

my JAPAN missions trip

"...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." —Acts 1:8

I like the idea of being a *witness*, bringing glory to God through the way I live, the love that I show others, and the things I say and do.

I think of my life this way: I'm not a canvas on which Christ's image is painted, but rather a window through which others can see Jesus. Living a Christian life doesn't mean covering up who I am underneath (like ink on a canvas), because God made me—and you—exactly the way we are for a reason. We each have particular gifts that we can use to glorify God like no one else can.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10)

For example, I'm terrible at conversing with others about spiritual things, and I don't know much about the Bible, but that doesn't stop God from using me anyway. One night I came across a student in a UCLA parking lot whose car wouldn't start and who needed to be at the downtown Greyhound Station in 15 minutes. I told him that I'd drive him and when he asked why, I explained that God had blessed me with a car, a love for driving, and a free evening, and that I didn't think it was just coincidence that our paths had crossed.

We got to the station with no time to spare, and he asked if there was anything he could do to repay me; I just told him to be a blessing to others as I was to him. I might not have shared the whole gospel with him in the few minutes we had together, but I believe that God was able to use that experience to work on his heart, and that Jesus was shining through my act of service.

SO WHY JAPAN?

I've been growing in my faith and my relationship with God these past four years at UCLA, especially through the campus ministry I'm a part of (*In Christ Alone*, or *ICA*). Last summer, I even went on a 3-week training program with them to San Diego that I really enjoyed and that I felt really helped me mature more, spiritually.

For this summer, I decided that I had the perfect opportunity to really show my trust in God's sovereignty and provision by devoting my two months off from school to serving in Japan with the Navigators. God blessed me with a love for teaching, a heart to serve others, and a free summer between college and graduate school to do it, and I refused to



Serving the community with ICA at the 2006 summer training program

pass up the opportunity to go. I also felt particularly drawn to Japan because of my heritage.

From June 18 to August 6, I'll be in Shizuoka getting to know local college students through outings, small-group English classes, and some Bible study. Thankfully, knowing the Japanese language is not required, so I won't be hindered by that (if you were wondering). I'm excited for this summer and I can't wait to see what God does in me and through me.

I used to think that only ultra-spiritual people went on missions trips like this, but in the past three years I've seen many of my average college friends spend a month or more overseas to spread the gospel and serve others, and this year I've even felt called to go myself. I'm not writing to tell you to do the same, but rather to let you know that ordinary people actually do things like this, devoting an entire summer to being representatives of God all around the world.

I'd like to leave you *not* with a summons to missions, but an encouragement to show God's love to others and be a witness for Christ in whatever way you feel convicted.

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the father through him. (Colossians 3:17)

You can be a part of God's plans for Japan this summer through your heartfelt support!

Prayer Support (prayer requests are on the Support Card)

If you'd like to say a short prayer for me every once and a while during the summer, it would mean a lot. I like to pray for my friends on missions once a week, but of course even one or two prayers from you the whole summer will be powerful. I've written some prayer requests on the support card to help.



Shizuoka

Financial Support (instructions are on the Support Card)

Going to Japan will cost \$4900. A (tax-deductible) donation from you would encourage me greatly, and would also give you the chance to contribute to my missions trip in a very tangible way.

If you're like me, you might be wondering "how much should I give?" Any amount is appropriate, so don't hold back just because you feel like you're giving too little (or too much!). A verse I like to keep in mind is 2 Corinthians 9:7, which says:

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Support Card

Financial Support

If you want to donate to my trip, send a check payable to “The Navigators” using the enclosed envelope.

Please write “NavID: 23736234” on the memo line.

Prayer Support

As you keep me and my team in your prayers, please consider the following requests:

- That I would have a loving and encouraging attitude toward my teammates.
- That I would be hopeful, joyful, and faithful even in difficult or uncertain times.
- That I would remember that my time in Japan is for serving God, and for using my time and energy to glorify him.
- That I would remain disciplined spiritually (i.e. prayer, bible reading, etc.) and physically (i.e. not oversleeping, keeping myself properly nourished, etc.)

Let me know

It's a great encouragement to know that you're supporting me this summer, but I won't know who you are unless you tell me!

Go to www.robertjaycampbell.com/support to tell me who you are. It only takes 30 seconds, but it will encourage me all summer.

Thank you!