

# RUSH NEWS

An update from James Rush,  
serving short-term as an  
English as a Foreign Language Teacher  
at Nozomi Lutheran Church in  
Niigata, Japan via the Japan Lutheran  
Church (NRK) and LCMS World Mission

Ablaze: They asked each other, “Were not our hearts  
burning within us while Jesus talked with us on the  
road and opened Scriptures to us?” – Luke 24: 30-32

*Ablaze!*



## March 2010

### Thoughts:

**Maturing in faith: being sharpened like a sword...or pounded into a rice cake...a couple “object lessons” for us to use as a parable for our faith life. Also, “Why does this happen to ME?”**

### Activities:

- Lutheran Schools Week 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>
- Site Training Week for VYM 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>
- Narnia Movie Event 13<sup>th</sup>
- Church and Sayonara (Farewell) Party (21<sup>st</sup>)
- Moving Day and Site Moves for VYM (26<sup>th</sup>)

National Lutheran Schools Week 2010



### Thoughts: Sword and Sweet!

Actually, I am James, it won't be “short and sweet”... but I do like the idea of saying “sword and sweet” fast. Try it! It sounds like “sword and sweet” and is another example of what we English teachers encounter daily while teaching our native language.



*(Have you thought about being able to serve as a relationship builder/EFL teacher?)*

In the picture here you can see the result of the “nihonto”, the Japanese sword used in many of the battles throughout history. It is a part of the samurai warrior's uniform, but few people think about the process it takes to make a sword. Then, there is the ability to even use the sword. Who would *ever* think about trying to make a sword right there in the middle of a fight? You make the sword *before* the time to use it. You practice using the sword *before* you have to use it. This takes time, it takes refining and focus. We find out in *Ephesians 6:17* in the New Testament of the Bible, that we should consider God's Word as a sword.

God's Word is not something we can't just “pull out” when we need a fix. We should spend time reading our Bible to be able to know it and use effectively. Also, God's Word was written over centuries; we can't expect to know it well after a simple devotion or even JUST listening on Sunday at the church service. Do you read your Bible daily? Do you have a Bible?

**A quick story, borrowed from an email. For those times when we wonder “why?”**

Sometimes we wonder, “What did I do to deserve this?” or “Why did God have to do this to me?” Here is a wonderful, practical explanation which you can try with your kids or friends sometime! Imagine, a daughter tells her mother how everything is going wrong: she’s failing algebra, her boyfriend broke up with her and her best friend is moving away. Meanwhile, her mother is baking a cake and asks her daughter if she would like a snack. The daughter replies, “Absolutely, Mother, I love your cakes”. Then, Mother turns and points, saying, “Well, here, while you wait – try drinking this cooking oil.” Daughter looks at her mother with those “teenage-eyes” and says, “Seriously?!, Yuck!”. Mom waits a moment and then offers, “How about a couple raw eggs?” Daughter covers her mouth with her hands, “Gross, Mom!!” And mother calmly follows with a couple more possibilities, “Would you like some flour, then? or How about some baking soda?” Daughter, thinking her mother has gone crazy says, “Mom, all of those things are YUCKY! Who would ever eat them as a snack. To which the mother replies, “Yes, all those things seem bad all by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!” God works the same way. May times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times. But God knows that when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually, they will all make something wonderful! God is crazy about you! He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He’ll listen. He can be anywhere in the universe, His desire is to be in your heart.

**Life might not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as well dance!!**

**Prayers and Praises!**

**Please pray for students:**

**Praise be to God for the many people who have become part of God’s kingdom as a result of coming to our (Lutheran-English) schools and interacting with Japanese and American Christians. Pray for those who are open to learning more about God! Pray for those who are new to faith and what that means for them in their daily life.**

**Contacting James**

email: [jgrushi@yahoo.com](mailto:jgrushi@yahoo.com) or [jamesgrant.rush@gmail.com](mailto:jamesgrant.rush@gmail.com)

Skype: jgrush2

blog: [www.jamesgrantrush2.blogspot.com](http://www.jamesgrantrush2.blogspot.com)

Facebook: James Rush, Flint

Myspace: [www.myspace.com/jamesrush2](http://www.myspace.com/jamesrush2)

Pictures

<http://picasaweb.google.com/jamesgrant.rush>

**Thanksgiving for our Retreat/Business Meetings. Please continue to lift up my brothers and sisters in Christ those who are a great support “in the field” – Thanks to those of you whom are “oceans” away and offering your support in a variety of ways.**

**LIFE: Bread of Life or ...Gohan (Rice) of Life. *Luke 6:32***

Another quick example is the process of making sticky/pounded rice cakes. This is a lengthy process. First, the preparation of the rice takes hours of soaking and steaming. Then, the “pounding” takes a lot of effort – usually two or more people helping to pound. It’s hard work, but “Oh-so-worth- it!” Thank you, Jesus, for being our “bread of Life.”

*You can check out more pictures on my picasa page. The pictures on page one are from a “Community New Year Party” which the church was asked by the local “Community Association”. In all, we welcomed over 50 neighbors into the building to enjoy a time of food and fun!*

To support my work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to: LCMS World Mission, 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122 Please Make checks payable to LCMS World Mission. Mark checks “Support of James Rush”. You can also give online, securely, through the LCMS World Mission Web site: <http://www.lcmsworldmission.org>