

Notes From Jim & Hydi

December 2016 Mt. Akagi, Gunma, Japan

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Dear Partners in Ministry

Greetings from the snow covered mountains of Japan. We hope you had a blessed Christmas, celebrating the Good News that brings light to even the darkest places. 2016 is coming to a close, so we wanted to thank you for all you have done to make this another great year for us here in Japan.

Christmas Celebrations

We had the opportunity to celebrate Christ's birth in several different locations this season. Jim preached at four different churches during the Advent season, seeking to focus minds, hearts and hands on the call to serve faithfully while expectantly waiting for Christ's return. On December 14th Jim enjoyed a Christmas meal with members of a bible study group from the Iseaki Covenant Church. Jim leads this study once a month.



Isesaki Bible Study Group

On December 23rd Jim and Hydi visited the Nagaoka Covenant Church for their candle light Christmas celebration, on our way to Nagano where we are spending some time with our son Miles and his wife Miho.



At Nagaoka with Pastor Makoto Hiyoshi and his wife Kinko

On December 24th we celebrated at our cabin where Miles and Miho are currently living. First we welcomed a group of more

than twenty carolers, sharing hot cocoa and cookies.



The carolers bring joyful sounds to our cabin

Then we enjoyed Christmas dinner with Miles, Miho and her parents who were visiting from nearby Toyama Prefecture. The menu highlight was a BBQ venison roast! After dinner we read the Christmas story from Luke's gospel and exchanged presents. This was our first opportunity to spend time with Miho's parents since the wedding and it was their first experience of a "Christ-centered" Christmas celebration, so we were delighted to have them with us.



Christmas with family

Christmas came on a Sunday this year which meant preaching for Jim. Early Sunday morning he made the three hour drive to Saitama where he preached at the Kawagoe Evangelical Free Church and then drove back to Nagano in time for a Christmas party with local friends of Miles and Miho. It was a wonderful series of celebrations and we just pray that the light of Christ will shine brightly for those who find themselves in dark places!

Sports Ministries

During the winter months Hydi's sports ministries often include officiating basketball games, mostly in the Tokyo area.

This December she made three trips to Tokyo and is scheduled to make more in January and February but she has had a bit of a set back. At our last mission prayer day, Hydi mentioned that it might be time to scale back a bit on physically tasking events and was considering making tennis outreach more of a priority in the new year. The day after running a 16km trail race with friends she had to default from a tennis tournament mid-match due to severe pain in her right knee, a humbling and first time experience. Please pray with us for complete healing and wisdom.



Hydi in a 5-hour team relay fun-run, made the cover of a small town monthly magazine.

Family News

Once again our family was spread out across the globe as we enjoyed the holidays. Eli is in his final year of school at Utah Valley University in Orem, UT. He spent the holidays with friends and family, visiting Arizona and Colorado. He is particularly happy to have been given a spot on an elite "hot shots" crew with whom he will be fighting wild fires next summer. Kendra is in Seattle, working full time for a local photography studio and quickly becoming much more knowledgeable and experienced in photography.

than her father! As mentioned above, Miles is here in Japan with his wife Miho. He is working the winter months as a back country ski tour guide and loving it! This was Hydi's father Siegfried's first Christmas since saying goodbye to his wife of 61 years, Edith. Fortunately he was able to travel to California to be with extended family and is now safely back in Colorado.



Christmas is a time when we are reminded of the greatest gift of all. We also reflect on the past year and want to thank all of you for your generous gifts and faithful prayers which are what make it possible for us to serve here in Japan. In particular this year we were blessed with two new supporting churches, Inversion Covenant Church in Littleton, CO and Shoreline Covenant Church in Shoreline, WA. Whether you are supporting us as an individual or thru your church, we greatly appreciate our partnership with you in ministry.

In Christ,

Jim and Hydi Peterson



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