

Land of the Risen Son

イエス・キリストは日本を愛する

(Jesus loves Japan)

Interesting Facts

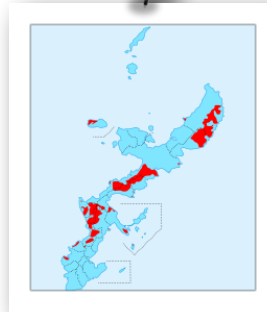
Military in Okinawa

There is a clause in Japan's constitution which prohibits it from having a military. However, the U.S. has a military presence here called the United States Forces Japan (USFJ).

Bases in Okinawa...

(Areas in red are U.S. military)

There are 16 total bases in Okinawa. Nine are Marine Corps, one is Air Force, three are Navy, and three are Army. The bases cover more than 10% of Okinawa and more than 40,000 residents are associated with the U.S. military.



Since WWII...

(Military base locations)

In 1951 Okinawa was placed under American administration. This continued until May 15, 1972 when Okinawa reverted to Japan. It continues to host 74% of all U.S. military facilities in Japan.



Update: A Singular Sojourn (Peter & Valerie Limmer)

A New Partnership

In mid-2014, a new family joined our church in Okinawa. We'll call them the Sawyers. After living in Korea for 8 years, they'd decided to pull up their roots, move back to Okinawa, and begin a kids' ministry here.

Our ministries have meshed really well with the Sawyers'. Many Japanese parents are interested in helping their kids get ahead in school by having them attend extra classes, so we've had an excellent response to our secular kids' ESL. Since our classes are held within the church building, kids and families become more and more comfortable with the church and its people, and we've seen several make the transition from attending only secular events to attending ones where they hear the good news about Jesus.

The Sawyers' ministry has aided in this process by giving kids and parents something regular to attend. Since Fall 2014, they've been directing Sunday school, and also have used CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) materials to run a Saturday-afternoon Kids' Bible club. Several of our students have attended.

In consultation with Higa sensei, we've been careful to keep a bit of distance between ourselves and the Sawyers' club, so that the kids and parents associated with our classes won't feel any undue pressure to join Bible club. Were they to



Saying goodbye to the CCC team.

get the idea that we would be insulted if they didn't join, this might introduce behaviours (e.g., accepting Christ) which wouldn't accurately reflect their real desires. We want to make sure that whatever choices they make are without coercion. God has blessed this approach, and we are happy to share with you the joy of seeing two little girls, who first came to ESL and later joined the Sawyers' Bible club, asking Jesus to come into their hearts!

Not only this, but those girls' parents have started attending church special events. Usually their mother drops them off at our Saturday classes, but last week this task fell to their father. After class we noticed that he was off by himself. When I went over to offer him a drink, I saw that he was completely absorbed in reading one of the church's Bibles. It's amazing to see the impact that little hearts can have on whole families.

Adult Bible ESL

The Fletcher Family continues to attend our Bible ESL classes and special events (such as cooking club and our annual parties). During one recent class, we were

soliciting feedback, and discussing whether we should change the material we've been studying.

"Do you like the Bible stories?" I asked.

"Yes," Felicity replied without any hesitation.

"I think it's very important to study the Bible when we're learning English," Flemming said. "I can see that there are many idioms that come from these stories."

I nodded. "Your English is very good. Learning these idioms should help you to become even better."

"But these stories are new to us. We have never heard them before. We are learning English, which is difficult. But we're also learning these new stories. This adds more difficulty." He paused. "Our family has a children's Bible at home. Maybe we should read this Bible ahead of time, to prepare. That way we'll get more out of the class."

I could hardly believe what I was hearing. Inside, I was jumping up and down, and shouting, *Yippeeeee!* However, I managed to keep a straight face externally. "Yes," I nodded. "I think that would be an excellent idea."

Since then, the Fletcher family has been reading the Bible together, and we've been seeing them continue to grow in their enthusiasm and insight into the stories of Jesus.

A team of 10 university students from Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC) Korea came to Itoman Seaside Chapel in January. God opened the door for them to do a Korean culture presentation at a public school. Some of these kids later came out to a Kids' Party and heard the gospel. Here are some pictures from when we visited the school.



First, a presentation to grades 1 & 2. (This is a K-pop segment.)



Then we went to the kindergarten classes. (This is a Tae Kwon Do segment.)



They even presented us with hand-made gifts!



Just before lunch was the grade 4 class.



Peter and one of the CCC members played a duet, with violin and cello.



The kids serve each other lunch. Each one wears a smock and a chef's hat.



Last was a presentation to grades 5 & 6. (Traditional Korean dance, with costumes and fans.)

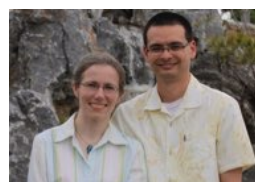


Some of the older girls had a presentation to show us too: a K-pop dance!

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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