

Land of the Risen Son

イエス・キリストは日本を愛する

(Jesus loves Japan)

Interesting Facts

Japanese TV

Though it didn't catch on in North America, Japan invented analog HD television in 1964, and started broadcasting using this method in 1981. Now 8K resolution TV is being developed for the Tokyo Olympics in 2020. This has 4x the resolution of the best televisions in Canada!

NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation)...

(The card: see right)

Each new television in Japan includes the card pictured here. It is inserted into the TV to access the various channels. The basic fee for 5 channels is \$15/month. There are additional fees for digital satellite, called BS (or Broadcasting Satellite).



Payment

(Our remote: see right)

Every house with a TV must pay the basic monthly fee, which is essentially a television tax. However many people throw away the bills and turn away the bill collector. Penalties are not enforced.



Update: A Singular Sojourn (Peter & Valerie Limmer)

Ministry Start-ups

The last couple months have involved a whirlwind of start-ups. We finished writing our first 12-week, custom-made Bible ESL class by the end of August, and spent the next week printing and assembling the ESL books and aural practice CDs. We are currently working through the book of Genesis with our students, and have found the materials useful for helping new Christians learn about their God, as well as for introducing people to Jesus who are not Christians. We've included a sample of our materials on the reverse side.

A different method...

Before our ESL classes and English worship services started up, we created and distributed 300 advertising fliers around our community. Using a technique I'd learnt on a short-term missions trip in France, we prayed for the people who would receive each flyer as we dropped it into its mailbox.

But, soon we realized that God had different plans. We both started to feel that God wanted more control over where we dropped our fliers. He was asking us to pray over this as well. So we did. Distributing our fliers took a lot longer using this method, but the results were thrilling.



Making s'mores with our ESL class. Mmm!

To make sure that we were doing the right thing, we would each pray in our minds as we approached a new residence or street. We would individually listen to hear whether we should go down that street, or put our fliers in that building, and then would tell each other what we'd heard. Occasionally, one of us wouldn't be sure what we should do, but 95% of the time the answer would be clear for both of us, and there was never any disagreement. As this went on, we were more and more thrilled. Careful not to do anything that might influence each other, we eventually realized that this level of independent agreement was a statistical impossibility.

In a land where less than 0.5% of people are Christians, we said to ourselves that we would be happy if one or two people showed up because of the fliers. We finally completed our distribution, and went home

weary but excited over what might happen next. After all, if God had wanted to be so specific, surely there must be a reason for it.

Bible ESL

At our first English-language church service, three people showed up, having seen our fliers. We were ecstatic. God seemed to really be blessing this work. One of the three also started to attend our Bible ESL class.

Then, on the last Sunday in September, a few people came into the church after the Sunday service asking to see us. It turned out that they were a family who had also seen our fliers. The parents wanted their four children to learn more English. "Our children are shy, so we will all come and learn English together," they said.

We showed them our materials, and explained that our classes are Bible ESL classes. "We're not Christian," the father stated. "Is it still okay for us to come?" We told them that they were all welcome, and gave them the information for our next class, which would be that Friday.

Our Bible ESL class is now at its capacity of 12 students. If anyone else comes, we'll have to start a second class!

Our ESL Class

So far we have created one 12-week Bible ESL class, with another 5-week Christmas class in the works. After that, we will begin writing material for next year. It's a fairly monumental task, requiring 2-3 days' work per lesson. Our students have been enjoying experiencing the English language and Western culture on a multi-sensory level. Each lesson is made up of 6 pages. We have shown about 1/3 of a lesson here.

Each lesson includes an everyday skit using the characters "John" and "Jennie". We follow them through conversations in their lives and learn about Canadian culture.

Every lesson includes a Bible skit. The English used here is more simple than in the Bible reading. This is to help students better understand the Biblical narrative, and gives them a chance to have some fun with acting.

Class 1: Creation
Making Cookies: With John & Jennie

John: Jennie, I would like to learn how to make some cookies.
Jennie: Oh, John. I will teach you. First, you need a bowl and some measuring cups.
John: Yes, I have those.
Jennie: Next you need some flour, butter, and sugar.
John: How much?
Jennie: Follow the recipe!
John: I'm done. To what temperature do I set the oven?
Jennie: 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
John: Great! And I bake the cookies for 20 minutes?
Jennie: Well, some ovens are different. Just cook them until they're golden brown.
John: Great, thank!

Recipe: Scottish Shortbread

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/3 cup white sugar
- 3/4 cup butter

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350F (180C).
- Blend all ingredients well. Dough will be stiff.
- Press into a 9 x 9 inch (23 x 23 cm) buttered dish. Prick top with a fork.
- Bake until pale golden brown on the edges, about 20 minutes. Cool and cut into squares.

Note

- In North America 1 cup = 250ml.

Here we include interesting facts, pictures, or recipes: anything that will add to the skit that the students have just read.

There are often idioms and ideas stemming from the Bible that English speakers take for granted. In the top box we explain any idioms that are derived from the story. And in the bottom, we teach about culture. In this lesson, we talk about the use of the number 7 in Western society.

English Idioms (英語の慣用句)

Be fruitful and multiply - (1) a blessing; (2) hope someone will be successful; (3) hope someone will have many children
Genesis - the beginning or creation of something new

Interesting things about this number seven:

- Symbol of completeness and perfection.
- God created the world in six days, and rested on the seventh day.
- In North America, stores used to close on Sunday, because on the seventh day God rested.
- In casinos, #7 is considered lucky.

Memory Verse

"God saw all He had made and it was good." (Genesis 1:31)

Each week we include a Bible verse. The Japanese enjoy collecting things so we also provide a the verse printed on an attractive business card as a reward for completing the week's lesson. Some students will even ask for the card if we forget to distribute it!

Each lesson also contains a number of other segments not shown here:

1. A Bible reading, in both English and Japanese. The rest of the lesson is based on this, so we want to make sure that everyone easily understands, regardless of their level.
2. Vocabulary and pronunciation practice.
3. Comprehension questions, and more introspective "thought questions" for discussion.
4. Extra activities or games, such as charades, Pictionary, etc.

Contact Information

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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OUR SCHEDULE

Some of you have been asking about our schedule, so that you can pray more specifically for us. There are, of course, daily activities and special events, but this should give a basic idea of our weekly rhythms.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning Worship Service -Worship team (P) -Sunday School -Snack/Lesson (V) -Greeter (V) English Evening Service (2x/month) or Special Event or Hospitality Ministry	Administration Day -Correspondence -Newsletters -GOM reports -etc. Crossing Guard (P) Ladies' Bible Study (V)	Day of Rest	Planning Meeting -1x/month with Pastor Higa Crossing Guard (P) Japanese Language Study Write New ESL Lesson English Sermon Prep -Preparation & research Prayer Meeting -Help lead worship (P)	Japanese Language Study Ladies' Bible Study (V) Prep Friday's ESL Class Write New ESL Lesson	Crossing Guard (P) Kumon Class -In-class Japanese study ESL Class -Teach ESL class (V) English Service/ Sermon Prep -Preparation -Writing sermon	Prepare for English Service (2x/month) or Cooking Class (V) (1x/month) Camera Club (P) (1x/month) or Special Event or Hospitality Ministry