

Land of the Risen Son

イエス・キリストは日本を愛する

(Jesus loves Japan)

Easter Breakfast

It's been a long time since I (Peter) wrote a newsletter, but this month it seems appropriate. As I write this, the adrenal fatigue I've been battling for the past year is steadily improving. Though currently I'm still operating at a fraction of my usual strength, I've been able to take on a few light ministry tasks, such as teaching violin. It's easy for me to think that I'm healthier than I am, and to overwork. Val is diligent at ensuring I don't overdo it.

As my power returns, I am beginning to see how much I rely on my own strength rather than God's. This latest lesson is a timely one for me.

Starting at the end of March, a short-term missions team from YWAM (Youth With A Mission) arrived at Seaside Chapel from South Africa. They'd contacted us a month beforehand to see if they could partner with Seaside Chapel for 2 weeks of their two-month trip to Japan.

They arrived the Tuesday before Easter weekend. First on their schedule: helping with (1) kids' spring camp, and (2) Easter breakfast. Half the team went off to Japanese church camp; the other half began delivering hundreds of flyers, praying, and preparing for the breakfast. I was excited for this Easter. It was going to be great!

During the first few days, I seemed to have 2-3 times my normal energy, possibly because I was communicating in English instead of Japanese. It was refreshing. Boy had I missed this work! I knew that my involvement in the breakfast would be limited. Saturday I made sure no breakers blew when the team and Valerie used the kitchen appliances. Tedious work, but necessary to make sure cooking went off without a hitch.



4:00 am Easter breakfast preparations

went, I could tell she was disappointed. The people we'd invited had come, but otherwise the turnout was low (40-45 people). None of the people the church members invited had come. I was discouraged. My discouragement drained my energy. By the time I arrived home I was emotionally exhausted. What had happened?

Both Val and I had the sense that this Easter could be huge. Between having the team here, and the responses we'd received to personal invitations, we thought we might break new relational territory.

Sunday morning came. Val left at 4:00 am to begin cooking with the team. There would be no news of the meal's success or failure until I came to church later. I was excited.

That day, I planned to play violin with the worship team. I arrived after everything had been cleaned up. When I asked Val how it

We're celebrating our 50th newsletter! To thank you for your prayers and interest in our ministry, we'll be drawing names and sending complimentary copies of Valerie's book, *On the Potter's Wheel*, to two of you! Stay tuned!



Interesting Facts



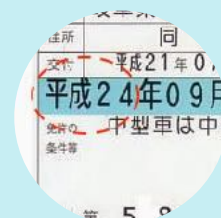
Japan's Emperor

Next year, Emperor Akihito will be abdicating at the end of April. He will be the first Emperor to abdicate in 200 years.



Heisei Period

The current era, with Emperor Akihito in power, is called the 'Heisei' period. The characters above show how it is spelled. They mean "Achieving Peace". Emperor Akihito assumed the throne on January 31, 1989 and became the 125th Emperor. At the Kyoto Imperial Palace, the Chrysanthemum Throne is used for the ascension ceremony.



Calendar

While Japan sometimes uses the Gregorian calendar, it also expresses years based when the various emperors came into power. For instance, this driver's license expires in the 24th year of the Heisei period (also known as 2012). Emperor-based dating is used for important documents including driver's licences and health insurance cards.

This was a fresh reminder that we can do everything right and still “lose”. We had established a foundation through prayer. We had done the legwork. We had done the preparation. But our hopes were not fulfilled. It was easy to focus on the negatives. It was easy to see this as failure. But there were some key things that we needed to remember.

1. We need prayer—lots of it—for this place. This area is part of an epic spiritual battle. The souls of the people in Okinawa are in the balance. Only Jesus can lead them into His freedom, salvation, and peace. The hearts of the people need to be softened to hear and receive His message.
2. God’s timing isn’t ours. We might be well-prepared, but this doesn’t mean the people are ready. “If we build it, they will come” is not an axiom that is applicable in the spiritual realm. It’s a reminder that most people need to interact with Christians regularly before they are ready to consider stepping inside a church building.
3. All is not lost. Our contacts received our invitations far more eagerly than in the past. Several new families have now encountered the good news about Jesus.

This experience was initially discouraging for us. Between the preparation time, expense, and having a team from South Africa here, it did not go according to plan. But we knew God was in control, and that He has a purpose for every situation, every victory and failure.

Usually 65-85 people attend these breakfasts, including about 7-8 unchurched people. Initially it was easy to be discouraged and focus on the low number of attendees—half of our maximum. But then we reminded ourselves of our mantra: “we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor. 5:7). We reminded ourselves that we can trust God is at work under the surface, even when we don’t see it. And then we started to count. Yes, only about 40-45 people came. But of those 45, eleven were people we’d invited who weren’t Christians! We’d never had such a big response to our personal invitations! Only two had come before. Because the team provided lots of manpower, Valerie was able to spend loads of time with them. Five stayed through the kids’ programme because they wanted to hear me play violin at church. (Hey! I did get to contribute after all!) Several people got to hear the good news about Jesus for the first time.

Once more we thank God for granting our request for more unchurched people to come this year than ever before. Faith is not always about the things we first see. Sometimes it’s about living a life of victory and letting God show us the ways that He’s working—in ways we don’t expect, but that are so much better than ours.



Andrea and her sister enjoying Easter breakfast

This Month’s Recipe

Pecan Pie

We served this during our 2017 Christmas party. It was such a big hit that our friends asked us to teach them how to make it at our March cooking club!

Preparation & Cooking Time: 1 hour

Yield: 16 servings

Ingredients

Crust

1 cup flour
½ cup butter
¼ cup sugar

Filling

3 eggs, beaten
¾ cup granulated sugar
¾ cup corn syrup
¼ cup butter, melted
½ teaspoon vanilla
1 cup pecan halves

Directions

1. Mix crust ingredients together and press into 2 x 20cm disposable pie plates.
2. Bake in the centre of the oven at 325°F (160°C) for 15-20 minutes until lightly browned.
3. In large bowl stir together eggs, sugar, corn syrup, butter and vanilla until well combined.
4. Place pecan halves in bottom of cooled crust. Pour egg mixture over top. Return to oven. Bake in the centre of the oven, at 325°F (160°C) for 40-45 minutes, until nicely browned but not yet black.

Note: Times are approximate for North American ovens. I’ve perfected this recipe for Okinawa, which has a sea-level altitude, and where I use a toaster oven.



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.

Correspondence can be sent to:



Peter & Valerie Limmer
Sunny Court 207, Apt C-3
Nishizaki 3-207, Itoman-shi,
Okinawa 901-0306, JAPAN

GOM Main Offices

GOM Canada
PO Box 1210
St. Catharines,
ON L2R 7A7

GOM USA
P.O. Box 2010
Buffalo, NY
14231

