

WE ARE PLANTING A CHURCH

JULY 2006

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We Have a Church

We have a church. For the last year I have been titling these newsletters "We are Planting a Church." And we have been working to plant seeds this entire time. But now, we have a new body of believers meeting together in Okuchi.

All of this came together very quickly. A building became available at a great price, so my church rented it and I moved in at the beginning of April. Since then we have been meeting three Sundays a month.

Our Sunday morning service is very similar to a small group meeting. We begin with some small talk and just catching up on everyone's week. Second is worship, with either guitar or piano. Third is some sort of teaching, usually in the form of a Bible study as opposed to a traditional sermon. We finish the service praying for each other and the city of Okuchi.



8 PEOPLE ON A SUNDAY MORN-

The majority of the time we stay and have lunch together with whoever has come.

The picture above shows our largest week of worship. The two Americans with me are a couple of guys who came over to help out with the plant of the summer. (More about them later) The man on the far right is an English student. The women on the front row are all Christians. The woman on the left is a friend from out of town.

The two women in the middle are Kazuyo-san and Kanako-san. They are the other two people who I am working with for the church plant. The woman on the right in the white shirt is a local Christian, but that was her first Sunday to attend a service.

We have finally started, and the truth is that most weeks it is just the 3 of us. We have a few non-Christians who have visited. And other English students that are planning too. We really are planting a church!

QUIZ

WHAT HAVE I EATEN THIS SUMMER

- A) RAW OCTOPUS
- B) RAW CHICKEN
- C) PIG INTESTINE (COOKED)
- D) ALL OF THE ABOVE
- E) NONE OF THE ABOVE



The Building

On the right you can see the new church building. It is an old sushi shop in downtown Okuchi. The front of the building has an entryway and a large room that we use for church and English class. In the back is a small apartment where I live now.



OUR NEW CHURCH BUILDING

The change in location came about very quickly. We were not satisfied in my last living situation. It was a nice little house, but had many limitations. We could not hold English classes there or have other events. Also it was on the edge of town which made it inconvenient for people to stop by.

The new building is located in

the middle of town. It is in walking distance from 3 grocery stores. The road in front of the house has a lot of foot traffic. The only burger shop in town is a one minute walk and I can get my hair cut across the street.

I probably have 5-10 new, quality relationships due to the fact that I see the same people in

front of and around my house every day. I am very excited about the new place and all of the opportunities we now have for ministry with it.

Prayer requests for the new place:

- Everyone that comes would feel safe and valued
- That the church planting team and I would be a blessing to the neighbors and smoothly become part of the community



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My Parents Came

Back in March my parents came and spent a little over a week with me. It was great to finally get them over here to the country that I have come to love. We did a lot of tourist things, such as visiting a nearby volcano.

The trip began with my parents arriving in Fukuoka (4 hours from my house by car). We stayed there in a hotel and rode the train down the next morning.

That first night my parents helped out with English classes and fought jetlag. They shared a little about themselves, and talked about Texas. My father taught from a few maps about where



MY PARENTS CAME TO VISIT ME

for lunch so we had Chinese.

I think it was a stressful trip for my parents in some ways, mainly since they did not understand the language at all. But they did very well and they tried to eat everything placed in front of them and were great with my students and friends.

Even as independent as I am (probably to the point of it being a fault and not a strength as some of you know) I have really missed my family. It was great to have them over here just for my emotional health.

My sister and father are planning trips over next year, and anyone else that is interested let me know. I would love to show anyone who is interested what ministry is like here first hand.

THANK YOU TO
EVERYONE WHO IS
SUPPORTING THIS
PROJECT BOTH
FINANCIALLY AND
THROUGH PRAYER,
YOU REALLY ARE
IMPACTING A CITY
FOR CHRIST

Two more guys from the States

This Summer I had the privilege of working with two college students from America. Ben is 21 and from



BEN BEEMAN (AN ASIAN ACCESS SUMMER WORKER FROM GEORGIA)

Tacoo Falls College in Georgia. He is interested in working in Japan long term so he came for 6 weeks to experience ministry in Japan. Beau is 20 and from Texas A&M University. He attends Aldersgate UMC where I went to church in college. He came to help out in any way possible and was here for 5 weeks.

Texas is in the United States.

In the picture we are overlooking the bay in Minamata. We were trying to go to a fun Spanish restaurant on the top of the hill, but it was full

It was great on several fronts having the guys here. First, they encouraged me tremendously. I hadn't realized how much I missed speaking English, and being around American guys close to my age. (I am a bit older than them, but still pretty close)

Their first day in Okuchi we spent the afternoon at the local high school handing out flyers for our English classes. It was quite the sight in Okuchi having three 6 foot American men standing on a street corner. We had a lot of fun and the students seemed to enjoy talking to us. Unfortunately nobody



BEAU BRYANT (A SUMMER WORKER FROM ALDERSGATE)

came to class but it was still a good experience for the guys to see some of the difficulties in making contacts here.

The main things they did ministry wise were teach

English, lead chapel times, make new contacts in the community, home stay with Japanese non-Christian family, and a few special events such as movie nights or road trips with English students.

There were some difficulties just with language, living in close quarters, and different ministry expectations but it was a good experience for me and I would do it again. My prayer for the guys is that they will fall more deeply in love with Jesus daily and with the Japanese people. Hopefully they will be back here in a few years for the long term.



