Fwd: New School Year in Japan!

1 message

Amy Howard <amyc.howard7676@gmail.com> Fri, Apr 25, 2025 at 8:33 AM
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---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Jeff Saunders** <jeff.saunders@ruf.org>
Date: Thu, Apr 24, 2025 at 9:09 PM
Subject: New School Year in Japan!
To: Amy Howard <amyc.howard7676@gmail.com>



A New School Year in Japan!

As we come to the end of week 3 of classes here in Japan, we wanted to update you all and ask you to pray for our ministry in the challenges and opportunities that this year of RUF Tokyo brings.

Photos

Above: Welcome party for new freshman (1/2 are current students in the photo)

Below: 1) first Bible study 2) first English conversation night 3) first picnic







How can I be praying for RUF?

If you have been following us for a few years now, you will realize that these pictures show a much smaller group of students than we typically have for these first events of the year. That is true. Although we aren't sure why this is the case, we are trying to lean into curiosity about this year in RUF Tokyo and praying against discouragement. **Would you pray that God would help us take advantage of these smaller groups and give us opportunities to more personally engage with each student he has brought us?**

If you receive this today or when you wake up in the morning, would you specifically pray for our first Large Group (tonight at 6pm JST) and the ones we have planned in May, June, and July? (5/23, 6/13, 7/4 if you want to put it on your calendar) Tonight's "large group" is rather, well, small. **Would you pray against the work of the evil one to make people feel awkward and uncomfortable** - to hold to their expectations of what this was going to look like and not be able to accept the good they see in the room. **Would you pray the message of the Gospel is meaningful and enticing? Would you pray they are not pushed away but instead drawn back to hear and participate more?**

One consistent prayer request we have had over the years is for students to open up to the Gospel and Bible study. As you noticed for the photo, Bible study is our least attended event and in a country with less than .5% Christians, that is not surprising. But over time this can be discouraging. **Please pray with us for a movement of the Holy Spirit in the students and in us to create more opportunities for them to hear the Gospel.**

Also this year, we have the **biggest group of seniors** we have ever had (likely because it is our 4th year on campus). **Please pray we have the chance to deeply engage spiritually with each one and build a foundation for a continuing relationship with the Church and even with us once they graduate**, especially if they stay in Tokyo. There are more than in the picture, but these were the ones at the welcome party.


KSC

RUF Mission Trip Report

Spring Break with Colorado State and Montana State in Tokyo!

Back in March, we asked you to pray for the RUF Spring Break trip. Thank you so much for all the prayers you offered on our behalf and on behalf of the students. We would love to share a few highlights from what turned out to be an incredible trip. Enjoy!



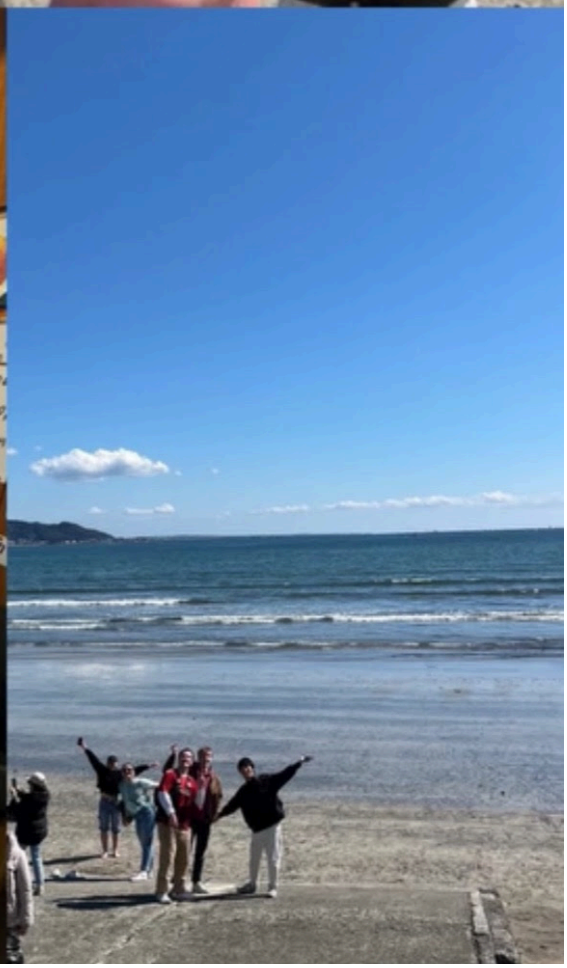
During the week that the RUF groups were here, we did 3 mini worship nights with music, a short devotional, and small group discussion. This is a huge step for our group and some of the students said the discussion was their favorite part of the whole ski trip. **“I have never gotten to talk to a Christian like that about what they believe. It was really convincing.”**

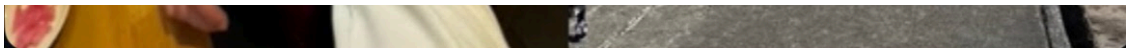

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We were deeply encouraged by the way the students bonded so well with each other and the RUF teams that came. **The US students consistently went out of their comfort zone to engage cross culturally and form real bonds with our Japanese students.**




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The second half of the week, our students kept showing up to guide the US students around Tokyo and enjoy time together sharing their culture. We are praying for the bonds created on this trip to continue on even now that the students have returned.

Thank you for praying over this time, and we are hopeful to see the ways the seeds planted during this trip are watered and grow over the course of this next year in RUF Tokyo.

Please continue to pray for us as we seek to reach students with the message of Gospel hope we know they so desperately need. We need the Holy Spirit's work to accomplish anything of meaning for the kingdom. Pray he uses us for his glory.



Matching Campaign Update

We have currently raised

$17,818

Towards our goal of **$36,000** to take advantage of the full amount we have been offered to help pay for staff to reach more students in Tokyo with the message of Gospel hope!

As a reminder, we've been approved by the MTW Ambassador Fund for a matching pledge! For every $2 we raise, MTW will contribute $1, up to a total of $18,000. This means if we raise $36,000, the fund will add $18,000, giving us a total of $54,000!

This would be a tremendous boost to our ministry, providing for national staff salaries and all the startup costs to host Large Group gatherings regularly throughout the year. We are so grateful for this opportunity and are trusting God to provide through His people.

**To receive the $18,000 match, all contributions for this project must be given to the designated project fund. Click the link below to contribute.*

RUF TOKYO PROJECT FUND

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