

Notes from Jim and Hydi

Tokyo, Japan

April, 2014

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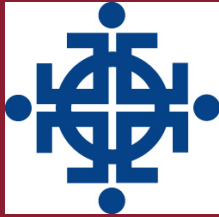
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Dear Partners in Ministry,

Spring is in the air! Temperatures are rising, fragrant flowers grace our neighborhood, and song birds perform with glee. We are seeing new beginnings in our work as well. Please take a moment to read the latest news about ministry here in Japan. We wouldn't be here without your prayers and generous support so we want to thank you and let you know how God is answering your prayers and using your gifts.

A New Place of Worship

Grace Mission Church

We have asked you to pray with us as Grace Mission Church has been looking for a new place to worship. God has answered those prayers and provided a wonderful place that fits our limited budget and gives us far more space than we had before. We are renting the second floor of a four story building. The first floor houses a post office and the owner lives on the third and fourth floor. Renovations have been completed and we moved everything to the new place on March 30th after the morning worship. April 6th will be the first Sunday worship at the new location.



Posing for a group shot after the move!

Moving Back to Gunma

New Ministries

In our last newsletter we talked about the possibility of moving to Gunma and living at Akagi Bible Camp. The Covenant Missionary Committee and the Japan Covenant Church have concurred and so now its official! We will be moving in late June. Summer camps start in late July so we will have a busy month moving and getting the facility ready. Jim will continue to commute in to Tokyo to teach at the seminary on Thursday evenings and

Friday mornings. Sundays will be a time for Jim to travel to various churches to preach and do a little P.R. for the camp. We hope to expand the ministries of the camp in ways that meld with our gifts and passions. Please pray for a smooth transition as we come to the end of our ten years in Tokyo.



Akagi Selfie during a recent trip



Checking out our new livingroom

Celebrations and New Beginnings

Covenant Seminary Graduation and Entrance Ceremonies

On March 17th the Covenant Seminary celebrated its 61st Commencement Ceremonies, graduating eleven very gifted and capable students, all of whom will be going into full time ministries.



Two weeks later, on April 1st we celebrated the 2014 entrance ceremony for the incoming students. We welcomed nineteen students in three categories. Six are entering as full-time students, six more as auditors, and seven are moving from auditor status to full-time students. We praise God for calling these people into ministry and allowing the Covenant seminary to have a part in their preparations.



Retreat and Recharge

Pausing to Listen and Reflect

In late March we had our annual Covenant Missionary Spring Retreat in the mountain town of Karuizawa. We were blessed by the time to relax together, and enriched by our special speaker Rick Mylander and his wife Gail. Rick is the Associate Superintendent of the ECC Midwest Conference and a good friend of several of us so it was great fun to have them with us for several days.



Our Mission Family in Karuizawa

During the first week of May the Japan Covenant will be holding the annual Covenant Refreshing Camp in yet another mountain town called Hakone. Folks from all of our churches will be coming together for several days of fun, fellowship, praise and learning. Please pray that it will be an encouragement since so many of our Japanese brothers and sisters rarely get to be in large groups of fellow believers.

Running the Good (long) Race

Hydi's Sports Ministries

On February 23rd Hydi participated in and completed the Tokyo Marathon, along with 36,000 other runners! It was her second time to run a full marathon and her first time in the prestigious Tokyo Marathon. She was blessed with new friendships and contacts during the months of training as well as on race day.



Now that the marathon is over Hydi is playing a lot more tennis. In her first post-marathon tournament she and her partner Keiko (who is from Gunma) qualified to represent Gunma Prefecture in an upcoming four prefecture tournament. It will be held in Koriyama city, Fukushima prefecture. This will be the first time Hydi has traveled to Tohoku (North Eastern Japan) for tennis, and we don't think it is coincidental at all that this is where Jim has gone so many times for post-tsunami relief ministries. Please pray that it will be a chance for Hydi to reflect the joy of Christ on and off the court.

Family Milestones

Upcoming Graduations

Hydi will be making a short trip to the U.S. in May to attend graduation ceremonies for both of our boys. Miles will be graduating from Western State University in Gunnison, CO and ten days later Eli will graduate from Doherty High School in Colorado Springs, CO. It looks like Miles will be taking a one year break before going to graduate school, and chances are that he will be coming to Japan to work during that time. Eli plans to attend Utah Valley University where he hopes to study emergency services and fire science. We are hoping to have all three kids back in Japan during the summer break, although Hydi and I will be busy with camp ministries. In the fall Kendra is planning to be in Bangalore, India participating in an exchange program between Pt. Loma and Christ University.

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. In 2013 our support level dropped below 80% for the first time. As we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, 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 as a way of helping us share the Good News. 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.

Sincerely,

Jim and Hydi Peterson

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