

COVENANT WORLD MISSION

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

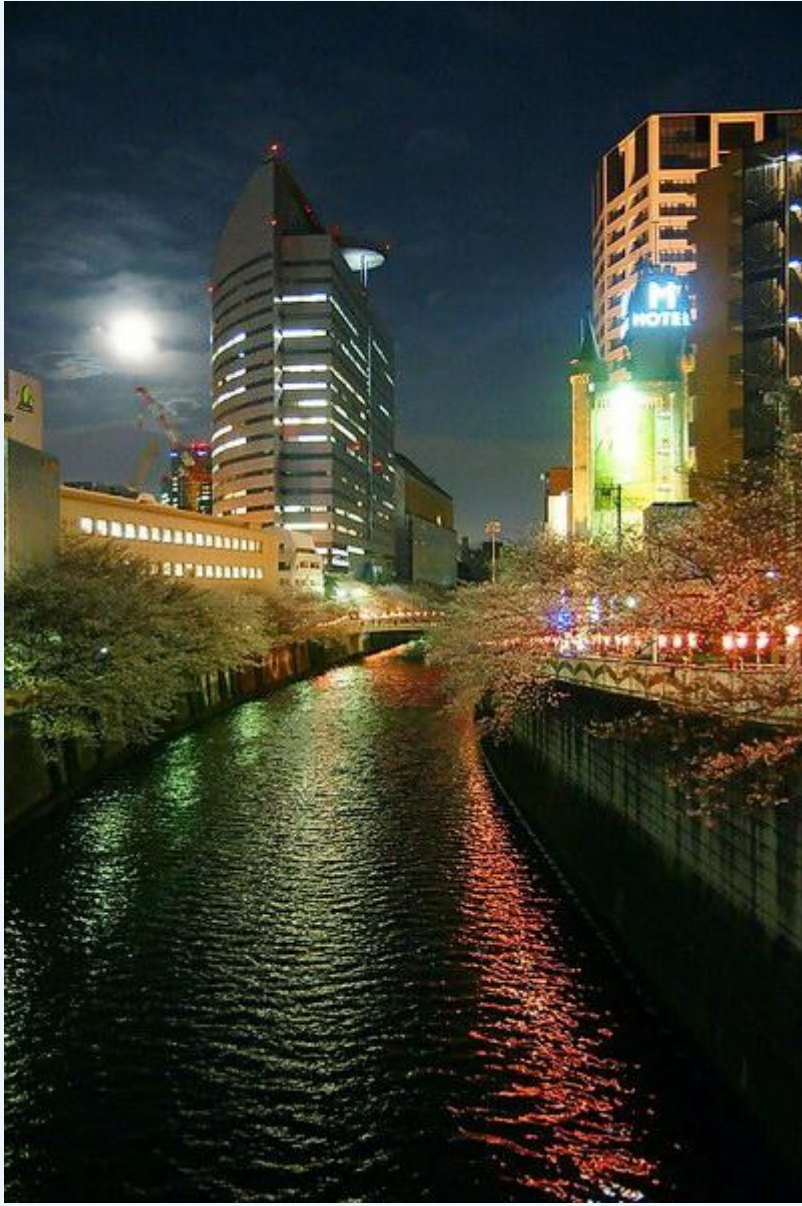
Spring is here and we have been enjoying another beautiful cherry blossom season. There is nothing quite like sitting under a magnificent cherry tree, looking up at the pink-white blossoms on the deep blue sky backdrop, and then being showered with fluttering petals being blown off the branches by the spring breeze. Of course, doing that with good friends and good food makes it all the more memorable, and that is why more Japanese participate in picnics during this time of the year than any other.

A couple weeks ago I attended the entrance ceremonies at the Covenant Seminary. In Japan this is just as important as graduation. The Japanese school year begins in April and we are thrilled to have over 70 students enrolled. Most seminaries have seen a decline in enrollment over the past several years, so we are especially blessed to see so many new students at our seminary. We also have a couple of new teachers this year. Pastor Matsubara will be taking over the homiletics A course. I teach the homiletics B course so I am looking forward to working closely with him as we help nurture preachers. The second new teacher is fellow Covenant missionary, Gary Carlson. He will be teaching a missiology class. It will be fun to have another missionary on the faculty.

On the way home that night I was walking to the train station rather late and enjoyed a beautiful view of the cherry blossoms lining the Meguro River in downtown Tokyo near the Covenant Seminary. They were lit up by lanterns and the walking path was lined with young people enjoying a somewhat rowdier version of the cherry blossom picnic.

Included are a few photos from that night.







On a tech note, the Dept. of World Mission has been working to improve our communication with supporters and prayer partners. To that end they have helped us merge our mailing lists into an online shared database called Sphere. This is the first mailing of ours from the new system so it is a bit of a test. Please note that security is a high priority with this system and any information of yours that we have will be safe.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

Jim, Hydi, Miles, Kendra and Eli Peterson