

# Land of the Risen Son

## イエス・キリストは日本を愛する

(Jesus loves Japan)

Update: Peter & Valerie Limmer

### Update on Ministries

In Peter's work with English Bible classes about six of his former and current students are not Christians, and several more of them are very young in their faith. All but one of the non-Christians have started coming out to church after attending Peter's classes. Most are men, which is really special in Japanese culture, where women typically make up the bulk of the Christian community. Peter has been developing deeper and deeper relationships, with several of the men reaching out socially to him and expressing a desire to become friends outside of the classroom.

Meanwhile, I have continued to have people from the church over to our home. We have developed a regular rotation of seventeen people (thirteen adults, four children) who come to visit. Some come on a monthly basis, while others come on a bi-weekly, or weekly basis.

My recovery continues to progress. As we've shared with many of you, for the last several months I've been unable to go on a car ride see a doctor locally because the vibration of the ride has proven to be counterproductive. However, Asian Access has kindly put us in touch with an organization back in Canada, called IHM, which employs doctors specializing in helping with missionary care while they're overseas. The doctor with whom we spoke affirmed our decision to avoid car rides for the time being, and recommended that I engage in physiotherapy to aid in recovery, so I have been working with a very senior physiotherapist whose specialty is in backs. I'm now able to stand/walk for 7-8 hours per day, climb up and down the four flights of stairs to our apartment and walk around the park across the street. In physiotherapy I've been working up to being able to sit again, and am hoping to add this activity soon. We're excited to see continuing healing, and that the prognosis is excellent.

### Big Change

Then our lives changed on April 18th. At that time, Asian Access contacted us to let us know that they have decided that given the delicate stage of my injury, the lack of a firm diagnosis, and unknown timeline for recovery, they feel that the best decision is for us to end our ministry, and return home. Though my recovery from my injury has been going well, they are greatly concerned that I am still unable to attend meetings outside our home.

Our world caved in, and we spent the next forty-eight hours fasting and praying more intensely than we ever have before. God was wonderfully vocal in our distress, and we've come away with several very strong impressions on our spirits. I will share two here.

1. From *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*: "Aslan is on the move." God is at work here. We don't understand what He's doing, but we know that He is very active. Often the darkest points in our lives herald the dawn.
2. God's plans for us are no less exciting now than they were a few weeks ago.

We are still often bewildered with what God is doing here. He could have stopped this before it even started. But the fact is that God has been so incredibly active and wonderful: teaching us so many lessons, and using us in so many ways. We trust in His plans for us.

We're sure that by now you have a thousand and one questions. We will not be leaving immediately, as I need to recover some more before being able to make the long flight home. Ministry duties will wrap up at the end of May. Asian Access will continue to fund us out of the surplus of our account for several months past our employment. We would anticipate that I would be able

to fly home within the next few months. Please know that we love and cherish all of you. We plan to continue sending out our updates until we return home. If you have any questions, please feel free to email or write us.

## Prayer Requests

We have a few prayer requests through this time.

First, we want to end well. The Japanese love to celebrate everything, so beginnings and endings are very important to them. Our supervisor told us in our first week here that many missionaries like us find that their most fruitful time is in their last few months here. This time often yields more fruit than all of the years of ministry put together! Our deepest prayer is for this to be the case in our lives. We desperately want to see our non-Christian friends come to know Jesus before we leave - and not just to please us, but because they truly desire Him for Himself.

Second, as you can imagine, we are hurting right now. We need encouragement, and God to continue to comfort and sustain us. We have no idea what the future holds, but God has affirmed and reaffirmed to us - through His word, through our families, through the pastor and people of our church here - that there is more. He will continue to use us now and in the future.

Lastly, when we got the news that we would be leaving Asian Access, I completely deflated. All of my motivation to do language study, and any of the other projects I'd been doing evaporated. But early in the morning on April 22nd, God woke me up and said to me, "Dear one, I know you are suffering. I know your pain. I will not command you to do this, but I will ask you. Would you be willing to keep learning Japanese? You may not be able to use it for much longer. You

may cry with every word you memorize, your heart will rip a little more open with each bit of grammar you learn, but if you are willing this will be your act of love to the Japanese: increasing your ability to communicate with them over your last months."

I think my answer is "yes". But I'm going to need God's strength to do it.

The following morning, as I was processing this, I felt the freedom to pray, "God, if I do this, I have a request to make of You. Please supernaturally enable our minds and tongues. We don't have time to learn the language well. Give us the gift of tongues, that we may be able to proclaim Your love to all we meet... in the language of their hearts."

So that's our final prayer request: for God to enable and strengthen us to study, and for His enabling of our language abilities.

## Watching and Waiting...

Thank you so much for "standing firm" with us (Eph. 6:11,13). It only took one morning for three thousand people to come to Christ on the day of Pentecost. We serve a big God, and we still believe He will do big things. We encourage you to join us in our sense of expectation as we watch to see what our great God will do. In our anticipation, we can't help but ask: "What will He do next?"

*We apologize for the delay in sending you our April newsletter. We plan to send out our June newsletter according to schedule. In the meantime, please see below for this month's tasty recipe!*

## Contact Information

### Thank You

Thank you for your interest in our work. We plan to send out newsletters every two months. If at any point you decide that you don't want to receive them anymore, just email ([japan@peterandvalerie.com](mailto:japan@peterandvalerie.com)).

### Correspondence can be sent to:



Peter & Valerie Limmer  
Sunnycourt 207, Apartment C-3 3-207  
Nishizaki,  
Itoman-shi, Okinawa, 901-0306  
Japan  
E-mail: [japan@peterandvalerie.com](mailto:japan@peterandvalerie.com)

### Asian Access Main Offices

#### Canada:

Asian Access  
PO Box 330016 RPO Nordel  
Delta, BC V4C 8E6

#### USA:

Asian Access  
P.O. Box 200  
San Dimas, CA 91773