

JOE CONGDON

Serving in Tokyo, Japan

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CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST

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Dear Friends,

This is the last letter for this season of my ministry. Please read it carefully for some important details.

Back in America!

It is hard to believe that my time in Japan is already over. **I arrived back in America two weeks ago.** It is great to be back after being gone eleven months, but I have had a very rough time getting re-adjusted to life back over here. I miss the lifestyle, my friends and the ministry back in Japan very much.



what the Lord has done this year in Japan and honoring Him. It is also the process of realizing that God is both good and sovereign all the time. It is not God's job to give us an easy, carefree, cushy life. He does give us free, abundant, overflowing life. More importantly, He gives us Himself. This time has led me to a deep self study of what it means to simply "enjoy" God these past few weeks.

This "re-entry" process is the process of moving on; of celebrating

This is a hard time of change for me right now. It is my prayer that God would not change these circumstances of transition, but that He would use them to change me. I have found special comfort in Isaiah, Chapter 55, when the Lord declares, "**As the heavens are higher from the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.**" I have to trust Him when He promises, "**I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!**" (Psalm 46:10)

What's the Plan?

After a ton of prayer, I really feel the **Lord is leading me to join full time staff with Campus Crusade.** The last two years have been an internship period where I've been able to experience many different aspects of the ministry. Crusade is an amazing organization that cares deeply for their staff and the students. I'm humbled that the Lord would open up doors for me to continue to work long-term with them.

I really couldn't be more excited about my future life on staff. Never in my life have I been so challenged and pushed to grow in my capacity and desire to serve the Lord. I still don't know exactly where I'll be placed, but there are a number of places where I would be excited about giving my life!

What Do I Do Now?

Your commitments to financially support me are officially over. If you have decided that you cannot or do not wish to continue supporting me you can simply stop sending in checks or call 1-888-CRUSADE to stop an automatic draw from your bank account. Unfortunately, if you do not contact them, the EFT transfer will continue. It will not stop automatically.

For those of you who wish to continue to support my ministry, thank you! Please continue to do as you have been. I will be contacting all of you personally beginning in September. Even though my STINT year in Tokyo is over, I am still employed by Campus Crusade and dependent upon support during this transition time.

If you have been supporting me through prayer and wish to begin supporting me financially please e-mail or call me; I would love to tell

you how you can do that.

I will be going to New Staff Training in January, but before that **I will be attending a ten day training conference in September.** In addition to my normal monthly needs, **my immediate needs for that conference are \$1,500 in one-time gifts.** Please contact me if you would like to and are able to help give toward that need.

My plan is to work part time on campus and raise support through the fall. I am praying that the Lord will bring in my support in time for me to report to campus as early as Spring Break of 2008.

I realize that many of you have faithfully and sacrificially given to my ministry over the past two years. You are an integral part of what the Lord is doing in me and through me. I am very blessed to have a team like you who have the faith to invest in me and work through me. You are one of



the many ways the Lord manifests His grace in my life. It is truly humbling to have you on my team. I can't wait to reconnect with you all.

Please Continue to Pray for

Joe

- my future placement. St. Louis? California? Japan? I am not sure yet where the Lord wants me.
- That I would cling to Truth in God's Word over my feelings during this re-entry period.
- That Japan would turn away from their sin and turn to their Creator who has made a way for them to know Him because of Jesus' death.