

PETERSON PERSONALS

Notes from Gunma

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Summer is Over

Summers in Japan are very hot and humid. Nevertheless we enjoy the warmth while it lasts. Now we are in perhaps the most pleasant time of the year. Cool evenings and warm days often continue well into November. Among other things, fall is a time for sports in Japan. Every school holds their annual sports day in the fall. Miles and Kendra had a great time participating in several events each. Eli's kindergarten will have theirs on October 13th.



Summer Camp Report

Our Covenant camp site, Akagi Bible Camp is only a 45 minute drive from Yoshioka so camping is a big part of our summer. In June we held a first time ever "Children's English Camp" and it was a real success. Then in July we did the annual adults' English Camp. In August we had Elementary Camp, Jr. & Sr. High Camp, Family Camp and then Young Adults' Camp. It is exciting to see God working through the camping program.



This fall we have had a couple more overnight camps that have been excellent! We thank God for a camp site so close to us and the opportunity to come together with other Covenant churches in these annual events.

Time for Celebration

November 23rd will be a big day in the life of the Japan Covenant Church. We will be celebrating the denomination's 50th anniversary. There will be guests from Covenant churches throughout Asia, many retired missionaries from the U.S., and a keynote address by ECC Executive Vice President, Don Engebretson. As Country Coordinator of the missionary committee, Jim is up to his ears in preparations and planning.



For three days prior to the celebration Japanese Covenant pastors will be meeting with Covenant church leaders from several Asian countries in the 2nd Asia Covenant Church Consultation. The first one was held two years ago in Thailand. We are thrilled to see the new ties being forged amongst Asian Covenant Churches.

Church News

Things were quiet around church most of the summer, with English classes and mid-week prayer meetings on break. But just when we were wondering where everyone had gone, God blessed us with several new comers. The amazing thing is that they are all men, in a church where until now the women have been in the majority. We thank God for Mr. Takayama, Mr. Katsuta, Mr. Kimura and Mr. Ishii. They are all completely new to church, and we pray that their hearts and lives will be permanently changed by this encounter with Jesus Christ.



Children's English classes continue to attract large numbers and provide a "soft" introduction of the church to many people in our community. We presently have about 70 children and 5 to 10 adults attending classes each week. Pray for Hydi as she does all the teaching!

We continue to pray for the husbands of 4 women who are members of our church. Pray that the power of their wives' testimony will make an impression on them.

Family News



Miles, Kendra and Eli are back in school now, completing the second half of the Japanese school year. Miles is in the 4th grade, Kendra in the 2nd grade and Eli in his final year of kindergarten.

Hydi will be traveling to Tokyo next month to play in a national tennis tournament. She and her partner are one of three teams representing Gunma prefecture. She expects the level of play to be very high! As always, she seeks opportunities to share the good news, whether on or off the courts.

In June and July Jim completed his third and final summer residency for the Doctorate of Ministry in Preaching program. Now he has to write up his thesis by next spring. In the mean time he is pouring his heart into pastoring and administrative work for the denomination.

Please Pray

- The husbands of several of our women members
- The men who have just started coming to worship
- All the English students who come through our church weekly
- The seeds sown through Hydi's tennis ministry



In Christ,

Jim, Hydi, Miles, Kendra & Eli