

Dear

Hello! I hope this letter finds you doing well and experiencing God's love each day.

I'm writing to you because I have some very exciting news! I will be going back to Japan this summer on a mission trip with Cru (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ) from May 21<sup>st</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup>. But before more of the trip details, let me bring you up to date about me and how God has led me to this point.



Last summer I went to Japan for about 3 weeks to help with tsunami relief work. It was quite an experience. I was overwhelmed by much of what I saw; the degree of damage is something that pictures, and even video, just cannot capture in a way that being there does. During that time, God showed me my heart for the Japanese, and how, despite being American, when I walk out of the airport into Japan, I feel a little bit more at home.

After a busy three weeks, I came back to America with a sense of loss as to what I was supposed to do here in Orlando. I felt called to Japan, but I also knew I needed to continue with my commitments here at college and at work. So I put Japan out of my mind and jumped into everything that is going on here. I am graduating soon from the University of Central Florida with a degree in Sports and Exercise Science. I also work at Panera Bread as an associate trainer, and I am considering starting to work my way up the management chain. I also became more involved with Cru at UCF, helping lead a community group, and helping set up and tear down for our weekly gatherings at UCF. The rest of my time goes to church, intramural sports, exercising at the gym, and spending time with friends and family.

Throughout the year, however, God never let me completely forget Japan, or my heart for the Japanese people, and I began feeling like this next summer might involve Japan again. Of course, that went against everything the school system was telling me, because it would mean giving up finding a "real" job right after graduating. However, the nagging feeling that I was called to Japan remained, so I began looking into summer projects, and after much prayer and thought, I signed up.



Unlike last summer, this summer I will be focusing on bringing spiritual relief to the nation of Japan. Last year, while I was more than happy to help them re-start, I realized what they really needed was something most people couldn't give them, but I could. Despite all the progress rebuilding, they still needed a source of purpose and hope from it all. Last summer I went to show hope, physically, to the Japanese people; to show them that the world cares, and they are not alone. This summer I want to go to tell them that God cares, and He will never leave them or forsake them and that even when all the world fails, God won't.

*My team with a tsunami victim who's house we helped clean out*

This brings me back to my trip and the details for getting me to Japan. This trip will focus on reaching out to college students in the Tokyo area. I believe that one of the universities we will be at is Waseda University, a famous school, so it will be exciting to reach out to students that are going to be in leadership positions in Japanese business, government and economics in the future!

In order to participate in this mission trip, I need to trust the Lord to provide around \$5,800 to cover the costs of my participation. Please pray for me that God will speedily lead me to the partners who will send me to Japan. Would you also consider joining me in this effort with your financial sponsorship? Whether \$100, \$200, \$500 or more, every dollar is important, and will help me reach my goal in time.

If God leads you to partner with me, there are two ways for you to send in your donation. One way is to write a check made out to Campus Crusade for Christ and send it in the return envelope to me at 4072 Yeats St. Orlando, FL 32828. The second way is to give online at [ccci.org](http://ccci.org). When you click on the give button, enter my designation number, which is 5622006, and then a new page with my name on it should open up along with the options to give. Just a reminder, since my trip starts May 21<sup>st</sup>, I need to ask you to send your responses as soon as you can so I can have my full support in before I leave. Thanks for helping me out by doing so!

Finally, I really want to keep you informed about my ministry this summer, so I'm planning to start a blog for my trip. Feel free to follow me at [oredayo31.blogspot.com](http://oredayo31.blogspot.com) ("oredayo" in Japanese simply means, "it's me"). I also will post pictures and thoughts from last year's trip, as well as updates on this trip coming up in the next month. If you have any other questions that this letter didn't address, feel free to email me as well, at [benclark3107@yahoo.com](mailto:benclark3107@yahoo.com).

Thank you for reading this letter, and thank you so much for your thoughts, prayers, and support! They are all very much needed. I just want to re-emphasize how excited I am for this trip, and that I hope you can also get excited about playing a part in bringing hope to Japan. God Bless!

Your brother in Christ,

Ben Clark

