

# Peterson Update

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reetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Lent is coming to a close and the celebration of Christ's victory over death is near. We hope this note finds you blessed and ready to receive anew the message of the cross. Two things have stood out for me this Lenten season. One is the brokenness of our world, and the other is the great number of people who are suffering. With regard to the first, I was reminded at our recent mission retreat that when we address the brokenness of the world, we must come in our own brokenness if we truly desire to see Christ's love at work. And with regard to the second, we are committed to reaching out to the suffering in Christ's name and yet I have been reminded that those visible acts never release us from the call to lift them up in prayer. In Phylis Tickle's pocket edition of The Divine Hours we are given the following petition:

*Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.*

While seeking to be the hands and feet of Christ, these words are the prayer of my heart.

**B**efore returning to Japan last summer we had extensive talks with national church leaders about our church ministry and one of the churches that repeatedly came up was Grace Mission Church. This small Covenant congregation in Tokyo is about to send their pastor and his wife to the U.S. for a two year short term ministry in Novi, MI, just outside Detroit. They will be working with the Christ Covenant Church in Novi, reaching out to the large Japanese population associated with the auto industry. Our role would be to join the ministry team at Grace Mission Church during their absence. The problem is that the U.S. immigration service is making the process of legally entering the United States almost entirely impossible. Countless hours have been spent on both sides of the ocean filing the proper documentation with the legal advice of expert lawyers and yet months and months have passed without so much as a word from immigration. Finally in recent weeks the process has started to move again and we are hopeful that by this summer Mr. and Mrs. Miyamoto will be able to begin their new ministry. Therefore we are working with the Grace Mission Church and national co-workers to assemble a leadership team that will carry on after the Miyamotos leave. Please pray that the visas will come through and that God will bless this small congregation as they boldly send out their pastor to new ministries.

**S**ince we haven't had a full time assignment to any one church since our return last summer we have had the opportunity to worship with several different congregations. Jim has also been able to serve many of these churches in preaching. A quick glance at the next three months' calendar shows that almost every Sunday has a preaching engagement. Please pray that God's Word will be heard, experienced and received through Jim's preaching.

**H**ydi's days are filled with ministry to young kids, ages 6-18 at the Christian Academy, where she teaches P.E. and coaches. On weekends and holidays she is often participating in tennis

tournaments with Japanese friends, most of whom have yet to meet Christ. This week Hydi is in Manila with several other CAJ teachers attending an educational conference. Please pray that the fragrance of Christ will continue to permeate Hydi's wide variety of ministries as she seeks to share the love and joy of Jesus with others.



Winter means basketball in the Peterson household. All three kids were on their respective teams and had very successful seasons. Injuries included one broken arm (actually happened to Eli snowboarding but meant a couple of missed games) and two sprained ankles (Miles and Kendra). Fortunately everyone is completely healed. Miles and Eli both played on championship teams which added lots of excitement! Now the kids are enjoying a few days of spring break but it's track and field season and all three are on the team. Miles and his senior class just returned from a week in Thailand where they were involved in community service projects. Miles stayed on for another three days to visit fish farms as a part of his senior comprehensive project about global overfishing. Eli and his 8th grade class made a two day trip to Kyoto earlier this month to visit historic Japanese cultural sites. Please remember Miles in your prayers as he prepares to graduate and travel to the U.S., where he will be attending Western State College in Gunnison, CO from the fall.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We value each one of you as partners in ministry. We know that this is a financially difficult time for many churches and individuals. Our own support figures were down significantly in 2009 and so we renew ourselves to the task of entrusting all that we are and all that we do into the hands of the Holy Spirit. God has blessed us through you, and our prayer is that others might be blessed through us!

In Christ,

Jim, Hydi, Miles, Kendra and Eli Peterson