

Dear Friends in Ministry,

This email is intended for friends, supporters and partners in ministry of Hydi and Jim Peterson, ECC missionaries to Japan. In switching over from MS Outlook to Gmail it seems that our address book groups were not imported correctly so we are in the process of re-compiling our mailing list. If you have received this email in error please accept our apologies and delete it. If you wish to continue receiving news about our family and our ministry we would greatly appreciate a brief email response confirming that. We are sorry for the trouble.

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Greetings from our family. We are so thankful for your prayers and support and want to give you a short update on our lives and our work.

## Christmas in California

**W**e went to Southern California for Christmas vacation, visiting with lots of relatives on both sides of the family. It started with a 2 day drive from Colorado to California with a stop at the awe inspiring Grand Canyon. Once we got to California we had a full schedule of Christmas gatherings with Hydi's side of the family, time with Jim's mom and sisters and several trips to the beach! Miles is thinking about college and had the opportunity to visit 6 schools in the area, talking with coaches and administrators about fields of study and sports scholarships.

## Connecting with our Partners in Ministry

**J**im has been on the road, visiting churches around the country. January included a couple of stops in California at the tail end of our vacation and visits to churches in Colorado. February began with church visits in Indiana and Illinois before and after the mid-winter conference in Chicago and one more visit to a Colorado Springs church. March began with a trip to the Pacific Northwest where we have a concentration of 7 supporting churches and was followed by another visit to a Colorado Springs church. Connecting with our ministry partners is such a vital part of what we do here in the US and it continually reminds us of how amazingly fortunate we are to be a part of the Covenant family.

## A Week in Thailand

**A** few days after returning from the Covenant mid-winter conference in frigid Chicago Hydi and Jim headed in the opposite direction for a week in Thailand attending the Covenant Asia Missionary Conference in Chanthaburi. We were part of a group of over 70 who gathered for fellowship, learning, and worship. It was a time of encouragement and reconnecting with many co-workers. The near tropical climate was an amazing change from winter in the U.S.!

## On the Home Front

**A**t home in Colorado Springs the show never seems to stop, as we keep ourselves busy with the relentless schedule of kids' sports, school and much more. All three kids played basketball during the winter season. Eli was thrilled to be one of the very few 7th graders to make the A-team at his middle school. Kendra played on the undefeated C-squad at her high school! Miles played on the very strong varsity team at the same school and enjoyed winning their league and making it to the final 8 in the state tournament, eventually losing to the only undefeated team in the state. With little or no time to recover, they have already started spring sports. Eli is trying out for the golf team and playing club basketball, Kendra is on the varsity tennis team and Miles will be doing shot-put and discus on the track team. In the midst of all that busyness Hydi has been substitute teaching 3-4 days a week in local schools and reffing basketball games in the evenings several times a week.

## Preparing to Return to Japan

**W**e are already more than half way through our 1 year home assignment and giving a lot of thought to our return to Japan in July. The Covenant Missionary Committee has just recently sold one of our older mission houses and purchased another one very close to CAJ, the school our kids attend and where Hydi has been teaching, so it looks like that will be our new residence when we get back. We expect Jim's ministry at the Covenant Seminary and Tokyo Christian

University will continue, as well as Hydi's ministry at CAJ and her tennis outreach. We are currently in discussion with our Japanese Covenant co-workers about our new church ministries and looking forward to seeing what doors God will open as we return. We also look forward to seeking ways to reach out to the disenfranchised and disadvantaged people of Japan in Christ's name.

## Prayer Requests

**P**lease pray with us in the following areas:

- That God would bless the ongoing schedule of visits to Covenant churches here in the U.S.
- That our family would continue to experience God's grace and protection amidst our busy schedules and Jim's frequent absences as he travels
- That God's will and plan for our ministry in Japan upon our return would be made clear

Thanks again for your partnership in our work and the ministries of Jesus Christ in Japan.

In Christ,

Jim, Hydi, Miles, Kendra and Eli Peterson