



# Newsletter

September, 2007  
Issue No. 16



## In this Issue:

- \* *Consecrated* – Becky Ishii
- \* *Welcome to Japan:*  
*Stuff you should know*  
*You know you've been in Japan too long...*

## Consecrated:

Depression is Satan's greatest weapon to war against God's children. When we feel depressed and overwhelmed that is when we need to fully open our hearts to God and tell him what we need. Are you too timid to speak what makes your heart happy or to say some kind word to someone you know whose heart is breaking? Set their eyes on Jesus and let them behold his loving and gentle face and feel his sweet and tender embrace.

How can they experience that you say? Jesus is in heaven. There are spiritual embraces that encircle the soul and strengthens the spirit. How is that you say?

Let's look at Webster's dictionary and see what the word embrace means: to take in close, or press to the bosom with affection: include.

To take in close means to welcome, be hospitable with people to bring them together in friendship, to accept and be part of your life, to become bosom buddies, to hold close to your heart, to hold to your bosom with affection in love.

Embrace means the opposite of exclude: Embracing means bringing together toward yourself. It also is used in the sense to embrace an idea or way of life, the same as we embrace Christianity.

Have you ever had a hard time embracing someone or an idea, thought, or how someone else thought and felt? The word acceptance comes into mind as we think of bringing someone close to ourself. Without accepting the other person we would not be able to be intimate with that person. Our loving Saviour was the perfect example of love and how it embraces us in our lives.

The Saviour went from house to house, healing the sick, comforting the mourners, soothing the afflicted, speaking peace to the disconsolate. He took the little children in His arms and blessed them, and spoke words of hope and comfort to the weary mothers. With unflinching

tenderness and gentleness He met every form of human woe and affliction. Not for Himself but for others did He labor. He was the servant of all. It was His meat and drink to bring hope and strength to all with whom He came in contact. And as men and women listened to the truths that fell from His lips, so different from the traditions and dogmas taught by the rabbis, hope sprang up in their hearts. In His teaching there was an earnestness that sent His words home with convicting power. AA page 364-365.

Certainly, Jesus is in heaven, but we as Christians can embrace the people around us with His love and speak peaceful words to those around us who know no peace in their hearts. A tender touch can speak more than words and words well thought and spoken can ring in a person's heart for eternity. May God bless you, each one of you as you persevere with faith in your hearts and spiritual words from the Holy Bible.

Becky Ishii



## One Year

One year for the Lord is your decision  
One year to share the Gospel commission  
One year as a teacher in a land far away  
One year away from friends and family to stay.

One year in the classroom teaching little girls and boys  
One year to sing, dance and play with puppets and toys  
One year to see the light of understanding grow  
One year to lead them and their path to show.

One year with adult students to meet  
One year to lead them to the Master's feet  
One year – a life time of friendships to make  
One year - lots of memories to take.

One year and your life will be changed  
One year your old self for a new self exchanged  
One year of hills and valleys and such things  
One year of knowing the joy overcoming brings.

One year of being led by the Masters hand  
One year of knowing He had it all planned  
One year, for you, Japan you chose  
One year – perhaps two, only God knows.  
*Calene Williams, 2007*





# WELCOME TO JAPAN

## Festivals & Holidays September 2007

### Sep 17 (Monday) **Respect for the Aged Day - Keiro no Hi** (always Monday)

Television stars on this day are those who are over 100 years old. Some are in remarkably good health. If you are 70 or over, an official from the local city office may visit you and present a small gift. It pays to live long in Japan.

### Sept. 23 (Sunday) **Autumnal Equinox – Shunbun no Hi** (always on Sept. 23)

Night and day are equal again.

### Sept. 24 (Monday)

The Equinox occurred on Sunday so Monday is taken as a holiday.

### Other Festivals

**Reitaisai** - Yabusame, a Shinto ritual of shooting arrows on horseback, is famous worldwide.

Dates: September 14th-16th

Place: Tsurugaoka Hachiman Shrine,  
Kamakura

## October, 2007

### Oct. 8 (Monday) **Sports Day - Taiku no Hi** (always on second Monday)

Parents all over Japan will be going to athletic events at their children's schools.

### Other Festivals

**Jidai Matsuri (Festival of the Ages)** - held at the Heian Jingu Shrine, the Jidai Matsuri is one of the three largest festivals of Kyoto.

Dates: October 22nd (postponed if rains)

Places: Heian Jingu Shrine Kyoto City,

### **Kurama no Hi-Matsuri (Kurama Fire Festival)** -

The evening sky becomes ablaze with the flames of huge watch fires and 250 pine torches

Dates: October 22<sup>nd</sup> (held even in rain)

Places: Yuki-jinja Shrine Kyoto City,

## Welcome...

### To our New Teachers

Amber Morales at Hayato ELS

Bradley Warden at Hiroshima ELS

Brooke Hansen at Yokohama ELS

Jermaine Johnson at Osaka English Center

Joseph Sunio at Osaka English Center.

Rachel Sears at Kagoshima ELS

Thank you for choosing Japan as your mission field. I do hope that this year will be a wonderful experience for you.!!!

