April 2008

Dearest Supporters,



The time is coming for me to be back home in America! My flight is scheduled for June 13th, and I've rejoiced and cried a little bit about this. Your prayers for me and all the people I know in Tokyo impact us greatly. Please continue praying, knowing how much I value it and am blessed by it!

April has been a busy and rich time, meeting many new students and seeing the upperclassmen again. I've been thoroughly enjoying my teammates and students on Tokyo and Toyo Universities, as well as the personal relationships that have developed outside of campus ministry times.

Yumi and I are seizing every opportunity to hang out in Japan. She, Shyla, and I went to Tsukigi fish market one Saturday morning at about 6 a.m. This is when the carts are the wildest and the sushi is freshest! None of us had visited this famous spot, and we really enjoyed it! Yumi also came over for dinner the following week for a more relaxing time together, and her dad wants to have a BBQ for us before we go. I'm going to miss her!

Nao is the student I'll miss the most. I joined her badminton team! They won't compete until June, but they certainly welcome me to practice every week with them. Not only does my life fill with joy while playing this game, but I love the opportunities to talk with Nao on the way to the gym and during breaks. Practice lasts four hours, so there's plenty of time to meet all of her friends too; there are about 100 people. She's also invited me to have lunch at her home, about two hours outside of Tokyo. Her mom will make lunch and then we'll do some sightseeing!

This past week, I also enjoyed getting to know some freshman girls. My co-worker Fumi invited all of us to her hometown to visit the new Costco. We had a great day shopping together, and it was so entertaining how stunned the students were. They had never seen Costco, and most grocery stores here are pretty small. Midori and Sari planned to order pizza for lunch, but I think the size of the slices scared them away!

Honestly, it was a little strange for me to visit Costco in Japan too; I've adjusted fairly well to Tokyo life. But, it will be fun to live in California with a fresh perspective. I look forward to seeing all of you soon! My plan for this next year is to continue as an intern with Campus Crusade for Christ at Cal State University Fullerton. I'm really excited to share more about this change once I'm back with you this summer! Not all of you will be able to continue supporting me, but I would really appreciate it if you would consider it. Regardless, I can hardly wait to share more about my experiences here and how I'll transition into next year! You have truly blessed me by enabling me to live in Tokyo with your faithful love and support. Thank you!



Sincerely,

Christina