

# Land of the Risen Son

イエス・キリストは日本を愛する

(Jesus loves Japan)

Dear Friends and Family,

*Having experienced one Christmas in Okinawa already, we know that we will miss some of your experiences: a crackling fire, the frigid chill of the outdoors that makes home so much more alluring, and most of all the warmth of family nearby to enjoy. Still, as we reflect over the past year, we can't help feeling immensely grateful for all of the blessings we've experienced: our Japanese church family here, new brothers and sisters in Christ, and most of all our Heavenly Father's love and companionship with us wherever we go.*

*We started the year with Valerie still injured, and commencing the long road to recovery. We are very glad that we did not know at the time how long the road would in fact be. Through the months of our pain and frustration, Jesus was constantly present, teaching us many lessons about His greatness and our smallness. We are constantly amazed at the degree of transformational growth that He wanted to call forth in us. We can't even begin to describe in a few short paragraphs all of the wonders and joy that God has placed in our path.*



Thanksgiving party!

*In March, I felt that God was leading me to start writing down the myriad lessons He'd been teaching me. So, I began writing a book on the subject: a joyful endeavour. At around that time, one of Peter's ESL students decided to recommit her life to Christ, and get baptized.*

*Up until the end of May, Peter continued teaching ESL and violin lessons at Seaside Chapel, as we worked under Asian Access to help plant a new church. I continued to provide administrative support and engage in hospitality-based ministry and discipleship out of our home. However, in April we were told that Asian Access had decided based on my injury to release their ties with us. This was an incredibly painful time for us, as we saw our decade-old dream to minister in Japan crumbling around us.*

*A few days later, one of Peter's Japanese friends (Daniel) began to feel that God was calling him to return to Bible college and enter ministry. When we heard this news, it was as if God was saying to us, "I don't need you to take care of these people. I will take care of them." In the following weeks, we found new joy and freedom in knowing that whatever God has in store for us, whether here in Japan or elsewhere, His plans are still best, and He is still the owner of the call to Japan that we felt all those years ago. We are currently looking into the possibility of transferring to a new organization so that we can stay in Japan; we will see what God has in store.*

*In June, another of our ESL students, Grant, decided that he wanted to follow Christ and be baptised. Both Helen and Grant were baptised in September, and a few weeks later a third friend of ours (Neil) also decided that he wants to follow Jesus.*

*Time will fail us if we do more than mention the parties, meals, participation in a band at a town festival, cooking sessions, discussions, and friendships that we've been blessed with over the past year. But one theme remains constant throughout it all.*

*We don't need to surround ourselves with a lot of activity to be effective. We just need to surround ourselves with Christ. Because He is greater, and wiser, and higher, and more in every way. Our life's ambition - the real ambition at the core of it all - is to be rooted in relationship with Him. We have no idea if this season in Japan will soon be over, but we can't help but praise Him because He has made our deepest, most desperate dreams come true: the dream to know and follow Him.*

*May you have a truly blessed Christmas, with your fires, and warmth, and family. And may you, too, come to the realization that some dreams are too beautiful and wild and free - they may be assailed, but never conquered.*

Love,  
Valerie & Peter Limmer



Pumpkin Pie! (See reverse for the recipe.)



*Val's surprise birthday party in June.*



*Seaside Chapel baptism.*



*Singing "O Canada!" on Canada Day.*

# Pumpkin Pie

*We used this recipe for our Thanksgiving party. I didn't have a rolling pin at the time, so I made a shortbread crust which turned out very well.*

## INGREDIENTS

### Crust

- 1 cup all-purpose flour*
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine*
- 1/4 cup sugar*

### Filling

- 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin*
- 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk*
- 2 large eggs*
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon*
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger*
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg*
- 1/2 teaspoon salt*

## DIRECTIONS

### Crust

- 1. Preheat oven to 325F. Combine flour, butter and sugar; mix until crumbly. Press into pie plate, so that the crust is uniform, about 0.5cm thick. There may be some dough left over, depending on the size of the pie plate. Bake 20 minutes or until lightly browned.*
- 2. Remove from oven and use a spoon to press down risen shortbread, starting from the centre and radiating outwards toward the edges. Let cool.*

### Filling

- 1. Preheat oven to 425F. Whisk pumpkin, sweetened condensed milk, eggs, spices and salt in medium bowl until smooth. Pour into crust. Bake 15 minutes.*
- 2. Reduce oven temperature to 350F and continue baking 35 to 40 minutes or until knife inserted 1 inch from crust comes out clean. Cool. Garnish as desired. Store leftovers covered in refrigerator.*

*NOTE: If you have an egg sensitivity or allergy, this recipe works well without the eggs. The pie will just be a little less moist.*

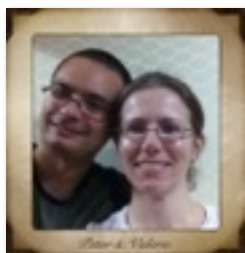


*Licking the bowl clean after Christmas baking with our friends.*

## 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)).*



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