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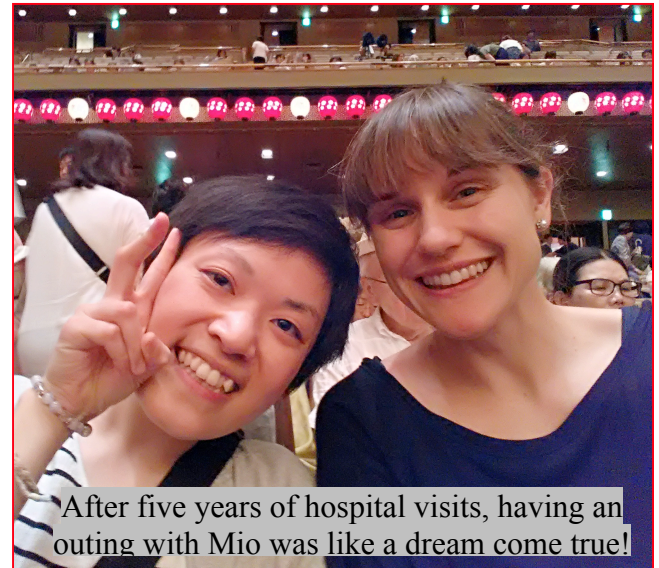
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Dear Friends,

Have you ever seen a dark situation around you and wondered if you'd ever get to see change? For me, the closest I've seen suffering has been in my friend Mio. She has bravely yet painfully spent over 10 years in her hospital bed. As she's watched her friends live freely, she's battled her nerve disorder and the results of a failed surgery for essentially her entire twenties.

I met Mio in January 2014, unaware that she was hospitalized long term. Over the next months and years, it became exceedingly difficult to say goodbye and leave her isolated after our visits. She often shared of her deep regret of having the surgery and her resentment toward the doctors. Mio struggled with back pain, trouble sleeping, inability to swallow, and countless setbacks. For five years I literally never saw her improve the slightest bit.



After five years of hospital visits, having an outing with Mio was like a dream come true!

But Mio is no longer confined to the hospital walls! Early this year, I went to visit Mio in her hospital bed. She had been brushing her teeth and was starting to rinse when I arrived. She swirled the water around in her mouth and spat into a cup the first couple times, as usual. But then she was rinsing with one final mouthful of water, and she swallowed it! The next visit she was showing more flexibility in her legs. After a couple more visits, I again arrived to see something I'd never seen before. When I approached her corner of the room, Mio wasn't in her bed. She was in a wheel chair! After five years not leaving that room, we were able to have tea together!

Mio has now gone from 100% relying on a feeding tube to eating perfectly normally. We shared our first meal on August 16th when Mio took her third overnight trip home. Her mother is a very talented koto player, and we attended her concert together before grabbing Italian food and having a sleepover. It was like a dream come true! When we arrived at the concert, she said we could park her wheelchair outside of the doors. She walked all by herself to her seat! Mio has since improved and is walking with even more ease. She is planning to be released from the hospital completely on September 24th.

When I spent the night at her home, her mom confirmed that there is no explanation for Mio's sudden improvement. The doctors are bewildered. I can't say enough how worthy our great God and Healer is of praise for this miracle! Please pray for her and her family to fully acknowledge Christ in all of this!

Unfortunately I can't be there when Mio is released, but I'm grateful to have my first extended time in California in eight years. Due to social security laws, I must be out of Japan for six months. So, I just returned and am greatly looking forward to seeing you all sometime before March to catch up in person!

In Christ,

Christina

Please join me in praying for~

- ❖ Mio's complete healing (use of her legs and hands is still limited) and salvation for her and her family
- ❖ Students on the Taiwan mission trip (until September 13th) Mayu, Yukako, Tomomi, and Mion from Tokyo