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Dear Friend,

As of this month, two recent graduates will be joining our staff team as volunteers. They are working part-time as well but are considering full-time ministry in the future. In this transition, they are experiencing what it might be like to become Campus Crusade for Christ staff. And the timing couldn't be better, because our team has been shrinking and has suddenly received word that America won't be able to send a team of interns this year. In the midst of some disappointing news, Rina has especially been an encouragement to me.



Over the past couple years, I've enjoyed getting to know Rina as a student. She is passionate about fashion and rock music and is just a lot of fun to be around. She is also gentle and caring. Recently, during a time of prayer for Japan she highlighted the suffering of people up where the tsunami struck and talked about poverty in Japan. I love seeing not only her compassion for people in need, but also a heart to go and actually serve those people.

Rina is also growing as a leader. She is of course very excited about reaching students on the campus from which she graduated. Lutheran University attracts a relatively large number of Christian students and students somewhat interested in Christianity. Already in the first few weeks of the new school year, Rina has shared the gospel and seen one student believe in Jesus. She also connected with a freshman Christian girl and will be starting a Bible study together with her. They apparently have very similar stories and family backgrounds, which makes Rina especially thankful to God for the opportunity to mentor her and study together.

It seems to me that one of Rina's weaknesses is connecting with people different from her. Of course this is a challenge for most people, but seems especially true in Japan. I hope she can continue to be excited about meeting students she connects particularly well with but can also overcome any hesitations with those she doesn't bond with right away. The other volunteer on our team, Tatsu, also seems to struggle with this. He's a musician and has a tendency to shy away from athletes or people he finds a little intimidating. Please pray that we can all see people through Jesus' eyes. I really hope we can indiscriminately serve all the students we meet.

Please also pray for Rina and Tatsu to overcome any other challenges they're currently facing and that they can have a valuable experience this year. Whether or not they decide to join our staff team in the future, I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity to work together with them. Please pray for our whole team to know Jesus' love more and allow Him to teach us how to share it each day.

In Christ,

Christina

Please join me in praying for~

- ✧ Rina and Tatsu who are serving as volunteers alongside our staff team
- ✧ Shiori and Mari's continued trust in God's leading for their lives
- ✧ Mio, who spent her 27th birthday in the hospital (fifth birthday in a row)