

PETERSON PERSONALS

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Have Suitcase, will travel

“Good morning Jim. I hope you slept well. It really is nice having you stay with us. Where are you speaking this morning?” “Uh,... Is this Michigan or Minnesota? Just a minute; let me check my schedule. Oh ya, now I remember. Wait a minute; is this Wednesday or Thursday?”... Such is the life of a scatterbrained, itinerating missionary. New faces and new places almost every day. Sunday morning worship, adult Sunday school, kids’ Sunday school, ladies’ aid groups, men’s prayer breakfasts, mid-week youth groups, evening prayer meetings; these are just a few of the settings in which I get to share the wonderful news of what God is doing around the world, and in Gunma in particular. The story is one of celebration and good tidings. God has sent His Word into the town of Yoshioka and it is accomplishing exactly what He wills it to. Here are a few of the things we are celebrating:

- A new church in a town which had none
- Big opportunities to proclaim the good news
- Several newcomers seeking the Truth
- A dedicated core of believers working hard
- Great progress in the building renovation project

Please continue to pray for the new Covenant church in Yoshioka, for our co-workers Tim and Andrea Johnson, and for our senior pastor, Rev. Watanabe.

Help Jim, we’re snowed in

After saying goodbye to the family in Colorado amidst balmy, blue skies and temperatures in the 70s, this was the next thing I heard. Perhaps typical for mid-October on the Front Range, but certainly a surprise for unprepared newcomers. A sudden drop in temperature reduced the crystal clear skies to blizzard condition and 48 hours later there was over two feet of snow on the ground. Cars were buried, roads closed and Hydi ran out of milk! How do you drag three kids through knee deep snow (waist deep for them) to the nearest Safeway and back with groceries and family intact? I was a thousand miles away and could only hope and pray. But

they made it, and had lots of stories to tell when I returned 17 days later. Of course by the time I got home it was back to blue skies and warm weather, but five foot high drifts in the shade were proof enough that something had happened during my absence.

Good times ahead!

Christmas is just around the corner, and with that will come some long awaited family time. With the help of your prayers we are all doing quite well and enjoying these months in the U.S. a great deal.

- Eli finally got his first hair cut and is starting to delve into the world of spoken language. (It’s a real effort to compete with his brother and sister!)
- Kendra is furiously trying to catch up to big brother in everything. “If he can do it so can I... please, mom.”
- Miles loves school life, and keeps going at full speed in swimming classes and basketball practice.
- Hydi, with the help of baby sitting from Grandpa and Grandma, is actually finding a bit of time to get back into the classroom as a substitute teacher in local schools.
- Jim is... (see first paragraph)

While Christmas is a time of family fun and relaxation for most of us, it is also one of the greatest opportunities for evangelism that we have in Japan. Japanese people all celebrate Christmas but with little or no idea of the true meaning. The joyful task of the church is to share the real “reason for the season” with as many people as we can. **Please pray** for the work in Gunma; that many will hear of, and receive the greatest gift of all time, the gift of God in our midst.

With joy and thanks,
Jim, Hydi, Miles, Kendra & Eli