



# Peterson Family News

## 2008 Highlights:

New Pastor for Yoshioka

Saying Goodbye

Life in Colorado

## Prayer Requests:

- \* The Yoshioka Church
- \* For guidance as we seek God's will for our next assignment when we return to Japan in July, '09.



Visit our blog at: <http://blogs.covchurch.org/wp/jhpeterson/>

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**Christmas 2008**

Miles, Kendra, Hydi, Eli and Jim

## Merry Christmas

As we pause to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ we are reminded of a couple of things. First, we live in a world of darkness and the past 12 months have been no exception. It is a blessing and yet an act of faith to really celebrate the Light that was revealed to all in the Christmas event. Second, it is

easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season. As fun as all the season's cheer may be, we pray that it will find its source in the good news of Jesus Christ, who came to shine the light of God's love amidst the darkness.

May your celebrations be filled with the joy of knowing and following the Savior.

## Yoshioka

You may have already heard the good news, but as of April 1, 2008 the Yoshioka Covenant Church welcomed Pastor Michiharu Sezai to their church. We had prayed for this day for several years and give thanks to God for providing vital leadership for that small congregation. Please continue to pray that they will be a shining witness to the town of Yoshioka. They are still the only Christian church in a town of 19,000 people.

## Saying Goodbye

We have been very fortunate to live in the same home for the past 4 years, ever since our move to Tokyo in 2004. But in preparation for a 1 year home assignment in the U.S. we sadly packed up our belongings and said farewell to the wonderful house that God had provided. Coming to the U.S. for a year also meant saying goodbye to friends, co-workers, students and even a pet rabbit.

As soon as we arrived in the U.S. we were faced with another farewell. On July 24<sup>th</sup> Jim's father, Leonard Peterson went to be with the Lord at the age of 79. His journey was a rich one and we thank God for every day that we had with him.

## Life in Colorado

We have been blessed by the generosity of Hydi's folks as they share their home with us here in Colorado Springs. The kids have made the transition to big, American public schools and are keeping busy with sports and studies. Hydi has been substitute teaching in local schools and recently also received accreditation as a basketball referee. Officiating jobs have filled many evenings. Jim has been travelling locally and around the country visiting Covenant churches to share the good news of what God is doing in Japan.

## Merry Christmas

Jim, Hydi, Miles, Kendra and Eli