

Christina Eads
7-14-26 Grace Court 305
Tokyo, Mitaka-shi, Shimorenjaku
181-0013
Japan



Japan Campus Crusade for Christ
christina.eads@gmail.com

January 31, 2014

Dear Friend,

Meeting Mio has been a great way to start off 2014. When I first went to see her, I had no idea what to expect. Late last year, I heard from a friend of a friend (her homestay mother from Long Beach) that she's in the hospital in Tokyo and open to visitors. When we got in touch, she was indeed welcoming and gave me precise directions. At this point, the only details I knew were how to get to the hospital and that she had a nerve disorder.

Mio is absolutely charming. She greeted me with nothing but smiles, even as she lay in bed. She was extremely happy to talk in English, since she's been back in Japan since 2009 with few chances to practice. We enjoyed chatting and before long I got to hear about her time at Cal State Long Beach. Mio's homestay family hosted Bible studies which she often participated in. She had limited understanding about God from her Christian high school but couldn't quite follow the group discussion. Although her English is pretty good, it confused her how everyone seemed to so easily relate what they read in the Bible to their actual lives.



I then also learned Mio's choice to study at a Christian high school and American university was affected by her first hospitalization in junior high. Because she fell behind in school and particularly in kanji, the Japanese characters, she had a great disadvantage for getting into a good Japanese high school. She then applied for an international Christian high school where it was later recommended that she study abroad for college.

I then learned with incredible surprise that Mio had been in the hospital since her return to Japan over four years earlier. With only a semester left to graduate from Long Beach State, her nerve disorder had worsened, forcing her home. After visiting a specialist, Mio was suddenly advised that she needed surgery. Because the doctors had already set the date, Mio and her family didn't see time to seek a second opinion, which they severely regret now. Though they weren't warned of any potential risks, the surgery failed leaving her hospitalized ever since.

Would you please pray with me for Mio and her family? They understandably carry great remorse, and they are left with the harsh realities of her unsuccessful surgery. She is unable to swallow and is connected to a feeding tube, and she is unable to sit properly due to curvature in her spine. Recently, she is making attempts through physical therapy to get into a wheel chair and is also supposed to be doing exercises to help her swallow again. Eventually, she hopes to finish her degree and go on to graduate school to become a counselor for children. I pray that Mio can know the hope of Christ in her pain and trials, and that she can see God's hand in helping her to accomplish her dreams. Please also pray that I can be part of bringing God's love, light, and peace to Mio.

One thing that Mio said really inspired me. She said she hates the word 当たり前 (atarimae), which means "ordinary." She said there are no ordinary things. Everything is a miracle.

In Christ,

Christina