

10 月度土曜例会(2012/10/20)

本日のスピーカーは Beverly Rivers さん。2011 年の 1 月に続いての登場です。タイトルは JAPAN - Through the Eyes of a Black Woman プロのゴスペル歌手でその美しい歌声を皆さんはどこかで聞いた事でしょう。本日も挨拶代わりにいきなり 1 曲。

Joy Joy Joy – Thank you from the little black girl who grew up in the southern states of America and never dreamed she would ever be in Japan. Though I can't speak your language, I don't understand your culture, I am a single woman doing missions work, still I am here. It's a miracle!!



Every experience in our lives should lead us to greater enlightenment. As intelligent beings we owe it to ourselves to allow every experience, good or bad, to shape our character in positive ways and lead us to our best selves. Every person is a product of their upbringing, their culture, and their personal experiences. Some of the things we learn as children become engrained because it's what we've been taught all our lives. It's all we know. Not until we expand our boundaries and experience other cultures will we be able to test those childhood teachings. By doing so, we make our own conscious decisions about life, love, and eternity.



My time in Japan has been quite the culture shock...especially for a black woman. In my talk today I would like to share a few stories about my experiences during these two and a half years. Here are some highlights.

The Physical Lifestyle – What my daily lifestyle was like just before coming to Japan and how it dramatically changed after I arrived. What I learned from this experience and what I will take back with me as I go home.

マンションの 4 階に有る自分の部屋まで階段はなんと 72 段。交通手段は自転車かバス、電車、そして歩く事。アメリカではすぐ近くのスーパーにも車で行ってたのに。よーし決めた!! 1 日 1 時間歩くぞ!! そのせいだけではないけれど半年で 25 キロ減量しました。



Surfing the Train – How I got lost several times on the train but learned from the experience how to use the transportation systems. Amazing experiences in Japan's train culture.

乗客行動パターン、1) 携帯をいじる 2) 新聞か本を読む 3) いねむり アメリカで居眠りしたら多分バッグは無くなっているでしょう。

The Haircare Drama – How the heat and humidity affected my beauty routine. How people responded to my natural hair. How I completely changed my beauty routine to survive in Japan.

プラットホームで、バス停で後ろからそっと近づく気配が、そして写メでカシャ。モデル料請求しましょうか。



Strangers – There have been many times when total strangers have walked up to me and started chatting like they met me before.

ハイ、ハウアーユー？えっ、どこかでお会いしましたっけ？そんなの関係ない、ぺちやくちゃぺちやくちゃ。

Sirens, Noise, Sleeplessness – There are a huge contrast in the amount of noise during the night at my home in America and my

apartment here in Japan.

夜 8 時頃警察車両がマイクのボリュームを上げ “バイクの盗難がありました、皆さん注意しましょう” その他突然サイレンの音、心臓がドキッとします。アメリカでは違法ですよ。

ヨドバシカメラに入ったとたんその騒音と照明の明る過ぎさに即座に頭痛が_____。アメリカのショッピングモールではクラシックの BGM です。アナウンスもショート。でも日本の電車の中は静かですね、皆さん寝てるから。

Recreation and Fun Activities – In Japan I've enjoy hiking, sight seeing, flower arrangement shows, Sakura viewing, maple tree viewing, festivals, karaoke, luminarie , museums, and I'm look forward to seeing Mt. Fuji very soon! Why the onsen is not so fun for me.

箕面、比叡山、神戸その他沢山の所に連れて行ってもらいました。全てすばらしい楽しい思い出です。温泉にも 3 度トライしました。あるとき一人のご夫人が湯船できれいな英語で話しかけてきました。たちまちその仲間内ぞろぞろ集合、彼女を通訳として皆が一斉に質問開始。ゆったりとリラククスしたいのに。こっちは外人で黒人で特別な髪の毛なのに、もう～。



Food, Nihongo Ryori – I have my favorites and least favorites when comes to Japanese food. It took some getting used to. Even the American style foods here have a Japanese twist.

1 番好きな日本食 うなぎ、たれがご飯と交じり合い最高。2 番目はお好み焼き。さしみと生卵はちょっと、アメリカ人ですから。

Temple and Shrine Visits – On many occasions, friends have taken me on outings that include a visit to the temples and shrines in Japan. It is the one cultural activity that causes me great conflict because of my faith in only One God who is jealous of the many gods people worship in Japan.

そんな訳で東大寺大仏殿のアウトティングは遠慮させていただきます。

March 10, 2011 Disasters – The triple event of earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear explosion began my family's urgings for me to come home early. But I returned to Japan because I believed that my work was not yet done here. Earlier this year my dreams confirmed that its time for me to end my assignment here and go home to rest. If there is an opportunity to come again, I hope to return.

(昨年夏タイ、韓国、アメリカ、日本人の教会関係者がグループとなり 2 台のバンで仙台にボランティア活動に行ってきましたが、その体験談は壮絶なものです。大阪から片道 14 時間の旅でした。今回のスピーチでは触れませんでしたがこのテーマだけで 2 時間は必要でしょう)

Ten Amazingly Cool Things About Japan – Safety, Honesty, Customer Service, Generous Friends, Cash Society, Acceptance of Diversity, Cleanliness, Gift Wrapping, Bicycle Accessories, Genki Old People.

Gospel Music – Play clip on personal history of gospel music in my family.

締めは勿論心にぐっと突き刺さる Amazing grace でした。

