

# Crosstalk

December CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter 2004



Merry Christmas!

Here is some food for thought about the history of Christmas.

The first time the birth of Jesus Christ was **attributed** to the date December 25 was in the 4th century, according to early Roman history.

Some early customs associated with Christmas that have **endured** to this day include decorating homes with greenery, giving gifts, singing songs, and eating special foods.

The holiday developed further with the legend of St. Nicholas. Although much of his history is **unconfirmed**, the man who became St. Nicholas lived in the 4th century and is believed to have been a bishop in Asia Minor. Many miracles attributed to him are **dubious** at best. Nevertheless, some countries named him their patron saint. He also is considered the patron saint of, among others, children (for protecting them), sailors (whom he **reputedly** saved at sea), and the poor (to whom he generously gave gifts).



In his honor, the Feast of St. Nicholas was marked on December 6 and gifts given the night before. The tradition was well **established** in many European countries by the 12th century. **Eventually**, because St. Nicholas' Day and Christmas Day are so close together, their traditions, generally, were combined. Here are some Christmas facts that you may not have known about until now.

## Some other Christmas facts:

- The word Christmas comes from the Old English *Cristes maesse*, which means Christ's mass.
- The word *Xmas* is sometimes used instead of Christmas. In Greek, X is the first letter of Christ's name.
- Santa Claus generally was **depicted** as an elf until 1931, when Coca-Cola ads **portrayed** him as human-sized.
- Rudolph didn't become Santa's ninth reindeer until 1939 when an advertising writer for the department store Montgomery Ward created him.



Story by Adam



## Glossary

(These words are in **color** in the story)

**attributed** ～といわれた  
**dubious** 不分明(である)  
**eventually** 最終的に

**endured** 存続している  
**reputedly** 世評では  
**depicted** 描かれた

**unconfirmed** 確証されていない  
**established** 確立された  
**portrayed** ～の肖像を描いた

# A Word From Us



**Joshua Says:** There is going to be a very special event this month, which you shouldn't miss out on! Just in front of Crossroads in Okaido there will be a concert given in aid of the Niigata and Nihama disaster victims. Steve (our teacher) is going to lead a group of professional musicians from 'Monk'. They will play a number of songs including one Steve wrote for Yuta, the little boy who survived in Niigata. Check out the N/L "notice board", or ask Junko at the office, for details.

**Junko Says:** Also, on the same day as the Okaido Benefit Concert by Steve and friends, we are going to hold our Christmas Party. So, after enjoying the concert, come up stairs and have some more fun! Don't forget to bring some drinks and food with you, and, of course, any, and all, of your friends and family who may like to share Christmas with us.



**Adam Says:** Well my 26<sup>th</sup> birthday has passed and I must admit, it was one to remember. My mother and sister travelled all the way to Japan to celebrate this fine day with me. I took them on numerous sightseeing tours including, Uchiko city, Imabari and Ozu. They truly enjoyed the traditional Japanese atmosphere and so did I. Have you ever spent your birthday abroad?

**Greg Says:** This month I will be flying home to spend Christmas and New Year with my father and sister back in Sydney. Summer has only just started in Australia and already the temperature has reached over 40C. So it will be a nice BBQ Christmas for me this year. Speaking of which, I hope you all have a lovely time at the Crossroads Christmas party and everybody has a safe and very successful 2005.



**Natacha Says:** Don't we all wish we were nice and kind to everyone all of the time. The fact is that we often forget to be! However, if we remembered to be nice and kind all the time, I think we would forget how precious this time is. Christmas is for many a time to remind ourselves about sharing and caring for others. In my family, more than 20 people gather at our house for Christmas dinner. It is a precious time of sharing.

**Steven Says:** November has flown by for me and in the first half of December I am rehearsing a new band with the musicians from Monk. We will perform a benefit concert in Okaido for the Niigata, Nihama disaster victims. Practice the lyrics on page 3 and you will be able to sing along at the concert when we perform "Song for Yuta" on the 18<sup>th</sup>.



