

*Fall Teams & Christmas is Coming!*

## **The Orient Express**

**The Lakes ~ Serving in Japan with Biblical Ministries Worldwide      December 2025**

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*Thank you for praying for the Lord's ministry in Japan!*

We want to share a huge praise with you. God has answered our biggest prayer request in an awesome way. The most frequent thing we have asked people to pray for, in the Lord's ministry in Japan, is more workers. Since September 1<sup>st</sup>, we have had 5 young adults join us in the English Cafe ministry in our area. This has brought a lot of energy and enthusiasm to our community outreach.

### **Fall Helpers**

#### **Salina**

Our friend Salina stayed with us while she served the Lord in the English Cafe ministry for over 5 weeks. She is prayerfully considering what God wants for her future. She currently works a secular job, but she is seeking wisdom on whether or not to do full-time ministry work. Salina helped us with marketing and she handled many of the details for our October special events.

#### **Sam & Jessica**

We are thankful that Sam & Jessica returned to Japan for a 2-month visit this fall. They had joined a 2-week mission team to work with us in the summer of 2024. This 2025 visit was intended to help them get a vision for what missionary life in Japan would look like. They both were a delightful addition to our English Cafes.

#### **Gabe**

Gabe is a young man who also wanted to experience missionary life. He has a very energetic attitude that made getting to know the cafe students very seamless. Gabe was only here for 2 weeks, but the students enjoyed getting to know him.

#### **James**

James is another young man on a longer, 2-month vision trip. He has obtained certification to teach English as a 2<sup>nd</sup> language (TESL). This helped train him to maximize his helpfulness to students. Our Friday cafe has many teenagers, and James

has made a good connection with them. James is still serving the Lord with us and plans to return to the USA in mid-December.



*Our team of Fall Helpers! 2 pictures to capture them all, as they came and went at different times.*

### **Neighborhood Bible Study**

Christianity Explored is the curriculum we have been using for our English Bible Study held at the "Mission House". Unfortunately, the non-Christians we invited to attend declined, but God revealed 2 purposes for this Bible study this fall:

1. To encourage a Christian neighbor who has not been able to do a Bible study with other people in several years. She has expressed it has helped her in learning and being reminded of the power and divinity of Jesus.
2. This provided training to lead an evangelistic Bible Study for possible future opportunities.

### **English Cafe for College Students**

In September we launched an English Cafe that is only for people between the ages of 18 – 25. We had a couple students early on show up one time, but we haven't had any other students. We just launched a social media marketing plan that hopefully will draw in students. Please pray for God to bring students to this English outreach. The final date this year is December 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Special English Cafe Events**

In **October** we had a special "Travel Abroad" English Cafe event that we led in 2 different cities. The purpose was to help Japanese people learn what things to say in English at airports, hotels, and in other common traveling interactions. The students that attended said it was very interesting and helpful. At one of the locations, we

reconnected with 2 students who hadn't come to English Cafe in over 2 years. We also had a couple ladies come for their first time. At the end of the event, as a Biblical truth was shared, one of the ladies expressed interest in reading the Bible. We were able to give her a Gospel of John, and she responded that it was her first time to see a Bible! Though the Bible is available in Japanese, what this woman shared is not uncommon. Though she has not come again to English Cafe, pray that she would read & understand the words of eternal truth.



*Glimpses of the "Travel Abroad" English Cafe event*

On **December 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>**, we will host our Christmas Cafes at 2 different churches. The emphasis of these events will be to teach the Christmas story to non-

Christians. Our purpose is to teach what was so significant about a baby born 2,000 years ago. God sent His only Son to be the Savior that every person desperately needs. Please pray for God to soften hearts of the non-believers that attend these events.

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*Zechariah 14:9*

*“And the Lord will be king over all the earth;  
in that day the Lord will be the only one,  
and His name the only one.”*

**Points of Praise:**

- God’s provision of 5 workers joining us in the English Cafe ministry this fall
- A helpful special English Cafe event we hosted in October
- God’s purposes, we see, in our neighborhood Bible study
- God’s faithfulness throughout this busy year

**Points of Prayer:**

- Wisdom for the future of all 5 of the people that served with us this fall
- More students for our college campus English Cafe
- Salvation for the non-Christians that attend our Christmas English Cafe events
- To finish 2025 strong by displaying & proclaiming Christ to the people God puts around us

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