

Land of the Risen Son

イエス・キリストは日本を愛する

(Jesus loves Japan)

Interesting Facts

Cherry Blossoms

The opening of “さくら”(sakura), or cherry blossoms, marks the beginning of spring. There are many festivals commemorating this event.

In Okinawa...

(see right)

Okinawa's cherry blossom season comes 2 months earlier than elsewhere in Japan. The blossoms are in full bloom by the end of January or early February, and are mostly found in the mountains of northern Okinawa.



Tracking the blossoms...

(see right)

The Japanese Meteorological Agency tracks the cherry blossom front as it moves northward through the islands. They even accurately predict the date of the first and full blooms so that you can be ready to view the trees!



Update: A Singular Sojourn (Peter & Valerie Limmer)

Merry Christmas

As we considered this month's newsletter, we realized that in past years we've shared very little about our activities over the Christmas season. So, this month we will share a little about this aspect of our ministry with you.

Starting at the end of November, we held a month-long Christmas ESL class, which we custom-wrote and produced, along with an audio CD. Our students enjoyed learning about North American Christmas traditions, opening their first Christmas presents (little Bibles), and making dough ornaments, among other things.

We also held a Christmas baking party, to which 17 people came (almost half of them men). We enjoyed making four different recipes (2 types of cookies, Christmas mice, and truffles), and everyone got to take some Christmas goodies home with them.

Next, Peter preached the Christmas message at a church which was planted two years ago by our church, Seaside Chapel. This baby church is called "Riverside Chapel", which also happens to be a play on the name of the new pastor (translated, his last name means "river's edge"). The pastor has maintained close ties with our church, and asked Peter to preach a week beforehand. Such is the last-minute style of Okinawa!

To end the season, after our grand finale Christmas ESL class party, we hosted a



Christmas baking club.

Christmas carolling party, replete with singing carols in the park; sharing more than a dozen dozen cookies, some fruit, and a few pies; enjoying hot apple cider and cocoa; whacking a snowman piñata; and making paper snowflakes. Another 16 people came to this party, and by the end of the evening our souls and bellies were very full indeed!

At around this time, Peter started to come down with some adrenal fatigue. The adrenal glands are the body's "garbage cans" for a running total of the past two years' stress. Needless to say, that time period has been pretty intense for us. He's been working with medical professionals to get healthy again.

At the end of December, I gave a short talk at church about some of the things that God has been teaching me, in Japanese without anyone having edited my language. Several people seemed touched by what I'd related, some still coming up to me weeks later to thank me. I was just

glad that they'd understood what I was trying to say!

...and a Happy New Year!

In the first two weeks of January, another Campus Crusade team came to help our church with outreach. I assisted, and also worked on churning out some more Bible ESL material. After this, Peter and I took a couple weeks' vacation, which significantly helped his healing from fatigue. He's now easing back into work, but it will likely be a few months before he's completely back to normal.

This month we've now kicked off our new adult/student ESL class on the story of Joseph (Genesis 37-50). There were 9 students in this class after the first week. The Fletcher family (from our neighbourhood, who we first mentioned in our October newsletter) was really involved in our Christmas ESL class and a number of our other Christmas activities. They also continue to enthusiastically attend our new Joseph class, along with several others including two new high school girls who we met through the January Campus Crusade team.

We've also started a new Kids' ESL class, which is now full. In the first week we had 6 kids attend, and after the second we counted 12 students (3 from Christian families) plus another nine parents and siblings who had come out. What a privilege to love and serve them.



Christmas ESL class, making dough ornaments.



Christmas baking with Val!



"Twas the night before Christmas..."



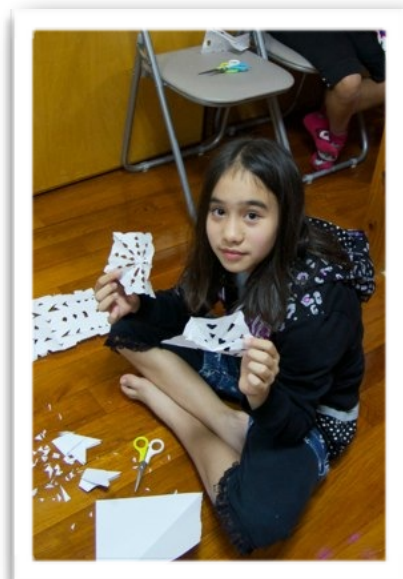
Snowman piñata for our Christmas party.



Everyone was in on the action.



Making paper snowflakes.



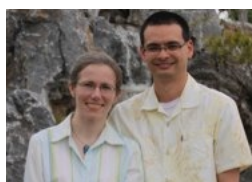
Beautiful finished products!

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 write or email us (japan@peterandvalerie.com).

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