

Land of the Risen Son

イエス・キリストは日本を愛する

(Jesus loves Japan)

The “How”

In our newsletters, we usually tend to focus more on “why” we’re doing what we do, and also on sharing individual stories. It’s recently come to our attention that it’s been a while since we’ve given you a general overview of the things that we do in our ministry. Many new people have joined our newsletter list, and our normal ministry activities have changed somewhat. So, we thought this month we would focus more on the “how” of our ministry, and hopefully give you a big picture look at what life looks like for us these days.

At its core, our work involves: (a) reaching out to people in our community to build relationships, and share the good news of Jesus with them; and (b) enabling the Christians around us to do the same.

In Japanese architecture, there is often a sunken vestibule, called a *genkan*, which means that a person must step up to enter the rest of the building. People are often uncomfortable with going to a place they don’t know, and this serves as a barrier to them exploring church. In expressing this concept, the Japanese metaphorically say: *genkan ga takai* (“geh-n-kah-n gah tah-k-eye”), which means that the step into the church building is too high. We aim to lower the *genkan* (the barrier) so that it becomes easier for people to hear and embrace the good news about Jesus.

In Okinawa, there is a deep hunger for spiritual things, and we believe that Jesus can address and satisfy these needs. We reach out in friendship to people living within our community and invite them to a variety of different events, clubs, and classes so that they can build relationships with us and other Christians, and be exposed to the church building in non-faith contexts. Then coming to the church for outreach events becomes less scary. If they’re interested, we study the Bible and/or pray with them, and invite them to Seaside Chapel’s regular worship services.

MINISTRIES & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Every so often, I choose one or two local stores to regularly visit and get to know the workers. There often comes a tipping point when we become friends, and they express interest in coming out to cooking clubs, hearing Peter play his violin at church, or learning English.

English-language worship services

Peter teaches violin.

Interesting Snacks



Confectionaries

Snacks are huge in Japan. Though they don’t have an aisle for breakfast cereals the way Canadians do, the Japanese do dedicate a whole aisle to snacks.



Role of Corn Flakes

In Okinawa, if you order a sundae for dessert, you might be in for a surprise. Almost every restaurant serves sundaes with corn flakes near the bottom of the cup. Often they’re hard to notice until you’ve taken a bite, and then comes that all-too-familiar “what on earth?” moment!



Green Tea for All

If a snack or desert is in a green package that has pictures of leaves that look like mint, it’s definitely a green tea snack. The Japanese have green tea chocolate, cookies, ice cream, cake—everything! If you try to find mint here, you’ll be looking for a long time, with no guarantee of success. So sit down and have a break, with a green tea Kit-Kat!

MINISTRIES & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



I teach a computer class.

Bible studies and prayer meetings (with food, of course!)



We run a slew of English classes. The types vary by season and year, but some of our classes include ones for: elementary school kids, mothers and toddlers, and high school/university students. Sometimes we run Bible ESL classes, if the English level of our students is high enough.



We also host cooking clubs, home outreach parties,

and an annual Easter breakfast for the community.

We help out at Japanese-language prayer meetings, worship services, weddings, funerals, and a variety of outreach events.

Depending on the languages that the teams speak, we're either primary or secondary contacts for various short-term teams sent through CCC Korea, YWAM Africa, etc., that come to Seaside Chapel throughout the year.



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:



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