

Global Studies Internship Report

Internship at Shirahama Rescue Network (Shirahama Baptist Church)

Meet Chin:

Chin is a fourth-year student in the E-Track program from India. She completed an internship at the Shirahama Rescue Network, an organization dedicated to saving lives, preventing suicides, and supporting individuals in achieving independence.

What does it mean to be
'Salt and Light'
in this world?



1. What did you do for your internship?

I mainly looked after the children who came to Koperu-kun, an after-school program that cares for children who cannot get along well with their peers. During the summer it is open from 8 AM to 5 PM, and during this time, we help care for the children while their parents are busy working. There are various things we do with the children. First, we let them do their homework and help them solve any problems or questions they have. Then, we give them some free time and read books to them. After this, we pray and have lunch together. The children are always encouraged to engage in hands-on activities such as origami, painting, building blocks, making paper planes reading books, and even writing reviews about what they read. Afterward, we plan games they can all play together, such as card games or a common favorite, dodgeball. Besides Koperu-kun, I also helped as camp staff, looking after the kids throughout the day and sometimes at night. Also, when Koperu-kun was on break during Obon, I helped with cleaning and tidying up places in the church, Machinaka kitchen, and other guesthouses that Shirahama Baptist Church oversees and maintains.

2. What was the theme in this internship? Why did you choose the theme?

The theme I chose for this internship was, "How to be Salt and Light?" or "What does it mean to be Salt and Light?" I chose this theme because I wanted to understand what it actually means to be salt and light in this broken world of ours. I wanted to know how to live out this scripture rather than just simply talking about it. As written in James 1:22, we are called to be 'doers of the word' and not just hearers.

3. Tell me your insights gained through your internship experience.

What does it mean to be 'Salt and Light' in this world?

I have gained a better understanding of what it means to be salt and light in this broken world. Observing the people in Shirahama, I witnessed sheer love demonstrated through actions and not just words. In a place infamous for its suicide rates, many do not want sweet words that do not do anything about their situation. Instead, I saw that when someone is allowed to be a human being, to work, to earn, and to just have an opportunity to turn their lives around, they do their best. As Christians, whether we like it or not, there are situations and circumstances when sharing the gospel by just speaking is not enough. Sometimes we must first form relationships, allow people to get to know us. Once they understand who we are and the significance of our faith in our lives, we can start to invite them in conversations about God and the Bible. I have learned that anything done for the glory of God is ministry--whether it is creating a bento shop to provide jobs for those burdened by their past, enabling them to earn a living and have a sense of purpose. Or even just forming relationships outside one's comfort zone, with the community that is around us, with our neighbors with whom we share our borders. All these little things when done to the glory of God can form a trust and bond that shines and attracts people to the light. All this will take time, but through it all, when the time is right, the Lord will make it happen. I also witnessed the beauty of children--their intelligence, wit, creativity, temper, and even selfishness. No child is alike; each is uniquely created and are so special. I have learned the duty and responsibility I have towards the children around me, to guide and protect them. God's plan prevailed and led me to Shirahama. He led me through the internship and brought me out with an experience I'll remember forever.