

Dear all,

I made it; I am back from Korea and Japan having completed my DTS. It was truly an unforgettable experience, with which I would like to thank you all for, for being a part of helping me get there, and through your support and prayers. I would like to share with you what I got up to over the last six months, it was truly a worthwhile and extraordinary experience, every day and week I experienced something new.

I started the discipleship training school with YWAM in South Korea on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019. It was a surprise to me and all those I know that I was going to be getting on a plane to the other side of the world by myself, but I felt a calling from God to go to Korea and that is what got me there. I had spent my teenage years struggling with severe social anxiety so I never believed there was much hope for me, I was not able to leave the house alone, get on a bus, talk to strangers or walk down my own street, let alone get on a plane alone and not be with my family for 6 months. It was an unlikely event that many were shocked to see happening but it was only through God's strength that it was made possible.

### Lecture Phase

When I got to Korea I was so touched by how lovely everybody at the YWAM base was, everyone was so understanding and lovely as I tried to adjust to the new environment. Suddenly meeting all of these new people didn't faze me as much, it was so comforting to be constantly surrounded by those of the same faith. The lecture phase was a series of 12 weeks consisting of the Character of God, Holy Spirit, Forgiveness, Inner Healing, Hearing God's voice etc. Our schedule everyday would include meditation, worship or intercession, lectures and work duty. Throughout the week we also took part in local outreach in which we did prayer walks and evangelism. We had one on one time with God where we had 2 hours to seek God in any way we wanted and also have one on one time with an appointed leader where we could talk through what happened in the week. Each week had the same schedule but brought something new, every week I was able to grow in intimacy with God, learning about Him and having inner healing in whatever topic we learnt about.



Early morning  
worship

Sharing my testimony  
in Church

Plumb line  
lecture

Thursday evening  
worship

I found Lordship week to be the most memorable. If you don't know lordship is learning to surrender to God, putting Him on the throne of our lives. We did this through praying about things we needed to lay down and throwing them in the fire. This was quite a challenging week for all of us but was so beneficial at the end. I chose to throw into the fire a piece of paper with my name written on it (it was a symbol of my life) and all of my anxiety medication. Having struggled with suicidal thoughts and anxiety, I decided that I had, had enough, it was time to give my life to God again. Since the day I threw these into the fire I haven't had any suicidal thoughts or had the need to take my anxiety medication again.

## Outreach Phase

We left for outreach on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2019; it lasted for 2 and a half months, going to Tokyo and Okinawa (Japan) and Manila (The Philippines). Unfortunately we were unable to go to The Philippines because of the volcano eruption so we remained in Okinawa for the majority of the outreach. Our team name for outreach was the 'Joyful rOse of ELOhim' or 'JOEL'; we felt that we had been called by God to be His fragrance to the nations, spreading his joy wherever we went. For outreach we were appointed roles within our team; I was in charge of media and intercession. Intercession allowed me to grow in confidence in speaking within a group and learn how to lead and hear God's voice clearer. Through media I was able to focus on doing something I love in the midst of doing tons of new things. It was helpful to have an escape to something familiar if I found my surroundings too challenging, and it was exciting to have a purpose for my photography which I usually do for fun. Worship, intercession and meditation was a part of our daily schedule, through this I learnt what it was like to be in intimacy with God, it was the key to keeping Him closer to us and at the centre of our team and outreach.

### —Tokyo

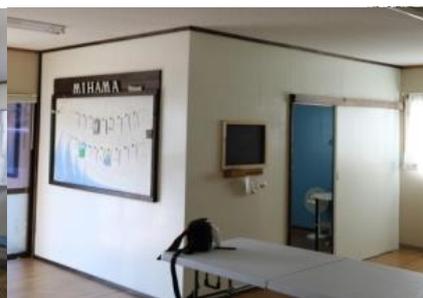
The first two weeks of our outreach was spent in Tokyo, it was a time of jam packed evangelism, learning and adjusting to our new environment as a team. In a busy individualist city life, we had the opportunity to talk with many Christians and non-Christians spreading God's love through art and words. We would often share postcards of our artwork to passers-by with a simple bible verse on them, opening up conversation with them and praying that God would work through the words on the postcard as they resumed back to their lives. I had the wonderful opportunity of sharing my testimony with a teenager, relating in the struggle of school to show how Jesus helped me through it. This was the only time I had the opportunity with a non-believer but I treasure it and really felt that God worked through that moment.



Sharing my testimony in  
Tokyo



Before & after of the redecorated prayer room



Gardening at  
Kin Church

## —Okinawa

Next we travelled to Okinawa, where we originally planned to stay for 3 weeks but resulted in staying for the remainder of the outreach, visiting 3 locations within the island, Mihama, Kin and Ishikawa. Okinawa was a time full of serving those around us, pouring out God's blessing on them. In each location we were able to serve through cleaning, gardening, kid's ministry, painting and having fellowship. We also had the chance to share our testimonies and performances in front of churches and at a YWAM base, which I would have never dreamt about doing before DTS. My most memorable time in Okinawa was having the opportunity to redecorate a prayer room. With our low budget and the small time we had left, it was impossible but through the grace of God we were able to bless the church we were staying at with a redecorated prayer room. In this time I learnt what it was to serve, laying down all of my rights and showing God's love through serving others.

Outreach was a time where I felt I truly clung onto the Lord, through all the joyful moments and challenges; He was there for me and the team throughout. I got through each day with His strength and courage, where I was able to perform, share my testimony, evangelise and talk to others, all things that were completely foreign to me before DTS. I was able to learn how to meditate, intercede and worship Him, growing so much deeper in intimacy with God even more than in the lecture phase.

Overall DTS was an unforgettable experience and adventure where I was able to heal, learn and grow in my faith in God, completely changing my life for the better. I am not the same person I was before. I am sincerely thankful for all of your prayers and support throughout these six months.

## What next

I would appreciate your prayers as I discern what step God wants me to take next. During these difficult times, I feel that everything has been put on pause and I am left wondering what to do next. After lockdown I will be returning to my part time job and in October hopefully returning to my studies in International relations but I am also left with the possibility and hope of returning to Korea to staff a DTS. I would appreciate your prayers as I discern if and when the right time is for me to go.

Thank you so very much for all your support and prayers. Stay safe and God bless you all.

Cassie

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10 —This verse was given to me before DTS and I truly feel that this has now been fulfilled.*