

Land of the Risen Son

イエス・キリストは日本を愛する

(Jesus loves Japan)

Interesting Facts

Inkan (いんかん)

An "inkan" is a small stamp which is used by both companies and families as a means of identification and authorization, similar to a signature. It is made up of the characters used to spell one's last name.

Our Stamp...

(see right)

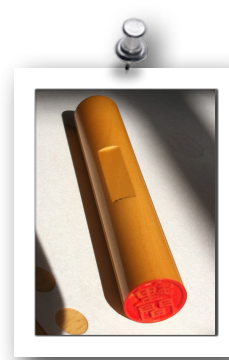
Higa Sensei helped us get our family "inkan", which uses Chinese characters (this is rare for foreigners). Our Japanese name reads: "Ree-mah", which means: "interval of truth".



We use it for...

(see right)

We use it for getting new bank accounts as well as purchasing a car. We can also use it any time a signature is required, such as for deliveries to our home. It is now part of our legal signature!



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

Visa Update

The past two months have been very full as we navigate the Japanese visa system to modify the government's record of our employer. We anticipated the process to be very complicated, with many months of forms, information submissions, and waiting. However in May several of the roadblocks in the process melted away. We're now in the final stages of satisfying the required legal niceties. Barring any unforeseen issues, it now looks like we will officially begin working with Global Outreach Mission as of July 1st.

To the Future!

As we look to our future ministry with GOM, we are excited by the possibilities. We will continue to work with Seaside Chapel as we have worked with them in the past: teaching ESL classes, sharing the good news about Jesus, helping to establish the church in its transplanted location, and assisting as needed with planting new churches.

We plan to kick off with our annual Canada Day community party. Last year, mostly people from our church and ESL classes came; this year, now that we know some of our neighbours a little better, we are hoping that some of them will also feel comfortable attending.



Watching soccer: Celebrating Japan's qualification into Fifa's World Cup 2014.

Peter has been volunteering, three mornings per week, as a community crossing guard. The children have been enjoying saying "hello" to him in English. Our friend, Thomas, with whom Peter has been doing this, now believes that expanding Peter's role in the community is appropriate. It sounds like Peter may begin playing violin music at one of the community parks in the near future.

It can be very difficult to meet and interact with men outside of the workplace, as they tend to work extremely long hours. As we've continued our hospitality-based ministry, cooking classes for some of our friends have naturally evolved. From these sessions, we have gotten some great ideas for possible community cooking classes.

During our last session, the women showed up first. Then, their husbands and boyfriends showed up about two hours later to eat the food we'd prepared. We think this is a great model for future classes, as it allows us to engage both men and women.

Through the past year, we've had the opportunity to dabble in a variety of different possible ministries on an informal basis, experimenting to see which ideas might work, and which might need further adaptation. Last year the church experimented for a month with the idea of having a weekly camera club for some of the men in our community. The response was very positive, so we may try to engage in this type of activity again. We've also been hosting in our home a Sunday sermon discussion group for new Christians, led by Daniel, who is being discipled to become a church leader.

Over the next months we will be engaging in the planning process with Seaside Chapel, to determine exactly what ministry will look like. We're excited to see where this will lead; Higa sensei (the pastor of Seaside Chapel) is a very creative man, and is sure to have many more - and probably better! - ideas of his own.

Frequently Asked Questions

For those of you with whom we've not yet had a chance to connect personally, below we have provided answers to some questions which we are commonly asked. We hope that these are helpful!

Will there be any changes to your ministry under GOM?

GOM operates across the entire spectrum of what we imagine when we consider the word "missions": from church planting and evangelism, to clean water projects and medical missions. This means that we will have greater leeway to engage in ministries that don't always strictly fall under the banner of "church planting". However, our primary focus at this time remains to assist the growth and multiplication of the local church. We will continue working with Seaside Chapel to that end.

When will you be coming back to Canada?

When we first left Canada, we had planned to be in Japan for an initial three-year term. However GOM prefers that its missionaries be on-field for four years. We are planning to extend our term in Japan by a year, for a total of four years, before returning to Canada. This will also ensure that we are able to work in an official capacity with Seaside Chapel for the full three years we'd initially promised, in addition to our year of "unofficial" ministry. At this point, our plan is to live in Canada on home assignment for about year before returning to Japan for another four-year term.

How is Valerie doing?

I have been making wonderful progress in my recovery from injury. I'm now able to be up and about for all of my waking hours. As my sister, a nurse, says even someone who isn't injured would have a hard time being on their feet for 16 hours per day, every day! We are rejoicing in this, and continue to see significant improvement, sometimes on a daily basis.

I am still working with the physiotherapist towards being able to sit for longer periods, which he assures me will come eventually. We just have to be patient. In the meantime, since our lives are centralized around where we live, there are very few restrictions on my activities these days. Since I walk everywhere, I'm getting quite the tan. Most of you would probably laugh at what I consider a "tan", but for me it's a big deal!



Peter in his crossing guard rain gear, with his crossing guard flag.



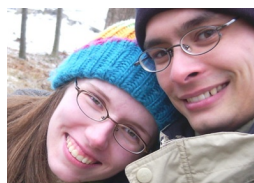
Several of the men from the church banded together to make Mother's Day lunch for the ladies.

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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