

# Land of the Risen Son

## イエス・キリストは日本を愛する

(Jesus loves Japan)

### Interesting Facts

#### Driving...

Kei cars have a 660cc or smaller engine, and don't require proof that you own a parking space. The translation of the word Kei means "light automobile".

#### Our Car

(see right)

We drive a Mitsubishi Minica (kei car). It has room for four, and the back seat folds down to make a spacious trunk. Driving in the city is more efficient than highway driving. We can get about 200km on a full tank of gas (about 25L).



#### New Driver

(see right)

Even though we've been driving for more than 15 years, Japan considers us new drivers. As a result we must place this mark on our car indicating that we have been driving for less than 1 year. It is called "Shoshinsha ma-ku" meaning "beginner's mark".



### Update: On the Road to Japan (Peter & Valerie Limmer)

#### ESL Ministries

In December we held an ESL class, entitled "Announcing Christmas", based on the Biblical Christmas story. Peter taught the students several Christmas traditions in addition to the elements of the story. Two of his students were a married couple, "Charles" and "Chelsea". Chelsea is a Christian, but Charles is not. Charles proudly came up to Peter of his own initiative every week and recited his memory verse from the week before. He was the only one in the class who did this, and we continue to pray that God would use the words that have been implanted in Charles' heart to draw him to Jesus.

The Christmas class was really well received... so well that a week after it ended the church decided it wanted to run another English Bible class right away. This no small feat because in Okinawa new things usually take awhile to get started!

We have now commenced two more English Bible classes, at two different churches, entitled "People Who Met Jesus". Before we started the class at Seaside Chapel, we prayed two things: that there would be a half-and-half split between people who do and don't know Jesus, and that Charles would return.



Baseball outreach at Seaside Chapel

The class is at its maximum capacity of twelve people, and five or six of the students attending don't know Jesus. Two of the attendees are Charles and Chelsea.

Peter has had some amazing discussions with the students: about why Jesus could forgive sins, and what it would have been like to hear Jesus say to the paralyzed man, "Your sins are forgiven." One of his students who isn't a Christian ("Felix") said, "I would have felt jealous because there are lots of things in my life that I need to be forgiven for."

#### New Ministry for Val

I continue my journey of healing, and am making good progress in that regard (for more information on this, see reverse). Along with my language and cultural studies, God has also been giving me a unique new ministry. In our training we've been learning that one of the

reasons that the church in Japan has remained so small for so long is that each year almost the same number of people leave the church as the number of people who are baptized. This occurs for a variety of complex reasons, but hearing these stories we are reminded of the Jesus' parable of the sower and the seed (Mark 4:1-20).

Over this time, we've tried to keep an open-door policy whereby anyone is welcome to drop in on me for a visit as I recover. Gradually, people have been getting more comfortable with doing this. To balance out my limited vocabulary, I've been using scripture verses from my bilingual Bible to communicate, or to share some of the different lessons that God has been teaching me. One family said, "We came to encourage you, but we are the ones who are encouraged!"

We've been told that this is a powerful testimony to the Japanese of God's sustaining power through pain and adversity; and hope that perhaps this circumstance will eventually encourage a discouraged person to not give in to defeat when the reality is that we have been granted glorious victory in Christ Jesus our Lord. "We walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Cor. 5:7)

We have done our best to communicate my health condition with those of you who have emailed us over the last couple of months, but we also know that it's likely that we won't have a chance to talk individually with every single person, so we also just wanted to take a moment to update you on my current health situation.

We mentioned in our Christmas newsletter that I had encountered an issue with a damaged nerve. It is located in my back, and for the moment has rendered me house-bound. This was the result of an avalanche of about a dozen factors, which of course we didn't recognize as risk factors until after-the-fact. Backs generally take awhile to heal, which has at times really stretched us spiritually and emotionally. The good news is that healing is progressing; we've noticed significant improvement since the beginning of the year.

Peter has been doing a great job of taking care of our ministry with the church as well as our household chores. Please pray for continued daily refreshment and renewal for him. In the meantime, God has been using this to teach us many valuable lessons about the nature of faith and His love, and to expand our vision of ministry here to be bigger than anything we'd ever imagined. We get the feeling that we are in a new phase of training, with Jesus as our teacher.

Photos

Seaside Chapel commissioning the pastor of a new church plant: "Riverside Chapel".



Spring has sprung!



Cherry blossoms near our house.



Peter playing violin at a Seniors' Center.



Pro-Baseball players Matt Murton & Jason Standridge help at an outreach event.



Contact Information

Thank You

Thank you for your interest in our work. We plan to send out newsletters every two months. If at any point you decide that you don't want to receive them anymore, just email us ([japan@peterandvalerie.com](mailto:japan@peterandvalerie.com)).

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