

Peterson Personals

December, 2006

Christmas Celebrations

Once again it is time to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. In Japan that means numerous unique opportunities to share the gospel. On December 16th we held our annual kids' Christmas event at the Yoshioka church and welcomed over 60 children and close to 30 parents into our small worship center. Most of the kids who came are either members of the kids' gospel choir (see photo) that practices at our church, or kids who come to the church for weekly English lessons. There were also a handful of neighborhood kids. They all heard a clear presentation of the Christmas story and had tons of fun in the process. Please pray with us that the seeds of truth sown in their hearts will bear fruit.



Since Christmas day falls on a Monday we are moving everything up one day. Christmas worship will be on the 24th and the Christmas Eve candle light service will be on the 23rd. This is a time when many family members and friends who don't attend worship are likely to come. Please pray for a work of the Spirit upon their hearts.



Church News

On December 3rd four members of the denomination's personnel committee visited the Yoshioka church and met with our congregation to talk about the future and the pastoral search process. Our prayer is that God would provide a suitable Japanese pastor to take over Jim's task of pastoring some time within the next year or two.

Mr. Fukuda is in the process of doing baptism prep classes. We are hoping for a baptism at Easter. Please pray that all efforts by the evil one to keep him from fully giving his life to Christ would be held in check by the power of the Spirit. Please also keep Mrs. Hoshino in your prayers. She has been attending a bible study/reading group at church for close to two years and is very close to giving her life to Christ but has many factors at home that hold her back.

In November a new gospel choir for adults began practicing at our church (see photo). As you may know, gospel music was a big part of our church ministry in the past, and the members were thrilled to see that door open again. We practice on Wednesday nights and so far we have been welcoming about 10-15 people each week. They are all non-believers! Please pray with us!



School's Out

That's right! It's vacation time for Hydi and the kids. But by the second week of January they'll be

back at it. Pray especially for Hydi as she has been asked to temporarily teach all of the high school biology classes for a few weeks until a new teacher arrives. That means having someone else take all of her P.E. and health classes during that period and gearing up for a subject that she is certified to teach, but has never actually done it.

Kids' News



During the fall Kendra played on the middle school volleyball team and did well. Miles was on the high school varsity tennis team and was undefeated in the league at the 1st singles position, capping it off with a 1st place finish at the season end league tournament. Another high light was that they got to travel to Hong Kong for a mid-season tournament. Hydi was his coach! Eli is in the 5th grade, which makes him one of the “big guys” in the elementary. He is very eager to reach middle school so he can take part in organized sports.



During the winter season Kendra is playing middle school field hockey. They only practice once a week so she has plenty of time for friends. Miles was fortunate enough to make the high school boys' varsity basketball team and so far they have 6 wins and 1 loss. Eli is gearing up for a big project that every 5th grader does, called an ISP (independent study project). It is a big part of graduating from elementary and takes a lot of work.



Prayer Requests

- Please pray for all the special Christmas activities at our church
- Please pray for Mr. Fukuda and Mrs. Hoshino
- Please pray for the gospel choir ministry
- Please pray for the pastoral search process for the Yoshioka church
- Please pray for Hydi as she teaches a new subject
- Please pray for the kids' physical and spiritual health and growth amidst busy schedules

Your faithful prayers and generous support are a constant source of encouragement and a blessing to us. We count it a privilege to be a part of your team.

In Christ,

Jim, Hydi, Miles, Kendra and Eli Peterson