

“...I will rejoice in
the LORD; I will
take joy in the God
of my salvation.”
Habakkuk 3:18

Nippon NEWSFLASH

Learning from a Monk...

The last Wednesday of each month our Japanese teachers take us (the students) on a “cultural trip” to learn about Japanese culture and religion. For our first trip, we went to a Buddhist Temple called Engyo-ji. It was only about 10 minutes from Himeji Church where we are studying. We had the privilege to talk with a monk for about one hour. We asked him a lot of questions about what he believes and what some of the statues on the grounds meant.

We were asking what I thought were simple questions like, “Where do people go when they die? Why do most of the Buddha statues have many arms?” He was a little nervous to talk with us because he was afraid he wouldn’t be able to answer our questions. I was surprised since he had been a monk for a long time. Many Japanese people don’t think deeply about what they believe or practice and why they believe it. It is just a part of their culture so they accept it easily. The monk’s answers to our questions were empty and his beliefs were very self-focused. It was a sobering reminder of why we are here learning Japanese and the spiritual condition of the people.

“Japanese people don’t usually even ask
about these things because it is just a
part of their culture.”
—Buddhist monk

Above: This is a picture of
Engyo-ji. It is a very old, famous
Buddhist temple in our city.

Prayer & Praises:

Pray for the SYME staff and
students as they are
starting their third week of
the early fall term.

Pray for wisdom in knowing
how to encourage the youth
at church and begin
discipleship relationships.

Praise God for Moemi’s
willingness to be my
conversation partner on
Saturdays.

Karina Thrush
1-11-25 Kurumazaki
Himeji, Hyogo, Japan
670-0058
thrushkarina@gmail.com



Left: This is Pastor Haruta and his
wife Masako from Himeji Baptist
Church.

Right: Children playing an English
game at SYME’s most recent Asama
Church Outreach. The staff and
students are sharing the gospel
little by little with the children
each month.