

Greetings from Tokyo

May has been a busy and blessed month for us. I spent 6 days in Nashville attending the Festival of Homiletics. For detailed reports on that event please check out our blog at the following

URL: <http://blogs.covchurch.org/wp/jhpeteron/>

First let me bring you an encouraging report. On May 16th I had the privilege of preaching at one of our Covenant churches here in Tokyo called Grace Mission Church. This tiny congregation doesn't let small numbers discourage or distract. They have a long history of outreach ministries and currently they are preparing to send their pastor and his wife to Detroit for a 2 year short term mission where they will work with a Covenant church seeking to reach the large Japanese population associated with the auto industry. On the 16th right after worship we all piled into several cars for a quick drive to a neighboring church for a baptism. Grace Mission Church doesn't have a baptismal pool so we were borrowing one at another church. The Japanese man being baptized is about my age and has been married to a Christian woman from the Philippines for many years. But only recently has he finally opened his heart to Jesus and decided to give his life over. What a thrill it was to hear his powerful testimony. He is overflowing with energy and joy and just can't hold it in. After the baptism we all got in the cars for another short drive to the apartment complex where he and his wife live. There we had a party celebrating his baptism. What really made it cool was that in addition to the church folks, he invited a bunch of other friends and even co-workers. Most of them were just learning for the first time that he is a Christian and this was his way of celebrating and sharing his faith with them. As I sat there enjoying the party I couldn't help but think of Levi (Luke 5:27-32) and the party he held after giving his life to Jesus! Please pray for Mr. Hoshino and his wife as they begin their new journey, united in Christ!



Mr. Hoshino (center) and his wife (wearing the scarf), flanked on either side by Pastor and Ms. Miyamoto

Secondly, we want to ask for your prayers for a dear friend, Mari. Hydi and Mari have been playing tennis together for a few years now after a Spirit inspired first meeting in a local super market. This coming Sunday (May 30th) I will be preaching at a local church here in Higashikurume and Mari will be attending with Hydi for the first time! Please pray that God's Word and the experience of seeing the family of God at worship will have an impact on her.



Hydi and Mari showing their certificates (third place) after playing together in a tennis tournament recently.

On a personal note Eli graduates from Middle School and Miles graduates from High School next week! It's time to celebrate in the Peterson household!

Thank you for your prayers and support. We treasure your partnership in the building of God's kingdom here in Japan.

In Christ,

Jim, Hydi, Miles, Kendra and Eli