

HERRINGTONS IN HARUNA

September 2009

WE MADE IT TO JAPAN! We are so happy to finally be here. Our days have been full with so many things. It was quite surprising how much we had to set up here. We got all of our utilities up and running: Gas, water, electricity, telephone, and internet. We are fully furnished in our house. It was such a blessing to come here and have so many wonderful people from the congregation and community give us furniture, dishes, appliances, and food. The amount of generosity here has been overwhelming! We are so thankful for Obata-san and his wife Rumiko-san. They have watched over us and helped us through everything. Without them we would be sitting in the dark and eating tofu.

▶ THE WORK HAS STARTED

We were so excited for our first Sunday service! It was awesome being with the people and in the places that we had only seen in pictures. We have been praying and waiting for this day for about 10 months. Obata-san has prayed and waited for over 5 years. The worship was beautiful. Paul was given the opportunity to give a short sermon in Japanese. With some help from Obata-san he did great. What an awesome experience to be able to worship the same God with brothers and sisters in Christ from half way around the world. Our lives will never be the same.

In our first month here we have already started the work that Obata-san had ready for us. We have attended 3 different church meetings around the Tokyo area and met numerous people in the community and the surrounding churches. Our first meeting was at Yokohama church of Christ. We were able to meet almost all of the preachers in the surrounding areas and a few of their wives.

On Saturday of that week we drove to Mito church to hear Brother Rich Little speak about discipleship. It was very encouraging and we were excited to take his words back to the church in Haruna. We were able to meet quite a few of the exchange students from Ibaraki Christian College as well. It was a good day.

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The Haruna church of Christ on our first Sunday. Sept. 6th.



Paul preaching his first sermon to the congregation in Japanese!



Steve and Debbie Carrell (American missionaries) and us at the Yokohama church. Our first meeting. Sept. 14th.



Us with Rich little after his lessons on discipleship Sept 19th.

Go to www.herringtonjapan.com for more information and to read our blog.

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The next Monday we went to Tachikawa church of Christ. They were having a special celebration for the School of Evangelism's 20th year of service. We were happy to be apart of this celebration, because Obata-san is still a teacher and was Dean of this school for many years before he retired 6 years ago.

During the week we are trying to reach out to the teens in the area. A lot of children pass by the building on their way to and from school. Obata-san has invited them to stop in. We have been able to meet with two young girls. They like to sing and read the bible stories to Obata-san. We have started to help with this as well. Next time they visit we will teach them some songs like "Jesus Loves Me", "B-I-B-L-E that's the book for me". Hopefully they can bring their parents to a service soon.

Last Saturday, I (Paul) joined some of the youth of Ochanomizu church of Christ. As a group we went up into the mountains and helped cut down a few Japanese Cedar Trees. It was an amazing experience. To see God's creation and how different cultures preserve this is a learning experience.

Everyone that came to the 20th anniversary of the School of Evangelism.



Mirai-chan and Nana-chan reading about the birth of Christ to us in Japanese

▶ STARTING IN OCTOBER!

The first week of October we will be starting a few new opportunities for the church in Haruna! Sunday mornings we will start English singing before services and 3 out of 4 Sunday afternoons we will meet with the congregation for a bible study class and to learn more about the songs we are singing. On Wednesday nights Paul and Brother Obata will lead services in English and Japanese. We will have singing, a basic bible study, and prayers. We hope this to be a big outreach so please pray for it!



Paul with the youth from Ochanomizu church of Christ

Our contact info:

Paul & Stacey Herrington
Comfort Town G
1519-1 Hongo-machi
Takasakishi, Japan 370-3334

Phone: 316-448-6010 (free from the US)
Email: paulstacey@herringtonjapan.com
Website: www.herringtonjapan.com

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10 Things you need to know before visiting us in Japan!

1. How to say Hello or Good afternoon “**konnichiwa**“(kon– nee– chee– wa)
2. Bowing is very important. The lower the more respectful. Men keep their hands at their sides, women cross their hands slightly as they bow. Never keep eye contact.
3. Table manners. Make sure to say “**itadakimasu**”(e-ta-da-key–mas) (It means “I humbly receive”) before you eat! Wait on others to begin, and slurping your noodles is ok, it shows how much you like the food!
4. No Tipping. Its considered rude.
5. Please learn to use chopsticks. It may be your only option some places.
6. Always take off your shoes when crossing a threshold. They will provide you with special slippers, be sure not to wear them in to the bathroom.
7. A lot of people wear medical masks, this is to protect others from their germs when they are ill.
8. Drawing attention to yourself is generally frowned upon. Japanese are focused on people as a group not individuals.
9. English has become very popular. Most Japanese want to learn English.
10. There are 3 different writing systems in Japan. Hiragana, Katakana, Kanji. You need to know all of the first two (about 46 characters each) and at least 2,000 Kanji to read a newspaper.



On our way home from Yokohama.

A crazy building in Yokohama



Our first taste of sushi in Japan



On our way to Mt. Haruna

OUR PRAYER REQUESTS

- To keep studying the Japanese language and building relationships as best we can.
- To be able to help the Christians here to understand what it means to be a disciple of Christ.
- To step out of our comfort zone and reach out to those that God is putting in front of us.



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