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August 2011



Dear Friend,

I'm disappointed I couldn't leave for Japan on September 1st, but I'm now thrilled to fly out on the 12th. And the delay with my visa is actually helping me say goodbye to more friends and family!

I was excited to tell you about my arrival to Tokyo in this letter, but instead I'm going to share about my hopes.

My face will be glowing if my time in Tokyo helps Japanese people experience more of God's love. I want Christians in Japan to feel supported by the body of

Christ. I want all of Japan to have the joy of knowing Christ. But I can picture this happening in countless ways and want to describe some of my favorites:

My first hope is that my apartment will be a haven. Students should feel at home and come often for dinner. I want my co-workers and friends to try new recipes with me and know they can come anytime to talk or pray. I want to be spontaneous and serve anyone at any hour. I hope I run out of seating and have to sprint to the store because there's not enough space in my tiny, Japanese refrigerator. I plan to make my home simple but warm, where all are welcome to laugh, weep, eat, and enjoy life.

I hope Christian rap comes to Tokyo. My second favorite rapper has a Japanese name: Tedashii. It means faithful! Even though most people are surprised, Christian hip-hop is growing. It's even more shocking to most people that this is my favorite music, but I love it and my faith is challenged and inspired by the lyrics. Japanese students love the beat too, and I often see them practicing dance on campus. I hope Lecrae and Tedashii come to Japan so I can be in the front row with my Japanese friends!

Thirdly, I hope I can find a basketball team. My previous times in Tokyo I played badminton, ultimate Frisbee, and futsal. I'd love to continue these and learn more sports, but this summer I've been working on basketball. I had a friend in a men's league, and I'm guessing there are women's teams as well. Running has been my favorite way to exercise for almost 10 years, but basketball is inching up there. I love the sound of the ball when it swishes. I love the energy and teamwork. My intramural team this summer bonded in just one tournament on a Saturday morning. I hope to have a team in Japan that can build a relationship over years.

Thank you for joining me in making some of these hopes a reality! Please join me in praying that these will be effective backdrops for reflecting Christ's love to Japanese people. I'll be praying for you too!

In Christ,

Christina

Please also pray for:

- My visa to be ready before September 12th
- My transition to life in Tokyo
- An opportunity for me to serve in the devastated area of Japan before language school and campus ministry begin