

# PETERSON PERSONALS

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Notes from Gunma and Colorado

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## Home Assignment

After a busy summer we packed up our bags and got on a plane on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Three planes and about 24 hours later we were in Colorado Springs. We are here in the U.S. for a three month home assignment and hope to return to Japan at the end of November. Going from Yoshioka's elevation of about 400 feet above sea-level to Colorado Springs which sits at over 6,000 feet above sea-level was a bit of a shock to the system but the beauty of the Rocky Mountains makes it a delightful transition. Dry lips, constant thirst, and shortness of breath are more than compensated for by the awe-inspiring views of Rocky Mountain majesty.

We are here to represent Covenant World Mission and bring reports of God's mighty work in Japan to the many churches around this country that make it all possible through faithful prayers, concern, and support. Jim is traveling around the country doing just that while Hydi tries to keep track of 3 energetic kids back in Colorado.

## Yoshioka Update

Here's an update on some of the things that God did in Yoshioka since our last news letter.

- On June 11<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost Sunday, we welcomed **two new members into** the Yoshioka Covenant Church. **Noriko Tamura** was baptized after attending worship and Wednesday morning Bible study for over a year. She is a mother of three school age children and we have asked you to pray for her in previous news letters. **Emiko Amano** also joined our church family that day by transfer of membership. She and her husband moved to the area about a year ago and she was eager to find a new church home. Hydi first met her on the tennis courts and we rejoice for this visible fruit as Hydi longs to use her favorite past-time as a way of meeting people and sharing the Good News with them.
- On July 21<sup>st</sup> the Yoshioka Covenant Church welcomed **10 college students from Korea** who were part of an evangelistic effort sponsored by **Campus Crusade for Christ** and **Every Home for Christ**. Similar teams came from all over Asia to rural church settings across Japan to be a blessing and encouragement. They did special programs in the community including traditional Korean

music and dance, drama, martial arts and personal testimonies. They also spent a great deal of time covering our town on foot, distributing Christian literature to over 3,000 homes. True to their purpose, they were a blessing and encouragement to our small church. On Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July they participated in a special worship service and we were thrilled to see several visitors in attendance. In particular our close friends, the Kogure family, came for the first time. We have been praying for them for over two years.

- July 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> was our annual Akagi English Camp and we thank God for 3 women from Hydi's Tuesday morning English class who attended. We rejoiced with **Mayumi Kimijima**, who on the second day of camp received Christ as her Lord and Savior. The other two women also expressed deep interest in faith and we had many wonderful conversations with them.

- As of our departure for the U.S., our associate pastor, **Isamu Watanabe**, assumed pastoral leadership of the church and we pray that this will be a rich 3 months for the church and for him.

## Family News

After finishing Japanese school on July 19<sup>th</sup>, the kids enjoyed summer vacation at our cabin in the mountains of Nagano (of Olympic fame). Days filled with swimming, tennis, sailing and bug collecting and evenings around the campfire roasting marshmallows made for a time of fun and relaxation.

In Colorado Springs, Miles and Kendra are enjoying three months of American public school in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades, respectively. Eli attends pre-school at the YMCA three mornings a week. Extra-curricular activities include swimming lessons, soccer, gymnastics, basketball, and even cello lessons.

Staying with Hydi's parents in Colorado Springs has been an enormous blessing for us. The kids especially love being close to Grandma and Grandpa. Just before returning to Japan we intend to spend Thanksgiving with more of Hydi's relatives as well as Jim's entire family in Southern California.

We thank God for His constant provision and protection during this time in the U.S. and look forward to returning to Yoshioka in late November to resume our ministry there. Thank you for your faithful support that makes it all possible.

In Christ,

Jim, Hydi, Miles, Kendra & Eli