# Notes From Jim & Hydi

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#### In This Issue

Connecting with Churches Hydi in Arizona Returning to Japan Family News

#### **Quick Links**

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# **Dear Partners in Ministry**

In our last newsletter we had just begun our six month stay in Colorado Springs. In this issue we'll update you on how that time has been going and let you know about exciting things happening in Japan as we prepare to return. Our more observant readers may notice a slightly different look to this issue of our newsletter. We have switched to a new group mailing service. If you are reading this, rest assured that your subscription has successfully been transferred to the new system.

## Connecting With our Partners

Our time in the U.S. has provided lots of opportunities to connect with churches and individuals who support the work in Japan with their prayers and gifts. Jim has done most of the travelling, passing thru the midwest states of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan in November. In January Jim and Hydi went to Nebraska, and then Jim visited Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin in late January and February. Later in February Jim was in California and then in March it was Washington. In the in-between times Jim and Hydi were able to visit several Colorado churches. We relish these chances to visit with our ministry partners because we want you all to know how grateful we are for your support, and because there is much to report about the Kingdom work in Japan.

## **International Sports Ministries**

Many of you know that Hydi is very active in sports ministries in Japan. This month we have seen that ministry leading to connections that span the Pacific Ocean. A group of Japanese women tennis players responded to Hydi's invitation and made a trip to the U.S. Their destination was Arizona, where they played in an amateur tennis tournament, got to experience a bit of American life, and shared their own culture with new found friends. At the conclusion of the tournament they traveled to California to watch a professional tournament in Indian Wells. Hydi was their host, driver, interpreter and facilitator and reports that it was a wonderful chance to get to know these ladies better. Soon she will be back in Japan and a reunion party at our camp is already being planned.



#### Heading Back to Japan

Jim will return to Japan on March 30th since the new school year at the Covenant Seminary begins the first week of April. Once again Jim will be teaching a homiletics class (preaching) and a course on pietism (church history). Hydi will follow about six weeks later so she can attend our daughter Kendra's college graduation in San Diego. Camps are already scheduled for late April, May, July and August and many more will be added to the schedule as the dates get closer. Jim will also jump back into a busy preaching schedule as soon as he gets back. We are particularly excited to be welcoming two new pastors into our Covenant family in Japan. Shimon Seino and his wife have been working very closely with us at Akagi Bible Camp during the busy summer season, running the kitchen. We were thrilled to hear that Shimon has accepted a call to the Maebashi Covenant Church, which is just down the hill from camp. Hiro Ochiai has accepted a call to the Meguro Covenant Church in Tokyo. Jim enjoyed having both Shimon and Hiro in his classes at the Covenant Seminary and they were in the class that just graduated earlier this month. We've been praying for more young pastors in the Japan Covenant and God has answered those prayers!



Shimon (back row center) and Hiro (back row right) with the Covenant seminary 2016 graduates.

## **Family News**

Our time in the U.S. has been meaningful from a family perspective. We have been living with Hydi's parents in Colorado Springs and helping care for Hydi's mother who is not well. We thank God for the chance to be with them. But now we are looking forward to getting back to our home on Mt. Akagi! We also enjoyed having Kendra and Eli with us in Colorado over the Christmas break. Kendra is in her last semester at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego and is hoping to move to Seattle right after graduation. Please pray that she will be able to find a place to live and a job without too much trouble. Eli is in his second year at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah. He is having quite an adventure, living in a home made camper truck, taking all his classes online this semester and spending lots of time rock climbing and hiking. You can follow his adventures <u>on YouTube</u>. Miles and his wife Miho are living and working in Japan and will have their official wedding ceremony on July 2nd at Lake Nojiri in Nagano since they never had a chance to hold a ceremony last summer when they actually got married.





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