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Dear Friends,

I've continued to stay in touch with friends in Japan during my time in the States. Most recently, I got to talk with a dear friend from church, Mai. I'm in awe of how natural it can be to pick up the phone from overseas!

I enjoyed so, so much hearing an update about Mai's family, who she has always talked a great deal about. And she shared about work and daily life, but what really stuck with me was our conversation about our church.



This is a throwback to 2013, showing one of the countless times of cooking and eating together with precious friends from the evening service at my church!

Musashino Evangelical Free Church, also known as MCC (Musashino Chapel Center), has been such a home away from home for me! I've made numerous friendships that I cherish more than words can say. In particular, the evening "Sunset Service" with many people close in age, has been a place of belonging and joy for me in Japan.

But the evening service is no more! Unfortunately, for the last two and a half years, our church has been unable to find a replacement for our Japanese pastor. I received an email from the English department's

pastor and his wife that the service was ending after the end of October. I was able to hear first hand from Mai how this transition is unfolding. Thankfully, her and several members of the evening service have started attending the 2nd morning service. However, as with any change like this, some members are left feeling unsettled and are no longer attending our church (a good handful seemingly no longer attending any church.)

This news was not completely unexpected, as the evening service had been difficult to sustain without a pastor. But I am still so sad to see it end, as it was a time of such sweet fellowship, countless meals together after the service, and a unique gathering of young people while the church is aging in Japan. Please pray for others that are disappointed to see our service end. There were a good number of newer believers. Please pray that MCC members will be united and continue to have blessed teaching, fellowship, and outreach!

In Christ,

Christina

Please join me in praying for~

- My church in Japan to see God provide a pastor and all members to continue strong in faith
- The students' Christmas party on 12/13 to be fruitful in communicating the meaning of Christmas
- Ayaka, fairly new to faith in Christ, to continue in fellowship and understanding of God's love