

Notes From Jim & Hydi

July 2019 Mt. Akagi, Gunma, Japan

In This Issue

[Camping](#)
[Teaching and](#)
[Preaching](#)
[Women's](#)
[Conference](#)
[Sports Ministries](#)
[Going to the U.S.](#)



Dear Partners in Ministry

Greetings from Mt. Akagi, home of the Akagi Bible Camp and home to Jim and Hydi! Rainy season has been dragging on forever but camping season doesn't wait the weather to change so we are in high gear, hosting camps thru the end of August. But we want to take a moment and bring you up to date on our activities over the past few months and ask for your continued prayers.



[Evangelical Covenant Church](#)

Camping Season

Before reporting on camps, we want to let you know about our ongoing renovation projects at camp. Last fall we laid new floors in the lounge and dining hall. During the winter months we worked on new pine walls. Once the snow melted we took delivery on a large order of new windows and have been installing those over the past few months. We also removed an old and broken furnace and lots of duct work in the dinning hall. In June we painted the roof of our second building and then in July we finally got a wood burning stove installed in the lounge. (Yes, it can get cold enough for a stove even in July on top of Mt. Akagi) We also have a couple of outside projects in progress. We are building a small cabin in the front yard and a gazebo in the back yard. We are extremely thankful for volunteers who work with us on these projects, and for the large offering from Covenant Camps that makes all this work possible. We aren't done yet but feel like we were able to get things to a presentable condition before the peak season.



Volunteers putting up the wall boards.



New windows and walls in the dining room.



Finishing the new chimney that passes thru the old fireplace chimney.



First fire! We still have some stone work left to do.

Moving on from renovations to camps, we had our first cluster of camps in late April and early May. It's a week-long holiday here in Japan and we hosted a work-camp to get ready, and then welcomed three back-to-back camps during the holidays.



Young adults camp in early May.

We welcomed two more groups later in May, had a couple of volunteer work-camps in June and then started the summer season in July. By the time we are done in early September, we will have hosted 28 camps this season!

Please pray that camp will be a place of rich encounters for our campers and staff. Please pray for safety, and that God would provide all the volunteer staff we need for the busy season.

Teaching and Preaching

Jim's classes at the Covenant Seminary started up again in April, which is the beginning of the school year here in Japan. The Pietism class is big this year with fourteen students. So far Jim has been quite impressed with the caliber of this group. As is common at the Covenant Seminary, ages range from fresh-out-of-college twenty-somethings to mid-sixties and everything in-between. The reason we have older students is because the Covenant Seminary offers night classes in addition to day classes. That way working people can study part-time as they prepare to transition into ministry at a later date. It makes for a great classroom experience with so much diversity in the student body. Jim's homiletics class is a smaller group of four this year but the smaller numbers actually lend themselves to that kind of class. Once again, this year's students show great promise! Please pray that God will continue to raise up gifted and committed leaders for the church in Japan, and please pray that Jim's teaching will be relevant, challenging and engaging.



Preaching class with a guest lecturer.



Jim continues to preach in local churches almost every week (with a bit of a break during the summer camping seasons). Living on top of Mt. Akagi means it's a long drive to any church. The closest ones are Covenant churches in nearby cities, Maebashi and Shibukawa at about 30km (19 miles). But that isn't just any 30km! To get down the mountain we have to navigate thru seventy-five curves on our mountain road and descend about 1,200 meters (4,000 feet) in altitude and that's just the first thirty minutes. Other churches Jim preaches at are further away, with the furthest taking 3-4 hours each way. Sometimes Jim preaches at one church in the morning and another one in the afternoon. Jim is genuinely thankful for the ongoing opportunities

to preach, where ever and when ever they may be. Please pray that God will bless each preaching engagement, and that God's word would be effectively given voice in ways that impact those who come to hear and praise God.



