

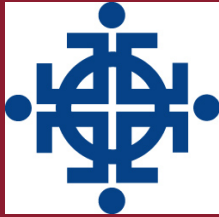
Notes from Jim and Hydi

Tokyo, Japan

November, 2013

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Dear Partners in Ministry,

As we pause to give thanks for our many blessings, you our partners in ministry come to mind. We are so thankful for all that you do to make the ministry here in Japan possible. Your prayers and your gifts serve a crucial role in what God is doing here in Japan, so allow us to take this opportunity to simply say, Thank You!

A Bright Future

Seminary News

The semester at the Covenant Seminary ended in early October and Jim is happy to report that this was the sharpest group of students he's ever had in eleven years of teaching there. In particular the preaching class was exciting, watching these very capable men and women deepen their understanding and practice of proclaiming God's Word. We are thankful that God is raising up this new generation of gifted leaders to serve the body of Jesus Christ here in Japan.

Ministries of Compassion

Covenant World Relief Conference in India

In a few days Jim will be leaving for six days in India. He will be attending a gathering of Covenant World Relief partners in Asia. The event will take place in Pune, India, home of the Hindustani Covenant Church. Jim will attend with two other delegates from the Japan Covenant Church, Pastor Watanabe who oversees the relief work in Tohoku, and Paula Chen, a missionary to Japan from the Taiwan Covenant Church, and the one who is largely responsible for getting the Tohoku relief ministries up and running in the days and weeks immediately after the 3.11 disaster. This conference will provide a time for people involved in relief ministries to share, reflect and learn more about how God is using the church to carry out works of justice, mercy and compassion. We thank God for the crucial role of Covenant World Relief in making all of this possible!

Big Changes...

Considering a move

We are prayerfully considering a major change in our location and ministries. The plan we are currently working on would involve moving back to Gunma Prefecture, where we lived from 1995 to 2004. Now that our kids are no longer in school here in Tokyo it feels like God is opening the door for us to return. While Jim would continue to commute into Tokyo to teach at the seminary once a week, the main focus of our ministry would be living at and taking care of our Covenant camping facility, [Akaqi Bible Camp](#). We see this as a wonderful opportunity to serve a crucial role in the ministries of the Japan Covenant Church, and believe that it will be a good way to continue and expand sports and preaching ministries. Please pray that God will open the doors for this big change and make His will clear.

The Growing Team

New Missionaries

In our last letter we told you about some new missionaries joining our team. We give thanks for the safe arrival of Stephen and Soo Bay and Grant and Miho Buchholtz. Both families arrived in Japan this past summer and have made good adjustments to life and ministry. The Bays are stationed in Ofunato, a coastal city in Iwate Prefecture that was devastated by the 3.11 tsunami. In fact they are living in an apartment building that was recently built on land where the previous homes were destroyed on March 11, 2011. They are doing relief ministries in cooperation with the 3.11 Iwate Church Network. The Buchholtz family previously spent two years here at short term missionaries and now have returned as long term missionaries. They are living near us in Higashi-kurume, a western suburb of Tokyo and are serving at Kurume Bible Fellowship in preparation for a church plant some time next year. We thank God for these new co-workers and are happy to report that we expect two more couples to arrive next summer!

Earlier this month we had our annual missionary conference, a time when we gather for fellowship, worship, reflection on the past year and planning for the coming year. We felt a strong sense of God's direction as we spent time with this growing team of Covenant co-workers.



Impacting Young Lives

Hydi at Christian Academy in Japan

Hydi is once again teaching physical education and coaching at CAJ. Earlier in November we took a group of high school seniors up to the mountains of Nagano and Niigata prefectures and introduced them to high mountain hiking.



Finding Common Ground

Hydi's Sports Ministries

God continues to provide opportunities for Hydi to reach people thru sports. Meeting people on the tennis courts, on running trails, and at the local health club serves as the starting point for many friendships with Japanese people, most of whom know very little about the Good News we seek to share and proclaim. This fall Hydi has seen those friendships lead to a weekly English class with three women, opportunities to take sports-friends to Sunday worship and special Christmas events at local churches. Please pray that God will continue to bless and use these friendships.



A Special Request

The difficult economic times we live in are a fact of life. And so it isn't a complete surprise to see that giving levels among our ministry partners have dropped a bit. For the past couple of years our support has fallen just short of 90%, but we are praying that this will be no more than a momentary glitch. Today, as you

reflect on giving thanks to God for his abundant blessings, we want to humbly request that you consider making an increase in your regular giving, or make a special one time gift toward our ministries. The Covenant has made it very easy to make [online gifts at this site](#).

Or you can send checks to the following;

ECC, Dept. of World Mission
8303 West Higgins Road
Chicago, Illinois 60631

Once again, thank you! Thank you for all you do in partnership with us. God is at work in Japan and we feel blessed to have a small part in this Kingdom work! Without your partnership we would not be here. Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Jim and Hydi Peterson

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