

# Jessica Joy's JAPAN Journal

SEPTEMBER 5, 2010

## ✧ Renewal ✧

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me...Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit. Psalm 51:10, 12*

Lately I've been asking God to renew my love and passion for Him. For some reason, ministry's been going really well and school's been OK, but I've just been...I don't know, lazy? complacent? bored? in my personal relationship with Christ. Asking God to restore to me the joy of my salvation is often a dangerous prayer request though, because He'll show me my NEED for salvation first. And that's exactly what's been happening this past month.

This past month, I've yet again become aware of how "religious" I am and how I subconsciously I think I've somehow earned or deserved salvation. Through watching God's grace in the lives around me and me getting almost resentful instead of joyful, I've been overwhelmed again at my own sin and the UNDESERVED

grace God's given us through Jesus Christ.

I've also been humbled by seeing how much more I have to grow in adapting to Japanese culture. In my weekly Bible study I've been experiencing the importance of "saving face" and keeping "harmony" since Japan's a shame-based culture. My natural instinct of leading a Bible study is to create a safe environment where everyone can be open and vulnerable; and if there's a problem, we talk about it. But here openness is not as valued as keeping the group harmony. This is something I knew in my head, but to actually experience it is...culture-shocking. But I'm learning! Your prayers and support are GREATLY appreciated as I continue this journey!

*Love,  
Jessica*



### Prayer Corner

- 1) Praise God for a meaningful time at our West Tokyo Student Impact Summer Camp (pictured above). See blog for more details!
- 2) Seriously, I was worried about August because of the heat and loneliness factor (since most of my friends were gone in August) but God definitely showed up. My room averaged 95 degrees, but I felt very protected. And I didn't experience loneliness as feared...thank you for your prayers!
- 3) This past month our Japanese staff has been going through the Ministry Partner Development process...a wonderful, but tough process in Japan. Please pray for more Japanese Christians to catch the vision of our staff members and to join their ministry teams...thank you!!

