

## December 2007

Dearest Supporters,



It has been a joyful and unique Christmas season! Although there were moments of severely missing home and family, I have been so blessed to be in Tokyo for the holidays. It was weird that almost everyone had work on Christmas day, yet Japan was pretty much closed for New Year's. I was really impressed at how many students called or emailed to wish me a Merry Christmas though, and I made the same effort for them on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

December was busy with several outreaches including Christmas parties, gospel concerts, and Christmas mass. We worked very

hard and had so much fun! One of the highlights for me was following our final Christmas concert at a nearby church. A girl named Chihiro (the girl in the red scarf in the photograph) asked if I would mind praying with her afterwards. I had met her at our Thanksgiving concert, and we connected immediately. For some reason she seems to put a lot of trust in me. At our biggest Christmas party, she told me that she accepted Jesus Christ into her life last year but had stopped believing. God just didn't seem close to her. I shared a few of my experiences with sin and how that separates us from God, and we discussed a lot about how Jesus is God's gift to us. Then, after the sermon on the day of our concert at New Hope Church, Chihiro prayed to have Christ back in her life! She told me she was so glad I could pray with her to trust God again, and I was completely overjoyed!

I was also really excited to have some girls over for dinner recently. Nao, Haruna, and Aya came over to our apartment for tacos. All of us had a great time and want to do dinner together again. These three girls are very interested in learning more about a relationship with Jesus. Since then, we've been in contact more frequently and I went to their Christmas party at Sophia University, which was also very fun.

Now, we've been on winter break. All of us from America celebrated Christmas and New Year's together. We also served in child care for the Japanese staff conference. It was refreshing to be around the kids and to be out of Tokyo for a few days. We'll head to Thailand for our own conference on January 17th. It should be nice to meet up with missionaries from other countries and to take a little vacation. Please pray for our safe travels and for good surf! I mean we should hope to enjoy God's creation to its fullest, right?

Also, I would greatly appreciate if you could continue to pray for good rest and health. My sleep has been much better but still rough at times. Please also just pray for peace. I know God promises He has given us peace! In John 14:27 it says, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Sometimes I still just feel overwhelmed with how many students and people there are in Tokyo. It can be frustrating for me when I struggle with simple things like forgetting people's names. Some students are also very busy so it's hard to meet with them consistently. I can also be distracted by thinking or worrying about the future. Your prayers are so powerful and comforting! Thank you so much and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Christina