



More pictures of volunteers and prayer at [here](#).

Tuesday, March 22, 2011

Hi Friends,

After receiving a few e-mails messages today, I realized I haven't been keeping you up-to-date of my whereabouts. I'm so sorry, I can barely keep up with myself!! Last Friday I did take a night bus with my friend to Kyoto in order to evacuate Tokyo. I arrived Saturday morning, spent the day in Kyoto and by Saturday night decided I needed to go back to Tokyo when I realized I didn't HAVE to evacuate as a Japan Campus Crusade for Christ staff member. It was just highly highly recommended. But not one of the Japanese campus staff workers that I knew ended up evacuating - including my roommate and director - since Tokyo really is a safe distance away from the nuclear reactors. Only the foreign staff (actually pretty much all foreigners, which was sad since I didn't get to say "bye" to a lot of my good friends/classmates) left at the request of their sending countries and families. Plus, my friend Erin Kawaye was working at CRASH headquarters and said they needed help. How could I not go back at a time of crisis like this?!

Since arriving in Tokyo on Sunday, I joined the CRASH Japan's (Christian Relief Assistance Support Hope) Command Center team with the blessing of my direct Japan Campus Crusade for Christ supervisor. JCCC has been partnering with CRASH so it's been fun having students come by in the afternoons (after our prayer meetings) to help out. As big as CRASH Japan has gotten in just the past 11 days (it seems like most of you have partnered or filled out a form somehow...I've seen a lot of them!), it's easy to forget that just a week and a half ago this

organization didn't even exist in Japan...and that every person working at the Command Center is a volunteer. Most every committed volunteer leader though was already serving in Japan with a Christian organization (like OMF, Asian Access, TEAM, CAJ, a church, etc.) In just 11 days, we've gotten a million and a half views on our website and thousands of people applying to volunteer plus big organizations like World Vision, Samaritan's Purse and Churches Helping Churches networking with us. Therefore, there's a high need for COMMITTED volunteers (instead of having volunteers rotate in and out on a daily basis) at the CRASH headquarters just to help process all the information and get people organized. Organizing teams and replying to e-mails/applicants is my job is for the time being. As much as I really wanted to be sent to Sendai NOW, I've come to the realization it's better if Japanese-speakers are the first to go and if I stay put at the Command Center for now.

Of course, I'm still JCCC staff so I'm trying to balance what that means because even though I'm "on loan" to CRASH right now, I still have students I want to meet up with, FREE needs me at their practices as the staff person (to open and close the Student Center) and since all of our foreign staff are not here right now there's just less people available. I'm slightly torn in how to spend my time. Every day since our CHANGE conference ended (except Sunday) our students and staff have been meeting for prayer from 10am-12:30pm. Then they go volunteer somewhere since this is their free time before the new school year begins. Yesterday and today they volunteered at CRASH, but tomorrow they'll be going to an evacuee center as thousands of evacuees from the Sendai area were relocated to Saitama - an area relatively close by to where we live. From talking with them, it has been a sweet sweet time of fellowship and bonding for our students...I think coming away from CHANGE, they're on fire! And I want to be with them all the time!! One of our students, Saya, shared the Knowing God Personally booklet with her friend Shoko (who's been coming to FREE) this past Saturday and Shoko accepted Christ!! Since many of our students have been praying for Shoko there was great rejoicing! See why I like being with our students so much? As devastating and overwhelming (sometimes I DO feel waaayyyy overwhelmed) the situation in Japan is, it's been a joy seeing the body of Christ really come together. Internationally and locally. This is an opportunity for the Japanese Christians to be a real light in this dark time. Already, I've seen that happen. Please be in prayer! There are SOOO many prayer requests, but I'll just list a few...

1) Pray for the Christian church in Japan would continue to unify to work well together and to let the love of Christ be tangibly known.

2) Please pray for the 5 Christians who are among those risking their lives to fix the nuclear reactors in Fukushima. Please especially pray for the leader, Naoyoshi Satoh, who's a member of Fukushima Daiichi Baptist Church and we're told is suffering from diabetes, exhaustion and tension. Pray that Mr. Satoh could hang onto his faith and that Jesus would bring him and

his family through this difficult time. Pray that each one of the Christians could share about why they don't have to fear death when their hope is in Jesus.

3) One problem that every relief group is encountering though is a way to get supplies and volunteers to the Tohoku region. Gas is severely limited (I actually haven't seen one open gas station since I came back from Kyoto Sunday) and most people in Tokyo don't own cars anyway. So please pray for transportation needs to be met as well.

4) Wisdom in how I spend my time.

Whew!! I hope this is coherent. It's 3:24 am and I'm supposed to get up in 2 and a half hours!! Thank you so much for your prayers!! I truly believe they're sustaining me for the time being...

Love, Jess