to me, and I'm so encouraged to know you're praying for me and Japan.

In Christ, from Hirosaki,

*Morgan Hildebrand*





See more pics on Instagram and Facebook!



## Favorite moments from this week:

- A God date at a local coffee shop. Matcha-maple latte and Thessalonians are a good combination. :)
- Swimming, sushi, and yoga with a friend I've made here who's a yoga instructor - I also had the chance to share my testimony with her, and hear her story.
- English cafe - complete with brownies and ice cream!
- Lots of yummy, warm meals shared with the team here. They are so encouraging to me!

## Please pray for:

- Weekly Bible studies with M (a Japanese believer) every Tuesday afternoon.
- New people who have started coming to Pilates and English classes!
- Pilates every Tuesday morning, and English classes Wednesday through Friday.
- English cafe (every Friday from 7-11). Praise God for good conversations this past week, and pray for continued relationship building in the future.
- My yoga-instructor friend, A. Pray we'd be able to continue to connect, and that our conversations about physical health and fitness would lead to conversations about spiritual health.
- My trip to Seoul, Korea from February 6th to the 12th for visa renewal. I'll be meeting two of my sisters there, so I'm looking forward to sightseeing and reconnecting with them. Prayer for smooth travel there and back, and that we won't get lost. ;)