

# Land of the Risen Son

## イエス・キリストは日本を愛する

(Jesus loves Japan)

### Kids' ESL

and other new ministries...

With the beginning of the new year we have recommenced our kids' ESL class, and are also in the midst of starting several new outreaches including a "Mommy and Me" class for mothers and toddlers, and a weekly youth drop-in evening. Peter has been invited to play violin at a local seniors' hospital when they celebrate their birthdays; and we both will be starting to take Okinawan music lessons, which promise to open up new opportunities within the community. We've also continued to reconnect with several of our old friends, and have seen significant deepening in our relationships with them.



A flyer we distributed, advertising kids' ESL.

### Penelope & Percival

Percival, a physiotherapist who is extremely skilled, is in very high demand and is currently going-out-of-his-mind busy. Meanwhile, his wife Penelope has just been diagnosed with heavy metal poisoning and has been battling extreme fatigue, headaches, and several other symptoms.

On our return to Okinawa we were initially unable to visit with them because of this problem. Later on as we discussed her diagnosis, Penelope told me that the doctor had told her only to eat organic foods while she recovered. I filed this away for future use. When we were finally able to have them over, I planned to use organic ingredients as much as possible.

From the beginning I'd been praying for Penelope's recovery, and asking God to guide me in when to let her know this. I didn't want prayers to Jesus to get lumped in with her prayers to the thousands of other Japanese gods. I also was hoping that God would show her the difference in effectiveness that prayers to Him make.

In preparing for their visit, I'd said, "God please help Penelope and Percival to feel a difference between Your Spirit and those other spirits. When we pray in their presence, please heal Penelope quickly so that she knows her healing has come from You and no one else."

**"PERCIVAL WORKS SO HARD THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.  
BUT YOU ARE OUR FRIENDS."**

- Penelope

### Interesting Facts



#### Brush Calligraphy

Children study brush calligraphy in school for three years. Adults and children alike engage in competitions at different levels. Calligraphy is often displayed proudly in family homes.



#### Practice, practice

Like learning an instrument, brush work requires precise positioning of the arm, shoulder, wrist and fingers—and lots of practice! Reaching competency takes many years.



#### Strokes

A single stroke requires a minimum of 3 steps. Drawing a single line or dot takes hours of practice, and many sheets of rice paper! The speed and angle of the brush when placing it on, and removing it from, the paper are also important.

When they finally came over, Penelope and Percival remarked over and over again on how bright and wonderful our apartment is. They exclaimed over the light feeling they had in their spirits as they entered, and attributed it to the apartment's multiple windows. As I listened to their comments I began to suspect that these feelings weren't just physical sensations. They were borne of God's presence.

"Oh God! I don't want them to think that this wonderful feeling is just from the windows!" I prayed. "How do I communicate that this is from You??" (In Japanese culture I couldn't just come out and say, "That sensation you're feeling? That's Jesus." It would be considered rude and pushy.)

"Wait," came the reply. "I've got this."

We continued the visit, without fretting. When it came time to eat, and I pointed out the foods that were organic, Penelope was really touched at the effort we had gone to (where we live, organic foods are nearly impossible to find). We talked, and laughed, and ate.

Soon it was near supper and time to part ways. Before they left, I asked permission to pray for Penelope and her health. She enthusiastically agreed.

I said a short prayer aloud, and afterwards Penelope beamed at me.

"I feel so light and peaceful!" she said. Then she started to cry.

I must remind you that Japanese culture is an emotionally-reserved one, and I have never seen someone who is not a Christian cry. The feelings flowed deep and wide between us, and we all went away with intense sentiments of love and friendship. We are now praying that Penelope would discover the God who can heal her not only from the poison of heavy metals but from the poisons of sin and spiritual emptiness too!

Neil, one of the young men who became a Christian near the beginning of our ministry in Japan, moved to Tokyo two years ago. Since then, he's been throwing himself into loving and serving Jesus.



Neil's roommate, getting baptized

At one point, he invited his roommate to come out to church too. Since then, his roommate has also fallen in love with Jesus, and got baptized earlier this year!

Neil will be coming back to live in Okinawa this May. We're excited to see him again!



CAMPUS CRUSADE CAME TO OUR HOUSE FOR ICE CREAM

14  
DAYS OF  
MINISTRY

3  
OUTREACH  
PARTIES



4  
LITRES OF  
ICE CREAM

8  
TEAM  
MEMBERS



WE ALL VISITED AN  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



100+  
UNCHURCHED  
ATTENDED



### 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.



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