

Land of the Risen Son

イエス・キリストは日本を愛する

(Jesus loves Japan)

Interesting Facts

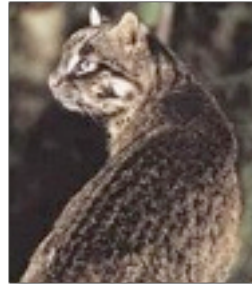
Unique Animals

Okinawa has animals found nowhere else in the world. Besides the two animals here there are also sea turtles & deer which are unique to the Okinawan islands.

Iriomote Wildcat

(see right)

This cat lives on Iriomote which is the second-largest Okinawan island. Half of the island is a reserve to protect the 100 cats that have survived overhunting.



Noguchi Gera (Woodpecker)

(see right)

The Noguchi Gera is a woodpecker. It is found only in northern Okinawa, and has been designated a Japanese National Treasure. There are only about 100 of these left as well.



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

Departure Update

Over the past month, the "shifting target" of our departure date has solidified. Our supervisor and his family will be coming back to Canada in the summertime, and we will go back to Japan with them in mid-September.

Triple Disaster

Japan looks very different than it did two months ago, when we last sent you an update. As I sit here trying to think of what to say, and feeling overwhelmed by the enormity of the events that have transpired, I'm so glad that our God is bigger than any disaster. The devastation is horrific and the need is immense, but we know that the love of Jesus can transform this situation for love, hope, and life.

Okinawa, though a small island, is sufficiently distant from the rest of Japan that it was lightly affected by the various disasters. For instance, it didn't even feel the earthquake, and the tsunami that it experienced was minimal. The main effect that we will likely see, when we arrive in September, is that there will be lots of displaced people who have come to Okinawa. More than 1/2 million people have lost their homes. The government has opened up public



Left: A caved-in road in Saitte (Saitama Prefecture)
Right: The submerged port in Oarai (Ibaraki Prefecture)

housing across the country, making it free for the homeless over the next year as they try to get their feet back under them.

Asian Access has developed connections with 20-25% of the congregations in the country, so there is great opportunity to cooperatively work together in the name of Jesus and show His love in a myriad of ways. As time progresses, the needs of the people in the affected regions have been shifting. In the initial weeks, the need was for food; now, the majority of the requirement has shifted to shelter and other forms of relief. Because churches are in constant contact with the people, they are able to continually identify deficiencies and act as first responders to the need of the moment. Our job is to serve and empower the local church through our time, talents, and other

resources so that it can serve the community with grace and meaning.

Over the past month we've heard stories of missionaries and churches connecting in marvelous ways to their communities. This is a special period for the church in Japan; we have been called "for such as time as this" (Esther 4:14). We are not looking to exploit or capitalize on this as a gimmick. This is one of those moments in time where people are most obviously in desperate need for hope - a need that has been there all along, but at times is easier to ignore than others. For some time there have been problems with societal hopelessness, in the form of suicides and people voluntarily shutting themselves in for years on end (termed "hikikomori"). But we trust that the love of Christ and the hope that can be found only in Him will transform hearts and lives, to heal and restore. What a privilege to be a part of this amazing work.

Psalm 46: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea."

Please see the reverse side for a new recipe.

One of my favourites...

I always try to keep the ingredients for this treat on-hand, so that I can whip it up at a moment's notice for unexpected visitors.

One of my friends pointed out that I've been supplying mainly chocolate recipes, to which she's allergic. This one's for you, Rae!



Butter Rum-Glazed Applesauce Cake

Ingredients - Cake

1/3 c butter (do not use margarine!)
 3/4 c granulated sugar
 1 c applesauce
 1 tsp vanilla
 1 1/2 c all-purpose flour
 1 tsp baking soda
 1 tsp ground cinnamon
 1/2 tsp salt

Ingredients - Butter Rum Glaze

2 tbsp butter (do not use margarine!)
 1 c powdered sugar
 1/2 tsp rum flavour
 3 to 4 tsp half-and-half or milk

Instructions

1. Heat oven to 350F. Grease bottom and sides of 8-inch square pan with shortening or spray with cooking spray.
2. In 1 1/2-quart saucepan, melt 1/3 cup butter over medium heat. Cook 2 to 2 1/2 minutes, stirring occasionally, until butter just begins to brown. Immediately remove from heat. Stir in granulated sugar, applesauce, and vanilla.
3. In large bowl, mix flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt. Stir in applesauce mixture. Pour into pan.
4. Bake 30 to 35 minutes or until toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean.
5. In 1 1/2-quart saucepan, melt 2 tbsp butter over medium heat; cook about 3 minutes or until butter just begins to brown. Immediately remove from heat. Stir in remaining glaze ingredients until smooth and spreadable. Pour over warm cake. Cool 30 minutes. Serve warm.

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) or call us (905-848-2529).

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