## Stuff you should know!

*Contributed by "gaijins" living or who lived in Japan*

1. It maybe weird, but in Tokyo and other areas, everyone stands on the left side of the escalator, but it's very helpful letting others in a hurry to walk up or down the right side. In Osaka it's on the right.
2. Don't be afraid to ask for directions. Strangely everyone knows where they are and how to get somewhere.
3. Keep your arms close at your sides when walking down a narrow street, the drivers of Japan go really fast and squeeze through the tightest spots.
4. Don't talk loudly on trains and in congested public areas.
5. Go sit in a park or on a crowded street and watch people passing by. It can be a really wonderful experience, and this is the best way to see many Japanese people and learn about the looks of real Japanese.
6. Use as much Japanese as you can. Don't worry about making mistakes, it probably won't be serious. Even if you only know few words, use them.





# WELCOME TO JAPAN

7. It is considered rude to take food out of the common bowl (the bowl which everyone gets their meal out of, ex. rice bowl) with the end of the chopstick that you put in your mouth. Instead, use the opposite end (the blunt or thick side).
8. When you first go into stores, don't freak out when the sales clerks keep yelling the same word at you. They are just being polite.
9. There is milk in Japan, so do not worry.
10. Know your Japanese shoe size.
11. Age guessing is a national pastime. So if people guess your age or ask you to guess theirs, that is normal.
12. Careful with the buttons on Japanese toilets. Be ready for a new experience if you press one while sitting.

## To our Extendees:

Andrew Worley at Hiroshima Academy  
Gerald Christo at Kagoshima ELS  
Jessie Pangler at Saniku Gakuin College  
Leonard Ope at Harajuku ELS  
Lisa Takahashi at Hiroshima Academy  
Mridul Baraoya at Okinawa Jr. High  
Naphirisa Christo at Kagoshima ELS  
Nirmal Jayapaul at Kagoshima ELS  
Samuel Korenteng at Saniku Gakuin College  
Tamar Paul at Hiroshima Academy

Thank you for your continued years of service. We appreciate the great work you are doing and wish you all the best throughout this year.

This one is for you. Yes, *you have seen this list before.*

## You know you've been in Japan too long when...

1. You start saying "Anou" instead of "Um" when speaking in English.
2. You say "desho" "nae" and "so, so" very naturally in your English conversations.
3. you have to use your handy phone to call a fellow gaijin to help you and another English friend remember an (easy) English word that both of you cannot seem to remember.
4. you are talking on the telephone to your parents and your father says, "Why are you interrupting my explanation with grunts?"
5. you find yourself bowing while you talk on the phone
6. You see a gaijin get on the train and think "Wow, it's a gaijin!"
7. you have mastered the art of simultaneous bowing and hand- shaking
8. you ask fellow foreigners the all-important question "How long have you been here?"
9. you forget how to spell simple words like "wear"
10. you answer "hail!" even when speaking English to non-Japanese friends
11. your noodle slurping can rattle the windows next door
12. you can fall asleep on the train and wake up at your stop
13. you crawl back into your house to get your coat, rather than take your shoes back off or walk on the floor with shoes on
14. you stop trying to get into the driver's side of your friends' cars
15. you answer the phone and freeze in indecision between saying "hello" or "moshi moshi."
16. you can back into a Japanese parking space - without guidance
17. Not only do you enjoy drinks like Pocari Sweat and Calpis Water, but you serve them to other foreigners



# Odds and Ends

## Prayer Chain

Please remember to keep active the ELS prayer chain. San-iku College prays for Harajuku prays for for Yokohama prays for Osaka prays for Hiroshima ELS prays for Hiroshima Academy prays for Tokuyama prays for Hayato prays for Kagoshima prays for Okinawa Junior High School Prays for San-iku College.

## Prayer Requests

`If you have any prayer requests please send them to us. We'd be very happy to pray for you.

## Belated

## Birthday..Greetings

*Naphrisa Christo – September 12*

*Tokuyama ELS*

## Happy Birthday to...

*Gerald Christo –October 20*

*Tokuyama ELS*

And many more.....



Give us one year and we will give you a wonderful, unforgettable experience

Thank you for your interest in Japan's English Language Schools. A number of positions will be available for the 2008 - 2009 school year beginning in August, 2008. If you are interested we'd be happy to hear from you. Visit our site at [els.adventist.jp](http://els.adventist.jp). Also check out [www.adventistvolunteers.org](http://www.adventistvolunteers.org) for more volunteer positions.

Pastor Mark Duarte, pastor at the Mountain View Japanese Church has been serving the Japanese community for over 2 decades since being a missionary in Japan as a student missionary. He is available to answer any questions or counsel regarding your desire to go to Japan as a missionary. He spent many years in Japan with his wife as a missionary and now resides in Mountain View, California. The work in Japan is very close to his heart. Contact [markduarte@hotmail.com](mailto:markduarte@hotmail.com) and type "Interest in Japan" in the subject line. He is looking forward to hearing from you.



Thanks to all who contributed to this month's Newsletter. If you would like to contribute, please send all items to [juc@adventist.jp](mailto:juc@adventist.jp)

