

## Japan CARP Experience - 2015 The First Week

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### Hannah

It's only been our first week in Tokyo and it's been full of new experiences such as learning Japanese, witnessing at Waseda University, eating natto every morning and being slightly overwhelmed by the CARP members' hospitality with three welcome parties. We've had the chance to observe the lifestyle and seriousness of JCARP members and how they manage to balance church work with studies.

It's been inspiring so far; participating in the 2-day weekend workshop gave us a chance to meet more members and listen to DP lectures in Japanese. We also got treated to a trip to Ueno Zoo by the members and cycled around Tokyo on electric bikes. Sugoi deshita!

### Jeung-sun

During these past few days I have felt relaxed and have tried to soak everything in, so that I can really learn a lot and achieve my goals here in Japan. I am learning about the Japanese people and feel that the culture is dramatically changing.

The world is changing. I felt that in general, Japanese people can be easy to approach and make an impression in witnessing. The young people here are very academically focused and want to succeed in this respect. I am grateful that I have the opportunity to be in Japan. There is so much that each nation can learn from each other; each nation is so vital for the success of the other.

The CARP members in our centre are very dedicated to witnessing and also to their studies. It creates a nice balance to their lives – they have clear motivations.

### Michael

I have truly loved my first week in Japan. The JCARP members have absolutely blown me away with their faith and sincere devotion to True Parents and our Heavenly Parent. They follow the most intense schedule I have experienced in the church. It's like doing your degree on STF, that kind of level.

One reason for me going on JCARP was to experience and serve Japanese people and understand their hearts. I arrived in Japan with certain concepts about Japanese people being fairly cold and stern people.

However, I've come to see that Japanese are the most sincere and deepest individuals I have ever met. I hope that I can develop the kind of love for the Divine Principle that the CARP members possess.

I've spoken to nearly all the CARP members here (over 20) and they all share a heart of sacrificing their whole life on devotion to doing God's will and serving True parents through Witnessing, Hoon Dok Hae and Prayer.

The main purpose for my visit to JCARP is to experience witnessing in Japan so that I can witness in the UK full-time next year. My experiences here have already given me the inspiration and the knowledge to start my mission next year strongly! I am also grateful that I could spend this time in Japan with my wife. Ganbatte!



### **William**

I came to J CARP curious about the lifestyle the members lead, and learn as much as I can about why they do what they do and what they are like. Thus far it has been an insightful week, where I have been surprised by the immense levels of faith they possess and how devoted they are to witnessing despite their already busy schedules

These are people that also take their studies very seriously, so they rarely have time for themselves to just chill for an hour or two. For myself, it is hard for me to relate to how they conduct themselves, but I admire it a lot, and have a huge amount of respect for them.

### **Michael**

I came to Japan to learn about the culture and to visit relatives, and see how the Japanese CARP is run as it is not such a big thing in England. I stayed in Tokyo for a few days, which is a great place with so much to offer, both from members and sightseeing.

Within a few days it was suddenly announced that I alone, from the original J CARP members, would be assigned to a completely different prefecture near Yokohama with a blessed couple who would arrive later that day. There was no apparent explanation until just one hour before I was to depart which I felt was quite annoying as there was no clear reason for me to move away for a while. However, once I had arrived at the new centre, I settled down quickly and got to know everyone which was nice. Despite the centre being a lot smaller, it was more comfortable and like being in a small team. Staying in the other centre though, and being apart from the team for a while was good and I still got to experience witnessing.





### Alexandra

I've been in Japan for almost a week now and I'm really glad to have chosen to join JCARP. I wanted to go to JCARP to see how the members practice their faith and balance that while being students, I want to support them! When I was in Cheong Pyeong I met a lot of Japanese members and I was so impressed and inspired by their humble attitude and sacrificial heart. I'm so grateful to have this chance to live with the CARP members here and witness with them.

We went to attend a Japanese Workshop last weekend, which was very different to the European Workshops we're used to. Lots of members gave testimonies about their witnessing experiences and I was pretty impressed by their strong faith, sincere heart and determination. Most of them shared that they find witnessing very challenging and it's difficult to find time besides their busy schedules at university and work. Somehow it seemed to me that they don't struggle, because they never complain and always look so joyful, so it was nice to hear what they're really going through. I'm really grateful to the Japanese members for all their investment! They're amazing and I really respect and admire them truly!

I'm glad that we moved to another CARP centre, because it's a lot easier to get to know everyone since it's a smaller group. The CARP members are so welcoming and lovely. Japan is GREAT!

