

Notes From Jim & Hydi

November 2016 Mt. Akagi, Gunma, Japan

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Dear Partners in Ministry

Summer has come and gone. We had a great camping season spanning from April thru October. Jim's semester at the Covenant Seminary went well, Hydi's sports ministries continue to provide opportunities to share the love of Christ with many friends and almost weekly preaching keeps Jim closely involved in multiple local churches. The fall colors have also come and gone here on top of Mt. Akagi and now we are eagerly awaiting the arrival of winter, when the ground is white, the lakes are frozen and the happiest sound in our home is the crackling fire in the wood stove. Won't you take a moment to read about some of the most significant events in our last several months.

Please know that your prayers and gifts are deeply appreciated. We are so grateful for faithful ministry partners like you!

Camp Ministries

Our first camp event was in late April. The peak of our season was late July and early August. Our last group was at the end of October. We hosted a total of nineteen camps this season and thank God for a steady increase in usership over the past three seasons. Two of our biggest groups were Covenant camps; the young family camp in late July and the Covenant Refreshing Camp in mid-August. A couple of small improvements in our facility this season included the clearing of three tenting sites for those who want to get a little closer to nature, and the addition of a small zip-line which proved to be hugely popular with the kids (and a few of us adults as well). We also added a big new BBQ pit and outdoor kitchen corner. Thanks to our wonderful camp board members who helped install and set up these new improvements. This winter we are planning a new event. In February we will be holding a snow-shoe winter camp, which will be the first time to hold a winter camp here in many years.

Please pray that God will continue to bless and use the ministries of Akagi Bible Camp.



Sports Ministries

The summer and fall have brought many opportunities to engage with people on the trails, roads and tennis courts. Hydi was able to serve as interpreter and encourager for two major trail runs in the local mountains and has already been asked to please come back next summer. It is such a blessing to have the opportunity to deepen relationships with so many people through our common love of the mountains. One tennis ministry highlight for Hydi was being selected to represent Gunma Prefecture in the National Master's Tournament which was held in Northern Japan. The Gunma team consisted of 5 men and 5 women all over the age of 45. We shared meals together and a 7 hour drive to the site as well as 3 fun filled days on the tennis courts playing against teams from other prefectures and a team from Korea. Please pray with us that the seeds planted through these opportunities will bear fruit for the Kingdom of God.



Covenant Seminary

Jim spent Thursday and Friday in Tokyo each week teaching at the Covenant Seminary. His classes are a preaching class and a church history class that focuses on the Pietistic Movement, a major element in the history of the Covenant and many other evangelical groups. Students at the Covenant Seminary cover an unusually wide range of ages; with the youngest in their twenties and the oldest in their seventies. The fact that night classes are offered makes it ideal for people with day jobs. Every year it is such an inspiration to see these people complete their studies and go out into leadership roles in churches across Japan and beyond. Please pray that God will continue to use this school as a training ground for raising up the next generation of leaders for the church in Japan.



Jim's preaching class enjoying guest lecturer, Katsuki Hirano.

Family News



The picture probably says it all! The big new for our family was the marriage of our son Miles and his lovely wife Miho on July 2nd. We were especially thrilled because our younger two kids were able to get time off work and celebrate with us. It was our first time to be together in a few years, and while our time was short it was beautiful and memorable. Miles and Miho are living in Japan, about three to four hours from where we live and we get to see them frequently. The other big news was that Kendra graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University in May, moved to Seattle and is working there as a professional photographer! Eli is in his third year of college majoring in emergency response and administration, as well as working as a wild-land fire fighter during summers. Miles is a backcountry ski guide in the winter, mountain climbing guide in the summer and various other jobs in between seasons.

The next major family event marks another significant milestone, but one that was tinged with sadness amidst the underlying celebration of new life. On October 11th Hydi's mother, Edith Mitchell Buss, finished her journey on this earth and proceeded to greater things! Her last several years were marked by repeated bouts of cancer in various parts of her body, but she faithfully kept her eyes on Jesus thru it all, and enjoyed nothing more than praying for others! Hydi was able to make a quick trip back to Colorado just days before she passed away and had a chance to connect one last time. Hydi's father, Siegfried, faces the biggest challenge in adjusting to the new reality after sixty-one years of married life. Please remember him in your prayers.



Thank you for your thoughts, your prayers and your gifts. We treasure our partnership with you.

In Christ,

Jim and Hydi Peterson



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