

# PETERSON PERSONALS

Notes from Gunma

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## Welcoming Winter

Our long fall has come to an end. The leaves are almost all on the ground and the mountains that surround us are beginning to show traces of white. Temperatures are dropping and the notorious winter wind is beginning to blow.



## Gatherings and Celebrations

It seems like we have had more than our share of important gatherings and celebrations over the last month or two. We thank God for bringing people together on these occasions.



- On October 8<sup>th</sup> we celebrated with the Shibukawa Covenant Church on the dedication of their new sanctuary.
- On October 28-30<sup>th</sup> Jim gathered with our denominational pastors for a time of prayer and discussion regarding long range planning.
- On November 9-11<sup>th</sup> Jim traveled to Thailand to meet with other Covenant Missionary Country Coordinators from Asia and Jim Gustafson.
- On November 16-19<sup>th</sup> all of the Covenant missionaries here in Japan gathered for our annual conference and welcomed Cathy Barsotti who lead us in a long range planning workshop.
- On November 20-22<sup>nd</sup> the second Asia Covenant Church Consultation was held here in Japan. Participants came from Taiwan, Thailand, Laos, India, Bangladesh, U.S.A. and Japan.
- On November 23<sup>rd</sup> the Nihon Seikei Kirisuto Kyodan, (Japan Covenant) celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It was a fabulous time of thanksgiving for all that God has done.

## Celebrating the Christ child



We look forward to the Christmas season for many reasons. Above all we are eager to celebrate the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. This year we will have a couple of special events through which we hope to share the Good News of the Christmas message with many who have yet to receive the Gift. On December 11<sup>th</sup> Hydi will be having a Christmas party for

her English class students. On December 20<sup>th</sup> she will be hosting a Christmas party for her tennis friends. Both parties will be held in our home and we hope they will provide the opportunity to share the greatest story of all.

On December 22<sup>nd</sup> we will hold our annual Children's Christmas Meeting at church. We expect over 100 children to come and hear about the "Reason for the Season".

On December 23<sup>rd</sup> we will have our Christmas worship service at church followed by a meal together. This is typically a day when we have many visitors.

## Church News



In our last letter we mentioned the several men who had started coming to church during the summer. Mr. Katsuta has continued to attend worship very faithfully and we sense God at work in his life. Mr. Ishii has also continued to worship with us fairly frequently. We pray that Christ will become a life changing reality in their hearts. We continue to pray for Mr. Takayama and Mr. Kimura who seem to have withdrawn.

Recently our fellow missionary, Tim Johnson, has been coming to Yoshioka once a month to lead us in music during our worship. His presence is a wonderful gift to our small group and we thank God for him.

## Family News



Eli has begun practicing for the annual kindergarten Christmas pageant. It looks like he may get the "Joseph" part this year!

In November Hydi went to Tokyo to play in a national tennis tournament. She and her partner were one of three pairs representing Gunma (our prefecture). They made it to the quarter finals and had a blast in the process.

Jim's parents were in Japan for a couple of weeks for the NSKK 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. They stayed with us for a week and it was great to reconnect with them!

## Please Pray

- Hydi's Christmas parties in December
- The Children's Christmas Gathering on Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>
- The many people whom we invite to these meetings
- Mr. Katsuta and Mr. Ishii (that they might know Christ)



In Christ,  
Jim, Hydi, Miles, Kendra & Eli