

Land of the Risen Son

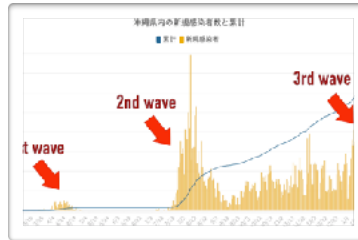
イエス・キリストは日本を愛する

(Jesus loves Japan)

Bouncing Around: The 3rd Wave

Following the Christmas and New Year's celebrations, we returned to normal ministry for a couple of weeks. However, by mid-January the hospitals in Okinawa were very full, and the prefectural government decided to re-enter a state of emergency to give some relief to the healthcare system.

We have been operating in “emergency declaration” mode since then. This means that we are no longer meeting in-person for church services, prayer meetings, ESL classes, or violin classes. Peter has been conducting violin class over the internet; and ESL is postponed until we're allowed to meet again, since the students don't have access to internet in the same way they might in Canada.



We're currently in the 3rd wave

In Emergency Mode

We've been recording the worship services on Saturdays, and publishing them at 11am on Sundays—the normal time we would meet for services.

The rest of the time, we've been working on special projects, learning a variety of new types of software which will be helpful for our future video ministry, and working on the next batch of cooking and “spiritual questions” videos.

We've also continued having good discussions with our friends over text, the phone, and letters; and other new ministry opportunities are starting to come into focus. We'll share more as our ideas continue to percolate over the next few months.

In recent days, the number of new cases has dropped significantly, but the government has elected to keep the emergency declaration going because hospital beds haven't been emptying out very quickly.

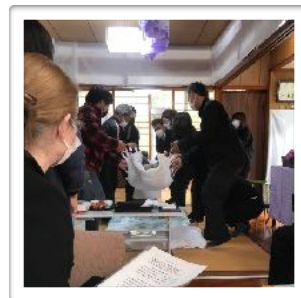
However, since the number of cases has dropped, we were able to help out with a funeral for an old friend who passed away. Because of coronavirus precautions, the funeral ended up lasting for three days, instead of the usual one. We were honoured to take part and care for his family, with whom we are also friends.

Furlough Update

We had been planning to come back to Canada later this year for a proper furlough to meet with all of you, but because of the travel and quarantining issues associated with coronavirus, we've decided to stay put in Japan until we're vaccinated. Over the past year, the Japanese government has changed the rules governing foreigners' travel in and out of the country several times without warning, so we don't want to get caught outside of



A guest speaker, from the local Bible school



At the funeral

Interesting Facts



First Vaccinations

The first Covid-19 vaccinations in Japan were carried out on February 17th. As with most countries, priority is being given to medical workers and the aged.



Unforeseen Problems

The government has run into a bit of a snafu with its syringe procurement. The syringes currently in stock can only draw down 5 of the 6 doses in each vaccine ampule.



A Change in Law

The Japanese government recently changed its laws so that now people caught flouting Covid-19 activity restrictions can be penalized. Previously, the government could only publish “recommendations”, with no consequences.

Japan and unable to return for some undetermined number of months or years. Japan just administered its first inoculations of health care workers this week. Based on projections, it sounds like we will probably be coming back sometime in 2022 instead.

“I SAW YOUR NEW VIDEOS—THANK YOU! THE CINNAMON ROLLS LOOK VERY DELICIOUS. THE VIDEO ‘WHY DO WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?’ WAS ALSO EASY TO UNDERSTAND. IN JAPAN, MANY PEOPLE (ESPECIALLY COUPLES) THINK CHRISTMAS IS A MEANINGLESS WESTERN FESTIVAL. THEY CELEBRATE IT WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING ITS MEANING. NOW I UNDERSTAND IT WELL. THANK YOU.”

– Zara, a friend who we first met through “Friday Night Noisemakers”, an English club

Summary of Christmas Activities

Seaside Chapel



100
CUPCAKES

1
CHRISTMAS
CUPCAKE TREE

1
CHRISTMAS
STORY MOVIE



1
TESTIMONY
VIDEO



40+
PEOPLE GAVE
TESTIMONIES

Video Ministries

1
COOKING
CLUB
VIDEO



We made cinnamon buns!
If you would like to watch, go to:
<https://cutt.ly/valerie-cinnamon-rolls>

2
“SPIRITUAL
CONVERSATIONS”
VIDEOS

1
WHY DO WE
CELEBRATE
CHRISTMAS?

1
THE
CHRISTMAS
STORY




75%
INTERESTED
IN SPIRITUAL
CONTENT!

75% of people who watched the cooking club video clicked over to our spiritual content.
If you would like to watch, go to:
<https://cutt.ly/twv-why-christmas>

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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