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Dearest Friend,

The school year ended with some amazing celebration. The graduating seniors were recognized and commissioned at the annual alumni/senior BBQ. We wrapped up the semester with a talent show to bring the whole group together one last time before summer. And our small group met in the arboretum on campus for one great big sugary potluck. The blessings abound!

I choose by faith
To go where Christ wants me to go,
To do what He wants me to do,
To say what He wants me to say,
To give what He wants me to give,
To be a laborer in the kingdom,
For the glory of Christ.

As I bow before You this day, Lord, I
surrender my heart to follow You.
Knowing that following You will require my
time, passion, resources, and abilities to
bring the love of Christ to lost people.

Not in my own strength and pride, but in
brokenness and humility. Not in isolation,
but in community with fellow believers.
Not as a vow to never fail, but as a
commitment to keep my eyes on You,
Jesus, the author and perfecter of my faith,
who will grant me the endurance to fulfill
this pledge.

I give myself, wholly and completely to
you, Lord.

But it's actually been pretty sobering as
the outgoing seniors have prepared for the
end of May. Three years ago, when I was
in their position, my life changed
drastically. Though I had studied and
planned for a career in the medical field or
research, after graduation I transitioned
from student to missionary. It all started
with the pledge shown on the left.

In April of my senior year, I couldn't sign
this prayer. Thankfully, God changed my
fear and lack of trust when someone
challenged me with this pledge. Instead
of cowering at the thought of leaving
home, I spent a year in Tokyo. Recently,
I've shared this pledge (from *In Transition*
magazine) with five seniors. My hope is
for this prayer to help remind the seniors,
and all of us, to put and keep Jesus first.

Grace and Peace,

Christina

P.S. It was one of the greatest blessings in
my life to go to Tokyo, and you can
follow my 2nd mission to Japan (May 28th-
June 28th) at christinaeads.blogspot.com