

PETERSON PERSONALS

Email: jimkpeterson@yahoo.co.jp

Notes from Japan

1-8-15 Hikawadai, Higashikurume-shi

Web site: <http://www.geocities.jp/jimkpeterson/>

May, 2004

Tokyo, Japan 203-0004

We've Moved

This Spring has been busy for us as we learned in March that we would be moving to Tokyo several months earlier than previously expected. The kids finished out the Japanese school year (which ended in March) at the local elementary school in Gunma. Then before spring vacation had even started Hydi and the kids moved to Tokyo just in time for the fourth quarter at the Christian Academy in Japan (CAJ). CAJ has been asking Hydi to come and teach for several years and this seemed like the right time. So after a 13 year break in her teaching career, she has returned to the classroom. Our kids are enrolled in grades 6, 4, and 2 respectively and seem to be making the switch to English education fairly smoothly.

Since the house we wanted to live in wasn't available until the beginning of May, Hydi and the kids spent April in a temporary place near the school and Jim stayed in Gunma. Then in the first week of May we all made the big move to our new home. It is located just minutes from the school and feels like an answer to prayer.

The Christian Academy is a school for missionary kids and is owned and run by six mission boards, one of which is the Covenant. Hydi and Jim are both graduates of the school.

Lots of News

Leaving Gunma hasn't been easy as we have come to feel at home there after 9 years! We have grown close to the people, love the rural setting, and thank God for a great education for our kids.

Another reason for not wanting to leave has to do with our church ministry there. If you have been following these letters and our web site updates you know that things have really been lively at the Yoshioka church. The good news is that we will continue in our ministry there, commuting to Gunma on weekends. It is about 90 minutes by car.

Here are a few of the highlights since our last news letter back in (gulp...) December.

- A fabulous Christmas season highlighted by two baptisms on Dec. 21st. One was our son Miles!
- After a 3 month break the Gospel choir started up again in April and continues to draw many.
- Two more baptisms on Easter Sunday!
- As of April the children's English classes at

church have been taken over by 2 very capable Japanese women in our church. This is especially gratifying since we had expected them to end when we left.

Other Ministry

As reported previously, Jim taught at the Covenant Seminary in the fall and winter. He will resume those classes again next fall. Then in April he began teaching a homiletics class at Tokyo Christian University in Chiba. This class will be from April thru June and then repeat again the following spring.

Hydi continued to play tennis in Gunma right until the move, and has even continued to play there on weekends since moving to Tokyo. She has established such a wide network of close friends and enjoys many chances to share the good news with them in word and presence.

A New Format

In our last newsletter we asked for your input on the possibility of distributing this letter electronically. We heard back from a few of you and based on those responses we are making some changes this time. We will send this letter by email to as many of you as we can, and also send out a hard copy to everyone who didn't specifically respond. Our goal is to limit the mailing of hard copies to only those who are not able to receive it electronically but will send hard copies one more time. Please let us know if you cannot receive electronic mailings. They would either be attached to email or a link to a download site would be emailed to recipients.

Address Changes

As you can see from the header of this letter, our postal address, email address and web site address have all changed. Please make a note of these changes.

- Mailing address: 1-8-15 Hikawadai, Higashi kurume-shi, Tokyo, Japan 203-0004
- Email address: jimkpeterson@yahoo.co.jp
- Web site URL: <http://www.geocities.jp/jimkpeterson/>

With Thanks!

We praise God for your faithful prayers and generous support. We are blessed to be a part of your team.

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