

Dear Friend,

I hope that this letter finds you well, and I pray that 2013 has been a joyous year so far as you walk with our Lord and Savior Jesus. How wonderful is the gospel of Christ!

It's been a good year for me. I have been working as a Shift Manager at Panera Bread, but God has called me to get out of the restaurant industry and to jump into something else. As a result, this next year I have been given the opportunity to go with Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ), on a short term international mission trip (or STInt) to Tokyo, Japan!!

I can honestly say, up until a few years ago this was something I would have never chosen for myself. "Missionary" was *nowhere* on my potential job wish-list. I loved that my parents were missionaries to Japan and that I got to grow up there, but I never wanted it for myself.



A battered school building next to piles of rubble

However, after the earthquake and tsunami rocked Japan, God put into motion His slow yet steady call on me to return to Japan. I went with CRASH Japan for three weeks in the summer of 2011 to help with relief work, and it opened my eyes and broke my heart. I can still see the mounds of trash piled higher than buildings in the streets after the tsunami had crushed the land. I can still hear the old couple thank our team over and over again as we watered flowers that had been planted in the rubble of their home.

As a result of that trip, I went on a summer mission trip with Cru last year, for 5 weeks. I had a great time, yet was shown again how strong the grip is that the enemy has over the hearts of the Japanese people. There is so much need for the life and light of Jesus in their hearts. The darkness is palpable, and the mundane etched into faces you pass along the way. There is no true satisfaction, no full joy, nor lasting hope. Just this one life and the best they can make of it. But Hallelujah! We were able to see God save 3 students we had met and gotten to know during those 5 weeks!

So now here I go again, with a team of 5 other people, and this time for a full year. Our mission is to see college students come to know Jesus, and to give them an opportunity to accept Him as their Savior. Our mission is to live and love the Japanese as Jesus does, with the hopes of seeing even one person come to believe in Jesus. In a land where less than 1% of the population professes to be Christian, there is a huge need for people to go to Japan. So as introverted and timid as I am, I am choosing to step forward so that even one more may be saved and see Jesus face to face one day with me.



Myself with Takuto, a highschool student we met last year who accepted Christ!!

And I am asking now that you step forward with me. I can't make this happen on my own strength, and so I turn to the church of Christ. Would you be the ground beneath my feet as I go out to Japan this next year? Would you join with me in reaching the lost in Japan?

Please prayerfully consider stepping out in faith to help send me to Japan. I need you to be willing to support me for a year, giving \$100 or some other amount, each month for the full year that I will be overseas. In return, I promise to be faithful (as best as I can) to pursue this ministry with my whole heart, and to keep you up to date with everything your prayers and finances are accomplishing by God's grace, through myself and my team in Japan.

I will be sending out monthly prayer letters, giving you brief accounts of things that have been going on, as well as things you can be praying for about our team and myself. I will also be keeping up a blog at oredayo31.blogspot.com. Please feel free to follow so you can see whatever updates and pictures I'm able to post while over there!

Once you decide how much you are willing to give towards our journey to Japan, go online to give.cru.org then fill in all the information and set up how much and when you would like to give. My Cru account number is 0730469. Thank you so much for praying about this and for joining with me on this journey to Japan!

Now, I need all my support raised quickly as the deadline for being fully funded is **August 1st**. Please, *even now*, take some time to pray about this, and ask God if He wants you to be a part of this mission to Tokyo. If you have any questions you can also feel free to email me at benclark3107@yahoo.com. I'll be able to answer any questions you may have, whether it's more questions about the trip, questions about giving, or questions just about my story!

Thank you again just for reading this and considering sending me to Japan. I am so excited for this upcoming year, and so excited for you to join me as we work to bring every tongue and every nation to Christ for the glory of God.

Sincerely,

Ben Clark

One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

Psalms 27:4