

PETERSON PERSONALS

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Notes from Gunma

Web site: <http://www.wind.ne.jp/JIM/>

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Singing in the Rain

We are in the midst of rainy season. It's warm, muggy and wet. But our hearts are full of praise and thanksgiving for all the things God is doing. God is good!



The Sound of Music

That's what you are likely to hear if you come to the Yoshioka church these days. As we've reported before, a gospel choir ministry regularly attracts about 30 people. Many are good friends for whom we have been praying for a long time. In May and again in June the choir had performances that went very well. In August they will be singing at one of our denominational camps.

Our church has also started offering voice and piano lessons and the response has been good. We want the people in our community to know that when it comes to music, the church is a very "happening" place!

On Easter Sunday we participated in the annual Singspiration service with our fellow Covenant churches here in Gunma. The praise and worship through song was powerful.

On May 26th we held a special concert at church featuring Ruthanna Metzgar and friends. They performed a wide repertoire classical and sacred music that was truly inspiring.

The amount and quality of music in our weekly worship has been increasing as well and it is very uplifting. God has recently brought several talented musicians into our midst and we praise God!

Please pray with us that God will continue to use this powerful means to touch many hearts.

Let the Children Come

We enjoy the opportunity to reach out to many children in this town. Hydi has continued to organize the monthly Saturday in the Park event. At Easter time we had a special event with an egg hunt, coloring eggs and the Easter story. We had about 45 in attendance.

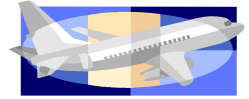
On June 7th and 8th we held our second annual Kids' English Camp up at Akagi Bible Camp. We welcomed about 50 kids and parents and everyone enjoyed hiking, crafts, music, campfire, Bible stories and much more.

We pray that the seeds sown in these young hearts will bear eternal fruit.



Home Assignment

We are gearing up for another home assignment. Hydi and the kids will be arriving in the U.S. on August 18th and Jim on August 26th. We will be living in Colorado Springs for 3 months and hope to visit with as many of you as possible. Please let us know soon if your church would be interested in having us visit. We can be reached at 4695 Paramount Place, Colo Spgs, CO 80918, Ph. 719-548-8433 following our arrival in late August. Our email address will remain unchanged. Our visit will be a short one and the schedule is filling up quickly so please let us know. We would love to see you and have the opportunity to share the good news of what God is doing in Japan.



Family News

In our last letter we mentioned Miles' broken toe. It healed well and he quickly resumed his various sports activities. Then in early June he took a hard fall playing soccer at school and ended up with a broken arm. This time he got a cast and loved having friends sign it. Within a couple of weeks he was playing basketball and had one of his best games while still wearing the cast. It has since come off and he is completely better. We don't even want to think about what will be next...

As of April Eli is a first grader and seems to be thoroughly enjoying it. Kendra is now in 3rd grade and Miles in 5th. Hydi and I really appreciate having all 3 kids at the same school for the first time.

Hydi has had a busy tennis schedule this spring and summer. In the fall 15 of her Japanese tennis friends will be coming to Colorado Springs to participate in a tennis workshop tour. It will be a thrill to see them there, during our home assignment.

In our last letter we introduced the newest member to our family; a bunny named Pudding. Recently she gave birth to 5 very cute and furry little bunnies of her own. We are in the midst of finding homes for them.

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for the many people involved in music at our church; that they would receive a "song in their heart."
- Please pray for the church and its various programs during our absence.
- Please pray that the planning for our home assignment will go smoothly.
- Please pray that the kids will adjust to U.S. public schools quickly during our time in Colorado.



In Christ,
Jim, Hydi, Miles, Kendra and Eli