



May 15, 2009

Dear Friend,

Wanna send some strategic prayer missiles this way? We have some excellent targets to share with you!

Over the past two years, we've slowly discovered that Japanese young people are OPEN to the gospel! Really... a relatively HIGH percentage! There's just a genuine interest in breaking from tradition, from the things that haven't worked, and looking for answers in new places. *To many young people, Christianity is a scary, but attractive option that they want to look into.* But why is it so "scary" for them?

One of the reasons the Japanese culture's emphasis on compliance, uniformity, and conformity. In a practical way, we wanna show you what this looks like by introducing you to four fantastic young Christians. *These girls all became Christians in the last year or so, and are having to battle through a lot of awkward pressures on the home front as they established their spiritual foundations.* Here's how they describe it...



**Shino  
Kiryu**

Hi I'm Shino! I was saved last year as an exchange student in New Zealand. My host mom was a very nice Christian lady and every Sunday I went to church with her. Then I gradually got to know who I should be with :- ) I'm so happy now!

Please pray for my family. My parents, especially my mom, don't agree with my going to church. *Once she yelled at me very hard because she thinks all Christians in Japan are cult group.* She told me not to be involved with Christianity and Christian people and church. I guess she is afraid that I might go far away from her. Maybe she feels sad about it.

Now I go to church every Sunday without telling my mom anything. I love my church, the people, and Jesus. Please pray for my family to understand that my church is not a cult group, and also they can feel and experience God's love.



**Illi  
Yagi**

Hi, I'm Illi! My best friend shared with me about Jesus when I was in Junior High, and I finally got saved last Halloween! I'm 21, and a junior in college.

*I am having a hard time with my parents, especially with my mother. She doesn't let me go to church, and she doesn't even like it when I hang out with my friends at church.* Please pray for my parents so that they could understand and accept my love for Jesus, and please pray that I could be the bridge to lead my family to the Lord! Thank you!



**Nanako  
Sakai**

I became a Christian in Hawaii last year, and moved home to the Yokohama area recently. Adjusting has been a real challenge for me! Thank you for your prayers!

I've been so busy job-hunting and studying that I haven't been able to go to church for a while. *Job-hunting is a super big deal here, like you could hardly believe. On top of that, a tragic death of a loved one recently drained me emotionally. It was tough!*

Pray for my church relationships to get stronger regardless, and for confidence in talking about God to my friends and family, especially my mother. I really want to walk with God and become a victorious Christian!!!



**Joanna  
Takebe**

Hi, I'm Joanna! I prayed to become a Christian last year during the church's summer camp for college students. Since then, I've been following Christ with all of my heart. I help out at the church's preschool weekly and love my cell group.

Aside from that, *I can't participate much in church-related activities because my parents are super strict and overprotective, especially my mom.*

So please pray for my parents to become more flexible. Please pray that whatever worry or fear that they have would be replaced with understanding and acceptance, and also please pray that their hearts would open up to the Lord. Thank you!

There's so much more we could write about, but no more room or time! Thank you for your faithfulness!!! Let's expect a bigger Japanese harvest than ever this year!!!

*Ted and Lauren*