

Jessica Joy's JOURNEY Journal

MARCH 23, 2009



Prayer Points

Praise God for Sora and Yukina's decision to get baptized on February 22nd. I had asked specifically for prayer for Sora in my last newsletter and some of you told me you prayed for her. Soon after she sent an e-mail saying she was doing much better and decided to get baptized.

Pray for Aya, Saori and Tomomi to continue in their journey towards Christ.

Please pray for my own relationship with Christ, family and friends during this time of preparing to go back to Japan.

My goal is to raise 100% of my monthly financial support by June 1st so that I could go to training in CO for the months of June and July and then go to Japan. Right now I'm at 60%. Thank you for your prayers and support!!

✧ On a Journey ✧

But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you - for this reason, brothers . . . we have been comforted about you through your faith. 1 Thessalonians 3:6-7

I KNOW it's God who does the work in people's lives. And I know I'm dispensible. I'm not really needed in Japan, it's a privilege and joy to be taking part in the work God's doing. Somehow though, when I hear of the growing faith of the friends and students that I've left in Tokyo, it gives me great joy and a sense of relief that God is working and moving in the lives of my friends.

During the month of February, Aya, Saori, Tomomi, Yukina and Mika stayed with my family and experienced what my life is

like for me while I'm home. Aya, Saori and Tomomi came first. These three came on homestay from Japan to



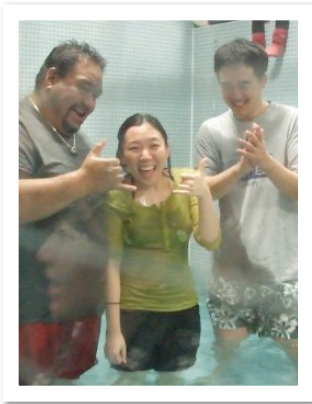
America with me last year and for the first time in their lives heard the gospel explained clearly. Aya and Tomomi especially took an interest in learning more about the Bible and what it means to be a Christian when we returned to Japan. Aya, Tomomi and I attended church together while I was in Tokyo but after I left to come home they stopped going



too. While they were staying with my family, they got to experience and see even more what it's like to follow Jesus on a day to day basis. One of my highlights while they were here was watching Kozue, a Waseda student who's studying at Cal State East Bay this year, interact with the girls and explain things about the Bible. Kozue also isn't a believer yet but has been hugely impacted by people from my home church (San Lorenzo Japanese Christian). I loved hearing her tell Aya, Saori and Tomomi the testimonies of people she's met. Aya, Saori, Tomomi and Kozue are still on a journey towards seeking God, but I pray they will soon make an intentional decision and commitment to follow Christ.

GROWING FAITH

Having Yukina and Mika come and stay with my family (the day after Aya, Saori and Tomomi left) was a huge source of encouragement. Just one year ago, I witnessed Mika, Midori and Kohei pray to receive



Sora's baptism

Christ (March 13, 2008) while they took part in a gospel choir tour. This year, while Yukina and Mika stayed at my house, I loved waking up to the two of them doing their morning devotions on their own and then together. At one point Mika said (in broken English - but I want to make this understandable!), "It was very easy for me to have a 'purpose-driven' life before I was a Christian. But that purpose wasn't God's purpose. Now I have to re-train my mind and life so that I'm doing what God's purpose is for me." It was amazing and special for me to see how much both of them have grown in their relationships with Christ over the past year. Plus there was exciting reports from Japan. Yukina shared the wonderful news of her dad making a decision to follow Christ and her whole family is now attending church! Also, on

February 22nd, Yukina and Sora were baptized in Japan (just 4 days before Yukina came to America). In January, while I was in FL, Sora and I talked on Skype. She explained she was having a hard time going to church, reading her Bible, praying . . . I prayed for her and asked you to pray for her too. I sent her some books and Yukina said Sora read *Crazy Love* (by Francis Chan) and together they listened to 5 of Francis Chan's sermons online. Just a week after asking for prayer, Sora messaged her Christian friends on facebook and said she decided to get baptized! Two weeks after that Sora and Yukina were baptized. So THANK YOU so much for your prayers. I really got a sense that Sora was experiencing some deep spiritual warfare and prayers are so important. Thank you! I hope you can get a sense of how much I value your support and prayers!! *Love, Jessica Joy*



Yukina's baptism

