

Notes from Jim and Hydi

Tokyo, Japan

August, 2013

In This Issue

[Family Time](#)
[Big Changes](#)
[Jim in Chicago](#)
[New Missionaries](#)
[Ministry Updates](#)
[Prayer Requests](#)


Quick Links

[Subscribe](#)
[Newsletter Archive](#)
[Photos from Tohoku](#)
[More On Us](#)


Dear Partners in Ministry,

Greetings from Japan. After a year of being scattered, our family is finally together again for a brief time of reconnecting and family fun. Today we want to bring you up to date on family and ministry news.

Back Home Again

Family Time

This past year our family was all over the map. Hydi and Eli spent a full twelve months in Colorado Springs. Jim spent half the year in Tokyo and half the year in Colorado Springs. Miles was in his third year of college in Gunnison, CO and Kendra was in her first year of college in San Diego, CA. Then she spent four weeks in South Africa on a study abroad trip. Now we are together again in Japan for a few days of family vacation and thank God for the chance to reconnect.

Big Changes

The Empty Nest

After spending his junior year of high school in Colorado Springs our youngest child, Eli has decided to return there for his senior year as well. We've made arrangements for him to live with Hydi's sister and family and we are thankful for this provision, but it also means that we will be saying goodbye to him a year earlier than we ever expected. Kendra will be returning to San Diego for her second year at Point Loma Nazarene University and Miles will be back in Gunnison, CO for his final year of college. The upshot of all of this is that come September we won't have any kids at home for the first time in twenty two years! Of course there are plenty of mixed feelings but we look forward to God's provision and protection in this season of change.

A Brief Interruption

Jim in Chicago

While the timing wasn't ideal from the perspective of our family time, Jim has traveled to Chicago in early August to participate in a week of meetings at ECC headquarters in an event called Missionary Connection Event. This is a time of orientation and guidance for missionaries who are on home assignment but since Jim's recent time in the U.S. didn't coincide with last year's event he was asked to fly in for it this summer. It is a time of great fellowship and encouragement with other missionaries and U.S. staff. Jim will return to Japan as soon as it is over, arriving back in Tokyo on August 13th.

A New Wave

The first wave of Covenant missionaries came to Japan right after WWII, and

Jim's parents were one of the last couples to arrive, in late 1955. Then again in the 1980s there was a second wave of Covenant missionaries, who now make up the bulk of the current staff in Japan. Hydi and Jim were the last ones to join that group, arriving in 1993. Now it appears that God is raising up another generation of new missionaries for Japan. Grant and Miho Buchholtz did a two year short term in Japan and are now transitioning to long term service and are set to arrive back in Japan later this month. In addition, Stephen and Soo Bay arrived in July and will soon be moving to Iwate prefecture to do a two year term in the 3.11 disaster zone. Furthermore there are two additional couples who are in preparation to join us in Japan as missionaries. We praise God for this new wave of laborers, for indeed the harvest is great!

Ministry Updates

Kingdom Building in Japan

Our teaching ministries are on a brief break. At the end of the summer Hydi will return to teaching at the Christian Academy in Japan, where she teaches, coaches and mentors young people, ages 5 thru 18. Jim will return to teaching at the Covenant Seminary, where the next generation of Japanese church leaders are being trained and prepared for ministry.

While those ministries are on hold for a few weeks, Jim's preaching ministries continue with almost weekly opportunities to share the life changing power of God's Word in a variety of churches.

Hydi is also carrying on with informal sports ministries, thru tennis, running and more. She has created a network of opportunities to connect with Japanese people outside of the structures of the church, fostering friendships and relationships that open the door for sharing and living out the good news of Jesus Christ.

Prayer Requests

Above all, we humbly seek your support through prayer. Please pray with us in the following ways.

- Please pray for our family as we conclude our time together, and as our children return to the U.S. to continue their education and as Hydi and Jim adjust to a family of two.
- Please pray for our new missionaries. Stephen and Soo Bay will soon move to the city of Ofunato, right in the heart of the disaster zone and begin the work of Jesus Christ among the many victims. Grant and Miho Buchholtz will soon arrive in Japan and begin their transition to long term ministry, and church planting in particular.
- Please pray for Hydi's work at the Christian Academy, that God will allow her to foster and maintain rich mentoring relationships with many young people.
- Please pray for the ministries of the Covenant Seminary in Tokyo. In particular they will be sending out short term summer mission team of seminary students to a church plant in central Japan later this month. Also pray that Jim's classes will be a blessed time of learning and training for these future church leaders.
- Please pray for the Japan Covenant summer camping ministries at Akagi Bible Camp which are in progress as we write to you. Pray that lives will be changed for Christ.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We value your partnership in ministry. For prayer requests that are updated monthly please [check here](#).

Sincerely,

Jim and Hydi Peterson

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