

Dear Partners in Ministry,

We are sending you a quick note today to let you know that we are okay. As you are surely aware, Japan was hit by some very strong earthquakes yesterday afternoon. (Friday, 2:45PM local time). The resulting interruption of public transportation and roads made for some logistical headaches but we are among the fortunate ones having suffered no loss or significant damage.

Hydi was about 100 miles north of Tokyo in Ibaraki doing tennis outreach when the quake hit. She headed home immediately but what would normally be a 2 hour drive turned into a 12 hour crawl through gridlocked traffic. She got home at 2:30AM.

Jim was in Chiba meeting with pastors of the Tokyo district of the Japan Covenant at one of our churches there. It is an hour train ride from our home but the trains all stopped and by 7PM all the shutters at the station had been closed, meaning no hope of restored service until the following day. So Jim borrowed a bicycle from a church member and had an amazingly pleasant 4 hour bike ride home. It was about 25 miles and he was the first one home at midnight.

The kids were at school when the quakes hit and ended up spending the night at nearby friends' homes.

But our hearts go out to the residents of northern Japan along the Pacific coast. Many coastal areas experienced utter devastation and there probably won't be final death toll for some time. Tsunamis that

repeatedly pounded the coastline were the source of most of the damage. Japan's tsunami warning system is one of the best in the world but this earthquake created waves of unprecedented size and power. Please remember the residents of these areas in your prayers as they deal with the pain and suffering of loss.

Thanks again for your continued prayers and thoughts. We are continually reminded of the incredible strength and blessings of being united in Christ!

In Christ,

Jim, Hydi, Miles, Kendra and Eli Peterson