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Dearest Supporters,

The sun has been shining a little bit more in Tokyo lately! It's still pretty chilly some of the time, but things are really looking up. February is supposed to be by far the coldest month, and I made it!

Our Church History class finished up well. Writing the paper for the course was really an eye-opening experience. I chose to discuss the time period around the persecution of the early church. Thinking carefully about the circumstances surrounding the people persecuted for worshipping God has helped me to be thankful to be in Japan. After some online research, I counted 36 countries where Christians are still persecuted today. It is a privilege to be able to read my Bible, pray, and tell other people about Jesus Christ openly and publicly!

My biggest ministry right now is the gospel choir. We have been practicing three times each week to prepare for the upcoming tour. It's such a neat opportunity to truly build relationships. We've started sharing our life stories with each other. Last week, Kohe shared about how his life has changed since joining the choir. Although he still hasn't accepted Christ as his Savior, many of his preconceptions about Christianity have changed dramatically. Kohe joined the choir because the director spoke English and he wanted to practice talking with him. Now he realizes that this choir is something special, very different from any of his other activities. One of Kohe's Christian friends was crying as he shared how he's gained something more from each and every concert!

Please pray for the tour. Many of the students have been meeting weekly to pray for God's direction and help. Mostly please pray for the students that do not know Jesus yet. We'll be going all over Japan with them and hope to get to know each other even better and share Jesus' love even better too. Also, we hope to have an impact on the people in Osaka, Nagoya, Kyoto, and Yokohama as we sing for them.

I've also been able to spend more time with my teammates, the Japanese staff, and the Campus Crusade for Christ students. We had our spring camp last week to build unity, and it was a blast! Please pray for this unity to continue into the new school year. Starting in April, we will be working together to build more small groups of students interested in learning about the Bible. Many people have reminded me lately that unity with other Christians is how to persevere and stay strong and effective in our faith. Love is what will help more Japanese students to trust in Jesus! Love is the bond of perfection! (Colossians 3:14)

Remember, if you would like to communicate or ask me to pray for you too, please email me!

Sincerely,

Christina

