

Dear family and friends,

December 2005

Merry Christmas from Colorado Springs! Last year, we wrote to you with half of the family in Japan and the other half on their way. We were altogether as a family by Christmas day, living in the Hiroshima area. Kristy and the boys returned at the beginning of February, and Eric stayed with the girls (and cousins Joel and Elsbeth Martens) until early Spring. He was a Visiting Professor at Hiroshima University during this time. Everything you have heard about the hospitality and friendliness of the Japanese is true, and we were blessed with a great Baptist church and friends there. We had a great experience there. This year, we host Seiji Higa, a terrific 17 year old from Okinawa. Ethan met Seiji on an earlier trip there as part of a mission team. Seiji makes it five youngsters in the house now – well, not so young, ranging from 9 to 17. Somehow, each is in a different school, and for some reason keeping up with school work and extracurricular activities for 5 kids in 5 schools is ...hard!

So here is a quick spotlight on each. Miriam (9) continues as a fourth grader at a local charter school, The Classical Academy, enjoying gymnastics, Children's Church, Jr. Girl Scouts, and piano. Kaylyn (11) is in Challenger Middle School, involved in gymnastics, youth group, and piano. Zachary (13) is in 7th grade at Mountain Ridge Middle School in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Programme, busy with football, Colorado Springs Youth Symphony, piano and violin. Ethan is about to turn 16 as a sophomore at Pine Creek H.S., active in soccer, youth group, a marketing group, the Symphony, Boy Scouts, and continuing piano and viola lessons. During the summer, he participated in a mission team to England and Uganda, and hopes to return to Okinawa this summer to work with Seiji's church. Seiji attends Colorado Springs Christian School. His athletic skills are prodigious – standout in soccer, already accomplished in wrestling in his first few weeks ever at the sport,

and a black belt in karate. Yet he is a quiet, devout, cheerful young man. We are so fortunate he is in our family this year.

A list of activities does not really say much, though, does it? Each child is developing in their unique way, finding the path that only they can follow. It never ceases to amaze us.

Kristy bears the largest share of this year's logistical intensity in terms of keeping up with activities and chauffeur duties. All the while, she holds down a part-time position as a medical social worker at local Memorial Hospital. In some ways, part-time work should be less demanding than a full-time post, but with Kristy, it is different. She fills behind the full-time staff across all of the hospital areas, so is expected to be an expert in the medical responsibilities of each part of the hospital. It is very hard and very rewarding. Eric's return to the Air Force Academy after the Hiroshima sabbatical began with some difficult decisions about opportunities to take his research program elsewhere. Instead of settling down after the family journey to Japan, we had some hard decisions. A roller-coaster spring ended with a decision to stay in the Springs. It is a great place to live and to raise a family. We continue to worship and be greatly blessed at Mountain Springs Church.

Life is full, and for us right now, too fast with too many tugs and pulls. At least the mountains in our window don't seem fazed by any of the bustle of life. Thank you family and friends who have and will continue to be such an important part of our lives. May God bring you through life's hills and valleys and be a special grace to you at Christmas. We welcome email. You can reach us at [kristylhamilton@aol.com](mailto:kristylhamilton@aol.com) and at [erichamilton@aol.com](mailto:erichamilton@aol.com). This letter and some more pictures are at [erichamilton.net/christmas2005](http://erichamilton.net/christmas2005). With much love & affection from Colorado Springs,

**Kristy, Eric, Seiji, Ethan, Zachary, Kaylyn and Miriam**

Seiji  
Ethan  
Zachary  
Kaylyn  
Miriam  
Kristy  
Eric

