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Dearest Friend,

Tokyo is known for many things. This past month, sushi, jam-packed trains, and the latest technology surrounded me. Japan's rich culture inspires awe. But, I'm very thankful my team and I didn't miss something Tokyo is less famous for: the body of Christ.

Japanese students rarely think about religion or spiritual topics. Do they visit a temple for New Year's and maybe again during summer festivals? Yes. There's just little heart involved in these ancient traditions. That's why I was amazed to see over 80 students gather over two nights to hear about Jesus Christ. In the picture on the left, you can see one of these students, Yumi (on the right) came to watch our team perform a skit and share a story about how Jesus is the only true way to find satisfaction in our lives. Yumi placed her faith in Jesus that night. She became part of the body of Christ. The very next night, she joined the women of our team and some Japanese Campus Crusade for Christ staff women for dinner. We were all overjoyed to build up that friendship and sisterhood during our last night in Tokyo.

God also overwhelmed me with the love of his body through the gospel choir, FREE. I joined the choir almost three years ago. This past month, I was welcomed back and sent off again with tons of love. On behalf of FREE, one member drew a picture of me and wrote Romans 12:5, "So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

One of the greatest ways I've witnessed followers of Christ working together as his body was through my summer team. I learned a much greater appreciation for unique talents and strengths. It's truly indescribable how perfectly each member contributed. This was amazing evidence of God's provision to me. I LOVED watching our team serve in Tokyo.

Everyone who knows God's love is part of this body. It's incredible how we work together and how each part is essential and miraculous. Thank you for helping the body grow this summer!

Grace and Peace,

Christina