

# February, 2018

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## Notes From Jim & Hydi

*February 2018 Mt. Akagi, Gunma, Japan*

### In This Issue

[Family](#)  
[Sports Ministries](#)  
[Other Ministry](#)



[Evangelical Covenant Church](#)



### Dear Partners in Ministry

Greetings from snow-covered Mt. Akagi. We deeply appreciate your ongoing prayers and support. The past couple months have been very unusual for us, so we want to bring you up to date and ask for your continued prayers.

## Family News

In our last newsletter we asked for your prayers as Hydi went to visit her father in Colorado Springs. He is dealing with advancing dementia and it was clear to all of us that he was no longer able to live alone. After consulting with her sisters, it was decided that Hydi would bring Siegfried back to Japan to spend the winter with us. After a stop in California to celebrate Christmas with his siblings and their families, Hydi and her father arrived back in Japan on December 28th. It was his first time back in over ten years but Japan is where he was born, where he grew up, and where he spent his entire career as a missionary. This is his home, and

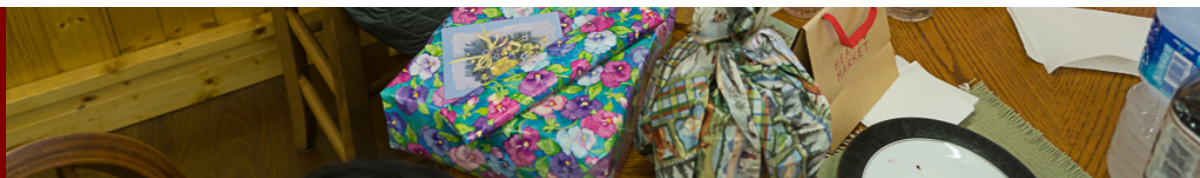
we were confident that this was the right move. Living together for the past two months has been quite an experience for all of us. His dementia is quite advanced and much of the time he is unable to distinguish reality from the many worries and fears that constantly plague him. In some ways we would enjoy having him stay here longer, but we also realize that he needs specialized care that we are not able to give. His stay in Japan is also limited by legal factors, as his temporary visa only allows for ninety days. All efforts to extend his period of stay have been exhausted and proved unsuccessful. So now we are moving to the next chapter. On March 5th we will be taking him back to Colorado, where he will move into a beautiful facility that offers specialized care in their memory-care unit. Hydi's sister lives nearby and will be keeping a close watch on him as we and many others continue to support him in prayer, from a distance. We especially want to ask for your prayers for the upcoming journey on March 5th. When we try to go places with him he frequently refuses to cooperate, so we are apprehensive about the long journey back to Colorado, but don't have any options.



Enjoying the winter mountain scenes of Akagi with Siegfried







Celebrating Hydi's birthday!



Reunited with a childhood friend





Visiting with Siegfried's childhood caregiver who is now 97 years old!

Our second item of family news is an update on what we shared last time. Our daughter in law, Miho, is in her final trimester and expecting a baby boy in May. She has been staying with her parents during the winter, while Miles works the snowy peaks of Mt. Myoko as a back country ski guide. We appreciate your prayers as we all prepare for this wonderful addition to the family!



Miho meeting Grandpa for the first time. Soon she'll give birth to his first great grandchild!

## Sports Ministries

Even though caring for Hydi's father has required that one of us is always with him, our ministry opportunities have not taken a break so we have been blessed with ongoing chances to be light and salt in a variety of situations. Hydi has continued to connect with people thru sports, including tennis, basketball officiating, mountain climbing and snow shoeing.

The big news is that when we go to the U.S. on March 5th, Hydi will actually be fulfilling two roles. One as a caregiver for her father, and the other as a leader and host for a group of Japanese women tennis players. This is the fifth time that Hydi has organized such tours. They will be travelling to Arizona to play in an international tournament and then go to California to catch a bit of the Indian Wells professional tournament. None of the women travelling with Hydi know Jesus the way we do and our prayer is that this trip will given them new glimpses of the joy we have in Christ. They will be staying in homes of Christian friends most of the time. Once the tour is done Hydi will fly to Colorado Springs to spend another week or so with her dad, helping him get settled before returning to Japan.







The Gunma prefecture team is victorious against Tochigi prefecture at the Valentine Cup



Guiding new friends from Niigata prefecture to the summits on Mt Akagi







Snowshoeing the trails of Mt Akagi with a dear friend in a blizzard!

## Other Ministries

Jim has continued to preach in various churches thru the winter months, hopefully bringing God's Word to life in new ways for each congregation. In April the new school year at the Covenant Seminary begins, which means spending Thursday and Friday of each week in Tokyo, teaching a preaching class and a pietism class. God has blessed the Covenant Seminary in many ways, and this spring we look forward to welcoming a new Academic Dean, Dr. Kazuhiko Yamazaki-Ransom, one of Japan's foremost New Testament scholars! Camping ministries are pretty quiet at this time of year, but our calendar for Spring and Summer is already filling up quickly!







Akagi Bible Camp in the winter

Hydi was asked to be one of the facilitators this year at the Women's Conference, an interdenominational annual gathering of foreign women living in Japan. This year the theme was transitions, and Hydi enjoyed the opportunity to share with 60 women about God's faithfulness through the transitions our family has experience since my grandparents came to Japan in the 1920s.



WOMEN'S CONFERENCE FEB 2~4 2018 AMAGI SANSO

Now, more than ever, we are frequently made aware of God's presence in our everyday lives and the wall of prayer that surrounds and supports us. Thank you so much for your prayers and thoughts!

**In Christ,**  
Jim and Hydi Peterson





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