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Dear Friend,

In our ministry on campus, we often emphasize the scripture where Paul says to Timothy, “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” (2 Timothy 2:1-2). The goal is that the students we help lead in their faith will then impact others with what they have learned about Christ, and more and more people will follow Him and share Him with others.

The recent twist for me is that I will now become the trainer for our newest staff member. When I read the passage mentioned above, I see so clearly that teaching young staff is critical, since they are engaging in the same process of passing what they learn to faithful students. However, I feel uneasy to train as a foreign staff. Of course our work on campus in Japan shares commonalities with Cru in America, but I am functioning in a culture and language not native to me. Sometimes the difference in culture still feels pretty large, and I think I am in need of extra grace to take on this task.



Posing with Japan's newest staff member, and my “twin”, Chihiro

Therefore, as always, I am extremely grateful for your prayers. First of all, please join me in praising God for Chihiro, Japan's most recent staff trainee. She is only the second new member in Japan in seven years. This is hard for me to imagine, because when I joined staff in the States, I was one of 220 new members. God has given Chihiro the vision to share Christ with college students and has graciously provided her financial support. We are celebrating that she is ready to go into full-time campus ministry.

The challenge is how to give her the best training experience possible. Since there was quite a gap in training new staff, since there weren't any up until last year, there are many changes in the training system. Please pray for Ueki-san, who is the national leader in charge of Human Resources and Leadership Development. He will be working with my team as we all engage in Chihiro's learning and with me as her trainer. As 2 Timothy says, please pray that we can all get our strength from Jesus, and that out of that we will be able to effectively teach Chihiro what we have been and are being taught.



Chihiro and I had a great day with other staff and students at Gakugei University.

Chihiro doesn't know I will be her trainer yet, because the national team is still making it official. However, on Friday she naturally shared some of her concerns with me on campus, and I praise God that we are able to communicate honestly and learn from each other. Please pray this trusting relationship will continue! Thank you!

In Christ,

Christina