

Land of the Risen Son

イエス・キリストは日本を愛する

(Jesus loves Japan)

Interesting Facts

Valentine's Day

February 14th is a great day for chocolate lovers! In Japan, about 50% of the total annual chocolate sales happen now.

Girls give to boys...

(see right)

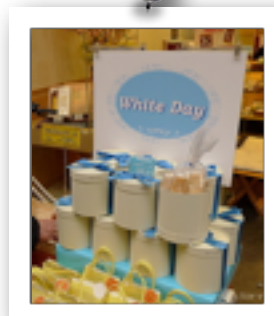
In a refreshing change, on Valentine's Day women give chocolate to men (or, girls to boys). The more expensive the gift, the more you're loved... and if it's homemade I guess you've struck gold!



Boys give to girls...

(see right)

Ladies haven't been left out. On March 14th men give their gifts to women. The most popular gifts are chocolate, and for the very fortunate: jewelry!



Update: On the Road to Japan (Peter & Valerie Limmer)

Appointments

Over the past couple months we've been experiencing a high number of "appointments" that seem to have been set up by God. We thought we'd share a few with you here.

The first was during our evening walk in the park. We felt a prompting in our spirits to go a different way than normal, and ended up at a small playground. There was a group of high school girls there, and God told us to talk with them. At this point, I was scared! Our Japanese is not very good, and packs of teenage girls can be so daunting! We started out by saying 'good evening' in Japanese. When one of the girls said something incomprehensible, I said (in Japanese), "I'm sorry, can you please repeat that? My Japanese is poor; we're from Canada."

When they heard we were from Canada, a couple of them squealed, and all ten gathered around us. "Where in Canada?" "Do they have snow there now?" "Your skin is so white! And your nose is so pointy!" (Directed to me, not Peter!) "How long have you been here?" "Why did you come to Okinawa?"

We ended up talking with them for more than 45 minutes. We've since seen a couple of them in the park again, and hope that if we're able to stay in Okinawa



Korea Night with Campus Crusade for Christ.

they will be interested in taking some ESL classes with us.

The second "appointment" happened a couple weeks later, during another evening walk. When we reached an intersection by a corner of the park, we felt God telling us to stand there for awhile. Feeling kind of stupid, we did so for five minutes. Just as we were told we could leave, a woman came running up to us. She somehow knew we were Christians, though we'd never met before. Based on our conversation, we suspect that she is a Yuta (an Okinawan witch doctor). We had the opportunity to pray for her, and eventually went on our way. We've not seen her since, but continue to pray for her.

Campus Crusade for Christ

In January, a team of eleven university students from Korea came on a short-term mission trip. Many of them did not speak Japanese, but they all spoke some English.

They carried out a series of outreach events, with Peter and the rest of the church helping out.

At one point they were planning to come to our house, so I decided to make banana split sundaes. However, when I went to leave for the grocery store, I felt a check in my spirit. God was saying to me, "Not yet." I went through most of the afternoon asking, "Can I go now?", but always the answer was the same. Finally, when I'd resigned myself to not going shopping and was about to wash my face from the day's humidity, the instruction came: "Go now."

"Really, God? Can I wash my face first?"

"No. Now."

I went. Along the way, I said "good afternoon" to a lady passing by. She immediately stopped walking and started talking to me. We must have talked for 15-20 minutes before continuing on our different paths. At the end of the conversation, she made a point of telling me that she'd really enjoyed talking with me and would stop and talk again when she next sees me in the neighbourhood.

I've now taken to carrying a notepad and pen in my pocket whenever I go out. Who knows when we might need to exchange contact information after another "appointment"?

Christmas in Okinawa



Our Christmas party guests.



Decorating sugar cookies.



Christmas party, Japanese-style!!



Our downstairs neighbours came!



Caroling at a shut-in church member's house.



*Caroling in the neighbourhood... it was a frigid 18C!
(Some came back to our house later for hot chocolate...)*



Pastor Higa preaching the Christmas sermon.

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 email (japan@peterandvalerie.com).

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