

Dear Friend,

Hello! I hope that this letter finds you well. I would like to thank you for your continued love, prayer and support for myself and my family over the years. Now, here is another opportunity for you to get involved in my life and my journey as I will be heading off on a relief trip to Japan very soon!

As you are aware, in March a great earthquake struck the nation of Japan, and a tsunami followed, causing terrible loss, panic, pain, and crippling a country of kind-hearted, hard-working and spiritually lost people. Also, as I'm sure you know, Japan is the country I was born in, the land I grew up in, and the place I can most easily call home. Of course, as soon as I heard, I sent emails and Facebook comments to all my friends that live in Japan making sure they were okay. Thank the Lord that all of my friends and their families were protected and remained safe!

While it was all happening, a part of me wanted to just leave everything at the first chance and go help Japan. Unfortunately, here I was, on the other side of the world in Florida, attending the University of Central Florida, working at Panera Bread, and still trying to convince myself I belong here. As things began to settle down, the news stories quickly turned to the latest thing. It became a rare thing to read about Japan in the news again, and as college and work kept going, I slowly forgot about the Japanese and their pitiful plight.

Then, in May, my mom sent me an email about an opportunity to go to Japan with Campus Crusade for Christ and CRASH (Christian Relief, Assistance, Support, and Hope) Ministries to be a part of a relief effort. Later, a family friend also challenged and encouraged me to apply for the same mission trip. I was definitely hesitant about applying; however, my desire to do something good for the people in Japan outweighed all of the reasons and excuses I had for staying put here. So I took the step and applied for this journey.

I am writing to you now because, even though I was accepted as part of this team, I will be unable to get there without your prayers and your support. The trip will begin on July 15th and take place for roughly three weeks (the dates have not been finalized yet), and will cost around \$4,000. With that support, I will be able to go to Japan and help them by removing debris, cooking, cleaning, playing with children, and just trying to be the hands and feet of Jesus, the one true Hope they all so desperately need right now.

Unfortunately, as this was a recently planned trip, I need to raise all of the \$4,000 by July 14th at the latest, so I need you to respond as soon as possible. Any support you can give, \$100, \$200, or whatever you feel God calling you to give, will help me reach my goal, which will help bring a little light to the Japanese. Even if you are unable to give at this time, please pray for this trip, and please continue to pray for the Japanese people, that they will find God amidst all their confusion and pain.

If you are able to give, please send your response and check (made payable to Campus Crusade for Christ) in the enclosed, self-addressed envelope. Any and all gifts are tax-deductible. Also, if you know anyone else who may be interested in supporting me in this journey, please pass along this information about this opportunity. I am looking forward to seeing God provide all that I need in this short amount of time through friends and family such as you.

Again, continue to pray for Japan, and for this trip, and thank you so much for considering supporting me and sending me to Japan.

Your brother in Christ,

Ben Clark