Preaching at the Isesaki Covenant Church

The Women's Conference 2019

In the winter of 2018 Hydi was one of the presenters for an annual gathering of English speaking ladies in Japan called the Women's Conference. It was started back in 1957 by an interdenominational group of missionaries and has continued ever since, welcoming all women who want to attend. In 2018 the theme was "changing with the seasons" and Hydi assisted in the organization and presentation about life transitions. This year we gathered together in a new venue and enjoyed a wonderful guest speaker from the United States, Veronica Daniels. Veronica and Hydi had become friends while she was living in Tokyo a few years ago, serving as school nurse at an international school. She was a Benedictine Sister for 40 years, as well as personal nurse for Mother Teresa in Washington, D.C., and in Calcutta in the last years of her life. Veronica shared from the Beatitudes in a fresh way during our amazing weekend at this year's venue, the Asian Rural Institute.



Hydi enjoyed leading two different hikes during the weekend conference. It was a wonderful way to reconnect with old friends and make new ones.



In 2020 the Women's Conference will again be hosting a guest speaker from the USA. This time

it will be our very own former Covenant Missionary to Japan, Andrea Johnson.

63RD ANNUAL
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 7-9, 2020
ASIAN RURAL
INSTITUTE

Seeing Love in Change



Join us, as we hear from speaker
Andrea Lundquist Johnson!

Sports Ministries

This spring and early summer have been very active times for Hydi. God has provided incredible opportunities to be with people in unique settings. In March, Hydi lead a group of 7 Japanese ladies to the USA for tennis and sightseeing. This time five of the ladies had been on the trip before, but wanted to repeat the experience and two were first timers. Everything went fairly smoothly, despite the fact that we all played in a 4 day team tennis tournament in Arizona, visited Sedona and the Grand Canyon, watched professional tennis for 2 days in Indian Wells, California, and then spent a few more days in Colorado Springs. The only major hiccup was that we were suppose to fly into the Denver airport right in the middle of the March Bomb Cyclone!



Opportunities for Hydi to volunteer at major trail races throughout central Japan continue. This year she was asked to be the translator for the first ever in Japan, Skyrunners World Series Race. Over 50 international world class runners, mostly from Europe and the Americas, made their way to a small village in Niigata, Japan and Hydi was able to be their language assistant for the long weekend of races.



Hydi with the race director and his wife as well as the mayor of Sanjo Town and his wife and daughter at the Mt Awa Sky Race <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imCsnRjEVDI>



In July Hydi has been able to compete in two triathlons. The first was held in Nagano, in the town where our son Miles and his family live. It was a gift to reconnect with many of the racers who she had not see in two years and to share the finish line experience with

our grandson for the first time.



It is always fun when our ministry worlds intersect. This year the Kiryu Runners Club spent a weekend at Akagi Bible Camp... it was an amazing way to deepen relationships and open doors for the kingdom of God to change lives.

Going To The U.S.A.

Hydi and Jim will once again be spending six months in the U.S. During that time we hope to visit and connect with as many of our supporters as possible. We will be based in Colorado Springs but will travel anywhere and everywhere possible. Our dates are October thru March. We definitely hope to see you! Soon we will begin working on our travel schedule so you will likely hear from us again.

Special Request

During our time in the U.S. we will need a car. Fortunately the ECC gives us some funds for that purpose, but buying a car, driving it for six months, and then selling it again can be a daunting process. So we want to reach out to you, our partners in ministry and ask for car help. Do you have an old car looking for a new home? Do you have a car that you could loan out for six months? We aren't necessarily asking for a freebie here... just help in finding a vehicle that will meet our needs and be within our budget. We would definitely be willing to go to where ever you are to pick up a car as well. If you have any good leads or information please don't hesitate to contact us by email at jim.peterson@covchurch.org

We hope you have a blessed and restful summer. We expect our summer to be full and rich. Our

deepest desire is that your prayers for us would be answered and that your gifts would be used by God as we see God's kingdom being built here in Japan. Thank you for partnering with us in ministry.

In Christ,

Jim and Hydi Peterson



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