

# Notes From Jim & Hydi

October 2017, Mt. Akagi, Gunma, Japan

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## Dear Partners in Ministry

Greetings from Mt. Akagi, where autumn colors have cloaked the mountain in hues of red, orange and yellow. Summer is over and now we get to enjoy the quiet months here at Akagi Bible Camp. We have lots of good news to share with you as we reflect on the last several months of ministry.

## Summer Camps

We had another great camping season here at Akagi Bible Camp. Our first group arrived at the end of April when night time lows were still below freezing. July and August were peak season here, with twelve camps held. We have continued to host camps and welcome guests in September and October and will have our final group in the first week of November. Our average group size is twenty-five campers and this year for the first time we were actually able to host two groups at the same time. Our average camper age this year was about twenty-five as well, but that is because we have all kinds of guests. Many families with young children as well as church groups made up of mostly mature adults. We love our repeat guests who we get to know better and better each year, including one orphanage that has become a regular but this year we were also able to welcome four new groups. One of these new churches loved it so much when they came in August that they booked another camp this November! We are grateful and thank God for protection upon us and our campers this season. Not one illness or trip to the hospital! Thanks for your prayers!



This camp was a group of Indians from an international church in Tokyo.



Archery was a big hit with this group!







That's one of our campers, running in the Akagi Marathon. This camp was designed to coincide with the race and all of our participants were also competing in the run.

## Sports Ministries



Hydi and her Gunma teammates, headed to the national tournament!

2017 has presented Hydi with many opportunities for sports in Gunma prefecture and beyond. Our prayer is that each of these events and the friendships built through them will draw Japanese athletes into the Kingdom of God. One of Hydi's goals and dreams for this year was to qualify for the national ladies doubles tournament as one of the three pairs representing Gunma Prefecture. She cut back on mountain climbing and running in general in order to save her knees for the qualifying tournament which took place the first week of September. In order to stay in shape she trained for and competed in two olympic distance triathlons in July- and to her surprised she found herself on the podium in her age group at both events.





Post-run, on the podium.

Hydi considers these podium finishes miracles and gifts from God. They also make her very visible as she is usually one of very few foreigners at these events. To read all about "the miracle" of her and her doubles partner winning the qualifying tournament take a peek at [Hydi's sports blog](#). Other highlights include a friend asking if Hydi might have a spare bible to lend her daughter who expressed an interest in reading it. She has recently made a card to hand to friends inviting them to consider reading the bible together. Please pray with us for many hearts to be open to the good news of the gospel through these sports activities.

## Preaching and Teaching

From April thru September Jim goes into Tokyo every week on Thursday and Friday to teach at the Covenant Seminary. This year Jim had a very sharp group of students in both of his classes (Preaching & Pietism) and it will be a joy to see them go into full time ministry in the next year or two.





### This year's preaching class

Three or four times a month Jim receives invitations to preach in local churches. Some are very small, some are quite big, some are Covenant churches, some are not, some are monthly invitations, others only come once in a great while. But thru it all Jim is continually energized to proclaim God's word to these congregations in ways that are life giving and conducive to encounters with the living Christ.



Jim preaching at a lovely church in a remote mountain village in Gunma Prefecture.

### Family News

While we haven't been together as a family for over a year, we were blessed to spend time with each of our kids in the last several months. In February our youngest, Eli came to Japan for an entire month. He was in his final semester of college and all of his classes were online so he suddenly decided to come home for a month. We loved having him here and he seemed to have a good time as well. He has since graduated from Utah Valley University and has been working on a hot-shot crew as a wildland firefighter for the past several months. This is his third season in that line of work.



Jim and Eli enjoying some winter mountain climbing in February



In July Kendra made a quick trip back home and was with us for a week. It was short but sweet! Her job in Seattle doesn't allow for long vacations but we were happy to have her with us, even for a short while. Meanwhile she is flourishing in her work as a professional portrait photographer and continues to live her convictions thru extensive involvement in political and social activism.



Good times with Kendra

Our eldest child, Miles, is the only one living in Japan. He and his wife Miho are about three and a half hours away from us in Nagano Prefecture. We get to see them at least once a month. Miles works as a back-country ski guide in the winter and a climbing guide on Mt. Fuji in the summer. In the shoulder seasons he has been working at a fisheries research lab in Nagano. The big news is that he was recently accepted in a graduate program at Shinshu University. Next April he will begin work on a masters degree in fisheries, which was his original plan right after college, but which got temporarily put on hold by various circumstances.



Miles and Hydi enjoying a bike ride in Nagano

It has been too long since our last newsletter and for that we offer our sincere apologies. But what we want to convey to all of you is that God is hearing your prayers for us and richly blessing us in ministry and life. We are continually amazed and humbled by your commitment to faithful prayer and generous giving towards our ministry. Just this month we were particularly blessed to receive news of yet another church joining our support team. We offer a heartfelt welcome to Alexandria Covenant Church in Alexandria, MN.



In Christ,  
Jim and Hydi Peterson



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