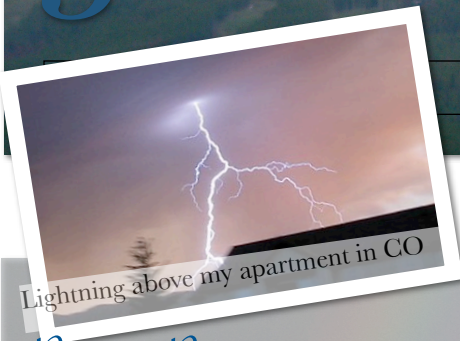


Jessica Joy's JOURNEY Journal

AUGUST 12, 2009



Lightning above my apartment in CO

Prayer Points

*There are a lot of unknowns regarding my near future and long-term future right now. (i.e. housing, leave date, language school options, etc.) Please pray for peace for my family, wisdom for those preparing for me in Japan and the good-bye process.

*Kozue (international student from Waseda who accepted Christ on Palm Sunday) will return to Tokyo September 7th. Pray for her continued growth in Christ as she goes back home. I'm a little disappointed that she didn't go to church or Bible study much while I was gone in CO for the summer.

***I only have \$370/month left to raise. Praise God for his faithfulness in providing thus far and pray I can raise the rest of that so I can return to Japan on September 13th in time for the Tokyo staff planning retreat.**

✧ Colorado lessons ✧

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42

Thank you, thank you, thank you! A lot of you have committed to (and have been) giving monthly which allowed me to be in Fort Collins, CO this summer for Xtrack (preparation for long-term international ministry) and the U.S. Campus Crusade for Christ Staff Conference. I confess I'm a lot like Martha and felt like I had a lot of tasks at home I needed to finish before returning to Japan. Mainly I didn't like the fact that I was leaving CA to go to CO with \$715/month left to raise. In my mind, I just wanted to get to Japan as quickly as possible and skip the training. I had a bit of a

pride issue and wasn't sure how much more training I needed. (After all I've already lived in Japan for two years...what more could I learn? - WRONG attitude!)

But of course God knows best. And he gives wisdom to leaders. The leaders of Campus Crusade knew from experience that before sending their staff members overseas for an indefinite amount of time, serious mind, heart and soul preparation would need to take place. Over the period of six weeks at Xtrack, we ICSers (International Campus Staff)



My softball team with Mrs. Bright



Aoi and me



Xtrack in session



Good words, good deeds

took time to just sit at the feet of Jesus and reconnect with Him, went through individualized coaching and counseling sessions, learned about how to say good-bye well to family and friends, practiced sharing the good news of Jesus with residents and students in CO and at CSU through words and deeds, talked through missiological dilemmas, learned how to learn the language of our host countries, how to raise a family overseas and much more. I also had the blessing of meeting this year's new Short Term INTERNATIONAL team leaders (Maria and Matt pictured to the right) and shared with them what I learned about leading a STINT team for the past two years. Plus I got involved with a small Japanese church and got to know Aoi, my language helper who attended there. Aoi and her husband returned to Tokyo in July after spending three years in CO. Both of them are not yet believers but attended church every week while in the U.S. I hope to reconnect with Aoi when I return to Tokyo myself. Lord-willingly, I can return on September 13th if I can finish raising support (\$370/month left!), my visa goes through and I find housing. (Please pray for that process!)



U.S. Staff Conference

After Xtrack finished, our small community of overseas campus staff was joined by thousands of other U.S. Campus Crusade for Christ staff members at Colorado State University for the 10-day U.S. Staff Conference. I was blown away by the fact that each person there had a team of ministry partners like you behind them making our vision of wanting "everyone to know someone who truly follows Jesus" possible.

EVERYONE on staff, including radio hosts and authors Dennis and Barbara Rainey, speaker and author Josh McDowell, magician Andre Cole, co-founder of Campus Crusade Vonnelle Bright and our president Steve Douglass is supported by ministry partners like you. They also all attended staff conference so that together we could be realigned to the direction and movement of our organization. Pastor, author and speaker Tim Keller gave outside insight to our ministry and anchored us back to Jesus, his work on the cross and reminded us of the need to unashamedly share the good news (not just good advice, good news that is meant to be shared!) Isn't it exciting that you and I get to be a part of what God's doing all over the world?! Thank you for joining in this mission!

*Love,
Jessica*