BEN AND BEAU ON A FERRIS WHEEL

My Buddhist Flute Playing Friend Who Has Read the Koran and Speaks German (and a few other fun contacts)

That is quite a title, huh? Its probably the best way to describe my new friend in Okuchi. He is a man in his early 40's. When he was younger he went to a Buddhist seminary in Tokyo. During that time he had to study English, the Bible, and the Koran, along with Buddhist teachings. After that he moved to Switzerland to be a professional flutist. He is now back in Okuchi working. He says he is not interested in the gospel, but he likes speaking English and talking to me.

I have also been spending a lot of time lately with two 20 year old guys in Minamata. They both love guitar and sports. They also both speak a fair bit of English which makes hanging out a lot more enjoyable. The came on a church camping trip a few weeks ago, and one of them even came to

Prayer requests...

How can you pray? Well here are a few things

Me:

- I have been a little down lately since the guys have left and I have not had as much of a chance to speak English.
- Satisfying friendships with Japanese guys my age.
- I wrecked my car, nobody was hurt, but it was my fault. Pray that my transportation issues

Communication

Blogs, WebPages, e-mail, phone, newsletters. There are several ways for me to keep in contact with you, and you with me. Here are all of the mediums I am using right now.

Newsletter: My goal is to have this newsletter come out at least 6 times a year. My goal is to include a mix of how I am doing, a ministry report and plans for the future. It contains the most detail of any of the mediums, but it usually comes out a month or so after the events reported occur. I will happily add you to my mailing list if you are not on it, so let me know if you are not getting it and want to.

Blogs: I currently have 2 blogs.

Joyfull Restaurant

JOYFUL IS MY OFFICE IN OKUCHI church here in Okuchi last Sunday.

A third exciting relationship is my Japanese teacher. She has begun attending English classes. This is significant because she has known me for a year and has had a chance to get over the fact that I am a foreigner, different, and therefore interesting. She also spent a lot of time with Jehovah's Witnesses in the past so she knows more about the Bible than most Japanese.



FLOODING IN THE END OF JULY

would be resolved quickly and I wouldn't be too hard on myself.

Church Plant:

- Visitors would come back
- Relationships would transfer from friendships to spiritually significant relationships

One of them is to report ministry events, the other is just for me to play and keep in touch with friends. The ministry one is okuchi-dendo.blogspot.com and the fun blog is www.xanga.com/TreborRiada These blogs provide less detail than the newsletter, but the information will include current prayer requests and up to date ministry activities. I also have a web site, but it has not been updated in a long time. When I get it up to date, I will link it on my blog.

Direct: Please communicate with me. I am not good with e-mail, but am making an effort to improve. I also would be happy to hear from you by

So, why do I tell you about all of these random people? My hope is to personalize ministry here without revealing too much personal information about individuals.

Please pray for these 3, and all of our relationships here in Okuchi. We want to be relevant to individuals without

compromising the gospel. We want every person we come into contact with to walk away feeling loved.



MISSIONARIES WHO LIVE ABOUT 2 HOURS FROM ME

ACCORDING TO

MICROSOFT I AM

SUPPOSED TO PUT

SOMETHING HERE

THAT WILL MAKE YOU

WANT TO READ ALL

THE ARTICLES.

祈って下さい

- New students who are open to the Gospel
- Church planting team unity, relational dynamic, and ability to communicate.

Big Picture:

- Healthy small group by the end of summer
- Healthy male female boundaries
- Increase in monthly support
- That our work here would be a Joy for me and the team



ENGLISH STUDENTS

phone or any other method.

I know that one of my needs as I continue to grow as a man is to communicate better. Hopefully these ways will help.

UPDATE NEWSLETTER FROM ROBERT FLETCHER ADAIR

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**CHECK OUT MY
BLOG
HTTP://
OKUCHIDENDO.BLO
GSPOT.COM**

*Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will rejoice in God my Savior
The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
he enables me to go on the heights
Habakkuk 3:17-19*

そのとき、いちじくの木は花を咲かせず、
ぶどうの木は実をみのらせず、オリーブの木も実をりがなく、畑は食物を出さない。
羊は囲いから絶え、牛は牛舎にいなくなら。
しかし、私は主にあつて喜び勇み、私の救いの神にあつて喜ぼう。
私の主、神は、私の力。私の足を雌鹿のようにし、私に高い所を歩ませる。
ハバクク書 3:17-19

A Good Bad Day

*I will be in
Texas in
November, my
next newsletter
will include the
dates and I
look forward to
seeing you then*

From the picture you can see that I had a rough Thursday evening. I was coming back from a meeting at my boss's house heading for an English class. From a driveway on my left a car looked like it was going to pull out in front of me. I looked for a second to see what he was going to do, and when I looked forward the car in front of me had stopped. So to avoid a wreck I swerved up onto the sidewalk. Unfortunately, there was an aluminum pole waiting for me. It effectively destroyed the left side of my car.

I got out of my car and the man who I had almost hit got out to see if I was ok. He turned out to

be a Christian man and immediately started helping me call the police, and see what to do next. Now because of my Japanese



IT WAS A BAD DAY

ability, or lack there of, I didn't think I would be able to handle everything. I didn't know what to do though because I was still 2 hours from home. I made a few calls and it turned out my pastor and his wife (who is completely bi-lingual) were actually about 10

minutes away shopping. They came over and took care of everything. They were tremendously understanding and cared for me well. They even took me out to dinner on the way home just to cheer me up.

This has been hard, I feel dumb for wrecking my car, and having to explain to people what happened. So for me personally, pray that I don't beat myself up that much. I was also really encouraged by the day. I really felt like God was taking care of me

through the whole thing: from nobody being hurt, to the kindness of everyone involved. I have a group of people around me that really love me and care for me well. The man I almost hit, the police officer, and the guys on the tow truck were all unbelievably kind to me.