

# Land of the Risen Son

イエス・キリストは日本を愛する

(Jesus loves Japan)

Dear Friends and Family,

As we once more write our Christmas cards, we realize that with each of our annual missives we experience immense gratitude for you and for God's gifts to us throughout the year. Though living in Japan is very different from living in Canada, and we miss the opportunity to meet with our Canadian family and friends over major holidays, Christmas card writing is becoming one of our annual thanks giving traditions!

This year started with Peter coming down with adrenal fatigue, and unable to work full-time for a couple of months. However, we were very fortunate to find an MD and a Naturopath who worked together to treat Peter. With their ministrations, he was soon on the road to recovery, and as the year closes we can't help thanking God that he now is healthier than ever!



Canada Day Party!

This year, we continued on in teaching our Bible ESL classes, with several people from our community in attendance. The students have enjoyed learning about the God of the Bible, and we've been delighted to see some real spiritual sensitivity developing, demonstrated through insightful answers to our "thought questions" about the Biblical stories. Getting to know God better is becoming more and more of a priority for them. When given a choice at the end of one week's class, our youngest Bible student, Felicity (who is 12 years old and comes with her dad), asked to memorize the week's Bible verse instead of playing a game that I had planned!

In February, we started up a Kids' ESL class (ages 5-12), which was a big hit. The materials we use for this class are non-Biblical. We recognize that teaching kids using Bible materials might be interpreted as taking advantage of their vulnerability, so instead we've concentrated on developing relationships with the kids and parents. As this happens, people are much more likely to come to church events, summer camps, and Bible clubs where they will hear the good news about Jesus.

In July, Barb and Bart (friends whom we'd met a year earlier) accepted Jesus' love and forgiveness, and asked Him into their hearts. They had previously struggled with the idea of giving up their gods and following only Jesus. However, their baptism later that month was a public declaration that they'd decided to do exactly that.

We've also continued in having our annual outreach events (Canada Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas). This year, we seem to be breaking all of the records. Formerly, our Canada Day parties had been the most popular, with approximately 30 people in attendance; and Thanksgiving and Christmas parties were about 20 people. However, this year 39 people came to our little 450 ft<sup>2</sup> apartment for Canada Day's food, games, laughter, fun, and fireworks; and 35 people came for Thanksgiving! It remains to be seen what will happen at Christmas. So far, somewhere between 1/3 and 1/4 of the people who come haven't known Jesus, and we've been enjoying building relationships with them.

In November, we started a second Kids' ESL class. Demand had increased to a point where we needed to expand to accommodate everyone. That month, we also rejoiced with the church, and with Higa sensei as he celebrated 50 years of pastoring Seaside Chapel. What an amazing testimony of faithfulness and grace Higa sensei is to us and to all those around him!

This will be the last Christmas of our first term as missionaries in Japan. We will be departing for Canada in the fall of 2015, but until then our cooking clubs, various other outreach events, violin lessons and performances, movie nights, and Sunday evening English worship services will continue. Higa sensei and Seaside Chapel would like us to return to Okinawa after our one-year home assignment in Canada, so that's exactly what we're planning to do.

This year as we look around at our Okinawan family and friends, we are cherishing each word, touch, and smile. May you, too, experience the gentle tenderness of love and joy this Christmas.

Love,  
Valerie & Peter Limmer

Sugar Cookies (See reverse for the recipe.)





*Barb & Bart's baptism.*



*Thanksgiving Party!*



*The kids sharing their Easter eggs.*



*Dinner at a friend's house: an honour to be invited!*



*Helen & Patrick's wedding*



*Bible ESL class.*

# Sugar Cookies

*I often make a batch of these cookies for our Christmas parties, and set up a cookie-decorating station for the kids. If there are leftovers, the baked cookies freeze well for a few months, and are really handy when unexpected guests drop by!*

## Time

*Preparation time: 1.5 hours*

*Yield: 5-7 dozen*

## Ingredients

*1 1/2 c butter, softened*

*2 c white sugar*

*4 eggs*

*1 tsp vanilla extract*

*5 c all-purpose flour*

*2 tsp baking powder*

*1 tsp salt*

## DIRECTIONS

- 1. In a large bowl, cream together butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Stir in the flour, baking powder, and salt. Cover and chill dough for at least one hour (or overnight).*
- 2. Preheat oven to 400° F (200° C). Roll out dough on floured surface 1/4 inch thick. Cut into shapes with cookie cutters. Place cookies 1 inch apart on ungreased cookie sheets.*
- 3. Bake 6 to 8 minutes in preheated oven. Cool completely.*



*Yaku Yaku Cooking Club.*



*Kids' ESL class.*

## 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.*



*Peter & Valerie*

### **Correspondence can be sent to:**

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