

Jessica Joy's JAPAN Journal

OCTOBER 14, 2009



Saying farewell to my friends and family at SFO

Praises and Prayer Points

I'm soo thankful to be back in Japan after being the U.S. for a year raising support and joining staff with Campus Crusade. I'm also grateful to be moved into a new apartment and to be reconnected with my friends and students in Japan.

Please pray for me as I begin language school and learn how to balance my time as there is so much I want to do already!

✕ Transitioning Back to 日本 ✕

SAD FAREWELLS, HAPPY HELLOS

"I tell you the truth," Jesus replied, "no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive..." Mark 10:29

I'm here!! I'm back in the motherland, the land of the rising "Son"... Japan. When I reflect back on this past year and all that it took to get me to this point, I'm amazed. Thank you so much for journeying with me and helping me to get here. God provided EXACTLY the right amount of monthly support in just the right amount of time. I only had \$10/month left the day before I left and He provided that \$10/month

commitment the day before I left! Ever since I've gotten here, there seems to be daily new expenses (it's crazy how much it costs to be a foreigner living in Tokyo!) and every day I thank God for how He's provided through you.

It's been a month already and though I *am* overjoyed to be here, the first few weeks were a rough transition. I left behind a strong and loving Christ-centered community in California



Chiba mission team and friends



My church retreat in Okutama



May helping me move



Reuniting with students and friends

and moved into an apartment by myself in Tokyo. This is the first time in my life I'm living without roommates and first time I'm in Japan without an American team. Thankfully, I moved next door to Kimi, a Japan Campus Crusade for Christ staff member who's helped me in a thousand different ways. I forgot how helpless I am not knowing the language...things like going to the realtor, setting up monthly payments for bills, getting directions to go places or going shopping in general is very difficult without being able to communicate in Japanese. Thankfully, this time, learning Japanese is my first assignment and priority while I'm here. I start at Kichijoji Language School next week and am looking forward to telling you more about what that entails in my next newsletter.

Welcome California-Chiba Team!

Amazingly I made it to Japan in time to welcome the California-Chiba missions team. My home church (San Lorenzo Japanese Christian) and sister church (Fremont Asian Christian) sent three couples to Chiba, a nearby prefecture in Japan from September 23-October 6 to work with a couple of our sister churches in Japan. My parents were one of the couples and the others were Stan and Judy Naruo and Mike and Jody Rodriguez. I was elated to be able to join the team and work with such quality people... Of course, I was especially excited to be with my parents on their very first missions trip. I'm used to working with high school and university students in Japan, but I really love all ages. So being able to join the team as they got to go to public schools of all grade levels (elementary, high school, college), make sushi with the community sushi makers, dance with dancers, have dinner with the town leaders (including the mayor) and lead worship and share at churches was a wonderful way to re-enter Japan and reminded me of why I'm here. The short-term team accomplished so much in such little time, but introducing individuals to Jesus and watching them develop relationships with their Creator takes a lot of time and patience. So even though I was very sad to see the team return to California, I was glad I was staying in Japan. There is much to be done!

Thank you once again for sending me to Tokyo. I'm sorry for the delay in a "real" hard copy update. If you would like to receive e-mails and are not on my e-mail list, please e-mail me at Jessica.Tekawa@gmail.com. I'm slightly better at e-mailing. Also, if you would like more details, you can visit my blog at www.jessicatekawa.com. God bless you!

*In Christ
Jessica*

