

Land of the Risen Son

イエス・キリストは日本を愛する

(Jesus loves Japan)

Interesting Facts

Coral Reef

Okinawa has more than 200 of the world's 800 coral species located around its islands. That's more species than the Great Barrier Reef!

What reefs do...

Corals are animals, but like plants they purify seawater by absorbing carbon dioxide and producing oxygen. They also surround Okinawa, creating a natural breakwater that protects from the full brunt of typhoons and tsunamis.



Saving the reefs

Due to land development and other issues, many corals are damaged. However, through conservation and replanting there has been a resurgence in fish diversity, as well as improved clarity in the ocean.



Update: A Singular Sojourn (Peter & Valerie Limmer)

New Friends...

Okinawa has a large population of wild cats, and three years ago we met a quartet of kittens who'd been severely abused. They eventually let go of their skittishness and became more and more trusting, allowing us to feed and pet them. One of our friends suggested that the kittens' trust became a visual parable to people in our neighbourhood of the healing that Jesus can bring to people. Over the years, our friendship with the cats has opened up opportunities for relationship with a variety of people in our area.

One such person is Penelope. One day we were walking to church, passing by a new business, when one of the cats (Blackie) came up to us for a petting. The owner was pottering around in her garden, and idly watched us petting an animal who normally cringes away from any sort of human contact. When Blackie rolled over on her back for a belly rub, I saw something change in Penelope's face, as if she'd come to a decision.

"A typhoon is coming in," she started. "I have all of these basil and tomato plants that will get destroyed. Would you like to take some home with you?"

I gratefully accepted, and over the following months, our relationship grew. Soon, whenever we passed by we would



One of the cats, Blackie.

stop to chat with her or her husband. I brought over lemon squares, she gave us soup. The first time she introduced me to someone as her friend, I felt so honoured.

Moving into deeper friendship can be a tricky thing in Japan. Invite someone out to an event too soon, and they might come once but never again. Invite too late, and they might never come. We needed God's direction to show us when the time was right, because He knows people's hearts better than anyone.

"Should we invite Penelope out to our Canada Day party?" I asked.

"No."

"Should we invite her to our Thanksgiving party?" we asked a few months later.

"No."

When I asked about Christmas baking club, God said, "Yes."

Penelope came.

Japanese culture isn't very touchy-feely, we don't usually shake hands (we bow instead); and even within families physical affection, such as hugging, is extremely rare. However, as the months passed, our relationship continued to grow in warmth. One night, after not having seen Penelope for a few weeks, we ran across her and her husband.

"I've been thinking of you today," I said. "A friend gave me some celery. Peter and I aren't fond of celery. Would you like it?" We made arrangements to exchange vegetables in two days' time.

"I want to save up money and take a trip to Ireland and Canada," she said. "But I don't speak English. Can I learn English from you?"

"We're about to start a new Beginner English class on April 11th. It's for adults and high school students, at Seaside Chapel. You are welcome to join us."

"I will have to re-arrange my schedule a little bit, but I will come," she said.

During almost 4 years in Japan, I've received six hugs from Japanese people, and three of them came that night, from Penelope. Later on, she invited us over to participate in an Okinawan tea ceremony, and we continue to grow in affection towards each other. We're excited to see what's in store!

Cinnamon Sugar Rolls

We made this dessert in our latest Yaku Yaku Cooking Club.

The recipe looks complicated at first, but it's only because in Okinawa we don't have Pillsbury crescents available in our grocery stores. Instead, we have to make our own dough.



DOUGH:

Preparation time: 20 minutes,
Rising time: 1.5 hours
Yield: 4 batches

ROLLS:

Preparation time: 10 minutes,
Cooking time: 30 minutes
Yield: 16 servings

Directions

DOUGH: *

1. In a large mixing bowl, dissolve the yeast and 1 tbsp of the sugar in the warm water. Let sit until foamy, about 10 minutes
2. In a separate bowl, combine remaining sugar, salt and 3 cups flour. Once yeast is foamy, stir in beaten eggs followed by margarine and butter. Next, add flour mixture, stirring with spoon.
3. Turn out onto floured surface and slowly add the last cup of flour, kneading to achieve a smooth, elastic consistency. Be careful not to add too much flour. Use as little as possible; you may not need to add all the flour.
4. Place in a greased bowl, turning to grease the top of the dough. Let rise in a warm place (29°C) until doubled, about 1 1/2 hours. Dough should be separated into 4 batches, and leftovers can be frozen for later.

ROLLS:

1. Roll out one batch of dough.
2. Combine softened cream cheese, sugar, and vanilla. Spread mixture over dough.
3. Roll out second batch of dough and spread over mixture. Pinch top and bottom dough together at edges to seal.
4. Spread melted butter over the top and sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar.
5. Bake at 350°F for 20 minutes.

* NOTE: You can substitute 2 cans of Pillsbury croissants for the two batches of dough. If using Pillsbury, be sure to pinch all seams closed. Yield may differ.

Ingredients

DOUGH: *

2 packages dry yeast
3/4 cup water (100°-110°F or 37°-43°C)
2 large eggs, beaten
1/4 cup margarine
1/3 cup butter, cubed
4 cups flour, divided
1/2 cup sugar
1 tsp salt

ROLLS:

1/2 of dough recipe, broken into 2 batches *
2 (8oz) packages cream cheese (softened)
1 cup sugar
1 tsp vanilla
1/4 cup butter (melted)
Cinnamon & sugar (about 1/4 cup sugar, 1 tbsp cinnamon)



We hosted a Canadian Breakfast outreach event this Easter.



In an hour, between 75 and 85 people came!



...all with three hot plates, a microwave, and a toaster oven!



We served pancakes, eggs, sausages, fruit & muffins...



Most of the kids & parents stayed for kids' church, and heard the good news about Jesus!

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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