**Magnolia Says:** The greatest reward of being a teacher is the opportunity to communicate with many different kinds of people and to help them to achieve and realize their goals and dreams. At the end of each day, I think how precious life is and how blessed we all are. As the Christmas season approaches, let it be a gentle reminder to give from the heart and to consider those less fortunate. Please live your dreams.

**Natasha Says:** December is X-mas season in Japan, US and Catholic countries... but in Russia we celebrate X-mas on Jan.7. Orthodox religious events are based on the Julian calendar, whereas Catholic events are based on the Gregorian one. Japanese X-mas is commercialism... we celebrate our X-mas in a very religious atmosphere.



**Yuka Says:** Time passes so quickly and the year 2004 is almost over. How did you spend this year? Did you do something special? Have your dreams come true? For those who had a wonderful time, I hope your good luck will continue. And for those who were not so fortunate, let's enjoy a "hot-pot" dish and hope for a better future!

# A Word From You



**Atsuko Says:** I visited Freiberg with members of the Matsuyama Bach Chorus. After five days rehearsal, we gave a concert with the Freiberg Bach Chorus. They have wonderful sounds, so the concert went fine! We stayed as house-guests of members of the Freiberg Chorus who were very kind and friendly to us. We also enjoyed sightseeing trips while we were there.

**Harumi Says:** In October, I went to Turkey on a sightseeing tour. However, it wasn't just a tour because I met a great Turkish guide who taught me about the history and religion of Turkey. He has a great respect for the founding fathers of Turkey and I was deeply moved by his patriotism. I really enjoyed myself and I love Turkey.



## Notice Board

### Benefit concert

“ The “Steve Brooks Quintet” will give a benefit concert in Okaido, just in front of Crossroads, for the victims of Niigata and Nihama, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December at 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Steven will perform his new song, “Song for Yuta”, for the first time. Don't miss this great event, and tell your friends to come along also!!!

**CROSSROADS**  
**CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!**

**place:** Crossroads  
**date:** 18/12/04  
**time:** 8:00pm to...  
**bring:** food, drinks,  
and all your friends!  
Let's have some fun!!!

## Net News

### NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS to study? Try our **lessons on the internet!**

It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *all on-line!* Call for details.

**NET SITE OF THE MONTH:** Here, you will find stories on how Christmas is celebrated throughout the world.

<http://www.christmas.com/worldview/>

Don't forget to take a look at the **NET NOTEBOOK** in our Open-house lounge. You'll find games, news and English study sites.

## Special Easy English Lesson

Here are the lyrics of Steven's special "Song for Yuta". If you learn this song, you can sing along at the performance in Okaido on the 18<sup>th</sup>!!

V1: A boy is trapped inside mother earth  
They all know that time is not on his side  
But he speaks to them with his heart  
And they hope they will find a way

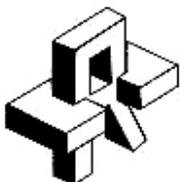
Chorus: You've got to sing Yuta with me,  
Yuta with me, Yuta with me  
You've got to sing Yuta with me,  
Yuta with me, Yuta with me

V2: Day and night they worked until the dawn  
Pray they'll find a way to bring him to the light of day  
He speaks to them with his heart  
And they know they will find a way

Chorus:

Bridge.: Can anyone hear me?  
Does anyone know I'm alive?  
Can anyone still tell my heart is beating?  
I can hear a voice, they call my name  
I feel the touch of warm embrace  
I'm lifted up and now I know I'm safe

Chorus (x3):



**CROSSROADS**

ランゲージスタジオ  
英会話スクール

〒790-0004 松山市大街道  
2丁目1-3 2F, 3F



Phone: 0120-21-7594

Tel: (089) 921-7595

Fax: (089) 921-7319

E-mail: [info@crossroadsco.com](mailto:info@crossroadsco.com)

Web Site: [www.crossroadsco.com](http://www.crossroadsco.com)

