

Title: Okinawa Christian University

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Have you ever thought about your life? Why are you living? What are you living for?

Hi, I am Megumi. I'm a fourth-year student of Okinawa Christian University. Four years ago, I lived in South Korea for about one year. Before that, I was a student at Okinawa Christian Junior College majoring in *Hoiku*, which means early childhood care and education. Well, I was not a good student to be honest.

The reason why I entered this university is that I wanted to speak English fluently. When I was in South Korea, I couldn't speak English at all -- literally. But I was fluent in Korean so I could interact with people from all over the world, drinking a lot and going to Karaoke, and studying at a cafe all night. This is true. Then I came to realise that language allows me to connect with many people. And it gives me the opportunity to meet new people. I can say that was the most valuable life lesson for me.

And then I started thinking, "What if I can master English? What a life I could see and explore!" My motivation for studying English is always to be there thinking about new things that I've never experienced before. My English was horrible when I came back to Japan; I didn't even remember things I learned in mandatory education in Japan. I don't mean to show off about how much I've improved my English; I just want to say that motivation is important. Anyone can do it. If you believe in yourself and make an effort, you can achieve your goal. It is not easy but still if you keep finding ways to motivate yourself, your dream will come true. Motivation could be anything. I met a friend at OCU who said "I want to become a revenue officer, because I want to meet K-pop idols." I said "that is a super nice motivation." I believe she can be a revenue officer if her motivation for meeting Korean idols is strong enough. I believe her dream will come true.

I have learned so many things since I entered this university. I have felt and empathised and questioned myself. Which way is the right way? What is it to be human? In this COVID-19 situation, I had time to think about it more. I was touched by the words that every teacher gave us in every class.

Because of the people I met in this university, including my friends and teachers, I've decided to speak in front of you today. Because of my nervousness, I hadn't wanted to take the risk, but my appreciation for them was more than that. I'm so honoured to be here.

Choosing who you are going to trust and what you are going to believe is the most important decision in your life, and the hardest one. There are billions of people in the world. Now, if you are hurt and feel depressed in your life, please don't give up on your life. Please don't judge your life by meeting a small number of people. I want to see the world and I want to choose the people I would like to be with. I want you to do that too. Your friends and your family, your partner, even the books you read make you who you are today. It's okay to make a mistake or go the wrong way. But never forget your purpose in life. The reason you are living. What kind of person do you want to be? What do you want to give people in your life? I've been trying to think about that and asking myself about my life and the purpose of my life.

I proudly say I am so glad to be a student in this university. I really appreciate my friends, my classmates and my teachers. There are so many amazing people here. When I grow more as a person, I want to repay everyone around me who gave me courage. Thank you so much. Have a wonderful life.