

# Land of the Risen Son

## イエス・キリストは日本を愛する

(Jesus loves Japan)

### Interesting Facts

#### Public Transportation

Japan has one of the world's best public transportation systems. It is also one of the most complicated!

#### Map of Japan Rail in Tokyo (see right)

Only 87% of trains are on time. However a train is considered late if it arrives more than 1 minute after the posted time. The average delay on a major rail line is 6 seconds.



#### Proper Transport Etiquette (see right)

It is rude to talk on a cell phone while on public transportation. If you do, people will ask you to stop (even if the bus is nearly empty). There are public announcements reminding you of this too.



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

#### Departure & Health Updates

Our departure date is always a moving target, as we essentially guess when we might reach 100% of our monthly financial requirement. Our current forecast is that we will likely be leaving sometime in the summer. This moving target has sometimes been hard for us to adjust to. We want to go *now*, but God has other ideas!

My (Valerie's) health continues to improve. When I got sick, we prayed that God would guide us with our finances, showing us His timing for us to go. We are so grateful for His continued hand on our lives in this regard.

#### Location, location, location...

In mid-December we found out where we will be stationed in Japan. The country is divided into prefectures, similar to Canada's provinces. We will be serving

in Okinawa prefecture, on its main island ("Okinawa Honto"). This island is home to over a million people, and is only 128 km long. As such, the Okinawan sense of distance is very different from our own. In fact, most Okinawans won't consider traveling the length of the island without an overnight stay!

Now we're going to indulge our Canadian tendency to talk about the weather. Okinawa has around 100% humidity in addition to the heat associated with its southern location. It is in the path of the East Asian Typhoon System, and from July to November can experience typhoons and monsoon rains.

Japan is a very long country, and Okinawa is quite distant from the rest of the islands. In fact, it is closer to Taiwan, Shanghai, and Manila than to Tokyo. This means that in Japanese weather reports Okinawa is often displayed in the

upper-left corner of the screen due to spatial considerations (similar to the way that Alaska is displayed for weather in the States). As a result, many Japanese don't realize exactly where it is located.

As some of you will recall, Peter and I initially had a strong preference to go to northern Japan, particularly because we like the cold weather similar to our Canadian climate. However, over the past year Peter (who usually has a particularly bad time with heat) found that he was better able to cope with high temperatures. We also found our preference for the north starting to slip away; the week before we found out where we would be stationed, I said to Peter, "You know, with all of the changes we've been experiencing I wouldn't be surprised if God sends us south." It's really amazing that God never throws us into the deep end without first preparing our hearts and bodies to serve Him!

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

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We will be stationed in Itoman, at the southern tip of Okinawa (see the bottom left corner of this map).

