

Land of the Risen Son

イエス・キリストは日本を愛する

(Jesus loves Japan)

Interesting Facts

Transportation in Okinawa

Almost everyone in Okinawa has a car. There is no extensive rail system or subway system here, though the capital city (Naha) has a monorail that serves the city.

Cars

(see right)

One of the most common car types we see here is the "kei" car. It is small, with a 660 c.c. engine. These cars get special treatment: they have special license plates (coloured yellow), are taxed more lightly, and sometimes are even assigned special parking spots.



Monorail

(see right)

In WWII most of the rail system in Okinawa was destroyed. It was never rebuilt.

However there is a raised monorail in the capital city which transports visitors and business people to key parts of the city, easily and quickly.

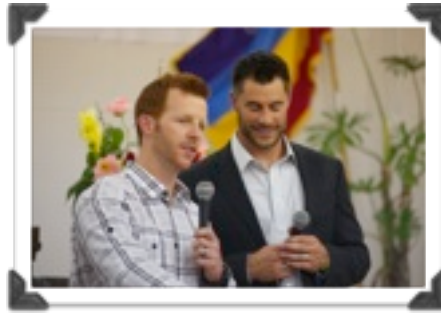


Update: The Road to Japan (Peter & Valerie Limmer)

The story so far...

As many of you know, coming to Japan as missionaries was a decades-old dream for us, and we finally arrived here in September 2011. When I was injured shortly after this, life became very different than either of us had envisioned. However, we began to notice amazing things happening in our lives, and the lives of the people around us. God was teaching us many spiritual lessons; giving me a completely different ministry than I'd ever expected; and causing both Peter's and my ministries to thrive and bear fruit.

Just under a year ago, we shared with you some heartbreaking news. Asian Access had decided to terminate our ministry with them. This news caught us by surprise, and we spent several months emotionally winded. We didn't understand why this was happening. Was God removing our call to Japan? We'd been almost certain it was a life-long call. Through this time, there was a recurring theme in God's messages to us: "I'm not done with you yet." We didn't know what form God's future plans would take, but we knew the Person whom we trusted, and that He would guide us.



2 professional baseball players give their testimonies to 80 newcomers at Seaside Chapel!

"Test Me"

Then Higa sensei (our pastor here) approached us and asked us if we could find a way to stay. When we prayed about this, we got the sense that God was saying, "Test Me." We should look for another organization. If we were to stay, we would be able to continue on in Japan without returning back to Canada. We knew that the odds of finding a new organization without returning to Canada were practically nonexistent. But one of the memory verses that we'd taught our ESL class was "Nothing is impossible with God." (Luke 1:37) Were we willing to put this into practice?

We made a list of about ten different organizations, which we saw as potential new partners in missions. We started through the list. Some we were able to

cross off quickly. With a few, we went through part of the application process. One organization would require us to come back to Canada; others told us that though they were interested in us, they don't operate in Okinawa and would require us to move to a different part of Japan. However, we didn't feel that we should so easily abandon the foundation that God had built for us here, so we sadly crossed them off our list.

Through this time, we tried to honour the restrictions placed on us by Asian Access (no "official" ministry was to take place), while at the same time also honouring God and our partners. We found quite a lot of success in engaging in informal activities, and to our delight our ministry continued to grow and be fruitful.

Exciting News!

We were down to the last agency when a friend suggested another organization: Global Outreach Mission. We did some research, and were encouraged. They are a world-wide agency of over 500 missionaries in more than 50 countries, whose aim is to reach out with the good news about Jesus to people, on every level using a wide range of programs. After an intensive application process,

they have decided to welcome us as career missionaries into GOM.

We would like to say here that if God's long-term plan was to place us in Okinawa, but not with our previous organization, we have realized that this was the path we had to take. Before being assigned here, we didn't even know Okinawa existed; and in our communications with the various missions agencies operating in Japan, we have found that almost none of them operate in Okinawa. So, if we had initially come to Japan with any other agency, we would not have ended up in this particular area. But our God is not limited by organizational boundaries,

physical restrictions, or even our own knowledge.

We are extremely excited at God's guidance, and the way that He has made it possible to continue working with the people of Okinawa, whom we deeply love. We have often compared our journey to an adventure with God. In fact, that's the title of our website: "Peter & Valerie's Japanese Adventure". In May 2012, when we rented the movie "We Bought A Zoo", we meditated on the fact that the best adventure stories include a dark period of adversity. The dark period somehow makes later joy much more profound. Against all odds, He has once more given us exceedingly more than we ever could have asked or even

imagined. Just as we did a year ago, we can't help looking to the future with anticipation, and asking the question: what will He do next?

Some administrative notes:

It will take us several months to move over our Japanese governmental paperwork, finances, etc., to be under GOM, so for the time being we are still technically employed with Asian Access. However, we would ask our financial partners to begin moving over their donations to GOM. We will be telephoning those of you who are our monthly financial partners to explain more about the transition. In the meantime, if any of you have questions please feel free to send us a letter or email.

R E C I P E

Chocolate Lover's Cheesecake

In February, I made a birthday cheesecake for Tsuneko sensei, the pastor's wife at Seaside Chapel. Cheesecake is one of her favourite desserts, and this recipe never fails!

Ingredients

1-1/4 cups chocolate crumbs
 1/4 cup melted butter
 3 packages (250 g each) softened cream cheese
 3/4 cup sugar
 3 eggs
 6 squares Baker's semi-sweet chocolate (melted and cooled)
 Melted milk chocolate
 Toasted almonds

Directions

1. Combine crumbs with butter. Press on bottom of 9-inch springform pan.
2. Beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Add eggs, one at a time, and mix until just blended. Stir in Baker's chocolate, and pour into crust.
3. Bake at 350°F for 45 to 50 minutes, or until center is almost set. Cool completely, then refrigerate 3 hours or overnight. Drizzle melted chocolate and top with toasted almonds.



Contact Information

Thank You!

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



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