

January 2008

Dearest Supporters,



I am fresh back from a rejuvenating conference and vacation in Thailand. It was amazing to meet up with missionaries from other countries and share our experiences. We also had the opportunity to meet with “coaches” who have worked overseas in the past. They listened well and assisted each of us personally and as a team. I was thoroughly encouraged and challenged by the speakers as well. Now that we have had time away from Tokyo, it seems like my time to hit the ground running.

The next couple months will be different than the past few, because students are now entering into final exams. I’m still able to do some ministry during this time. My roommate Shyla and I have plans very soon for a spaghetti lunch at my apartment with three students. Aya, Nao, and Haruna are so sweet, and we are thrilled to spend time with them and discuss more about the Bible!

I also have some opportunities to challenge my mind and operate like a student again. A couple of my teammates and I are taking a two week class on church history. It’s a two unit class for seminary credit being offered at the Campus Crusade for Christ student center, very close to where we live. Learning is exciting to me in a new way now that I’ve been out of school for over six months. I’m really enjoying reading and studying, and the subject is also challenging me in my faith. We would probably take a class on anything right now, just to feel like college students again, but the professor is a Christian and we’re thankful for this subject with so much to learn from.

There is also a new Bible study class at my church. We’ll be reading through the book of Acts. Since being in Tokyo, this part of the Bible has inspired me, and it will be great to study it with other people! My desire to learn Japanese has also grown recently, partly because I missed the language a little bit while in Thailand. Shyla lent me a book that seems extremely helpful for Japanese vocabulary. In choir we also have a song in Japanese, so that should be an educational challenge.

Please pray that I would use this time away from campus wisely. I believe there are other students that will be in the Tokyo area following finals, so I hope to spend a lot of time with them if possible. Similarly, I’m looking for opportunities to hang out with my freshman year roommate Yumi. Please pray specifically for her salvation (I just have a feeling).

This time should also be a great opportunity to grow even closer to my teammates and friends at church. Christians in Japan don’t seem to have a great support system around them, but I definitely feel that I do. At our conference we learned about a story in John 4 that I recently shared with Haruna. Jesus teaches a yearning woman at a well about how He can satisfy her like living water. Jesus has also given us the Holy Spirit, and this same living water should spring out of Christians. For me, the living water should be pouring onto my teammates and friends, so please pray that it does!



Sincerely,

Christina