



# Prayer News Bulletin

JANUARY 2021

*"I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes." (Psalm 119:59)*

Dear Friends

Happy New Year. This morning I wrote the first devotion of 2021 for my church here, based on the verse above. May we all have the chance to consider our ways as we start a new year, and turn our steps to the Lord's statutes.

## Family News

Although we missed not having **Daniel** with us, we enjoyed Zooming him in on Christmas day. He managed a couple of cycles with a friend, which is the only in-person contact he can have at the moment. There has been much more noise in the house with Matthew and Calum back! Calum has enjoyed doing some training with old football friends, and Matthew was able to continue his online English teaching from here. In good news, he managed to get a traineeship – with my old firm! It doesn't start until September 2022, so he needs to find a job for the coming year, but it is a great relief to have a traineeship lined up.

**Alistair** starts school again on the 7<sup>th</sup>. **Calum** flies back to Florida on the 8<sup>th</sup>. **Matthew** was due to return on the 12<sup>th</sup> but his flights have been cancelled several times already. Glasgow University is asking students not to come back until around the 25<sup>th</sup> so he may stay here a little longer. However, that means one online tutorial from 2-4am! Please pray:

- ✚ For each to put the Lord first in their lives and in their plans for the coming year. In particular pray for Daniel and Calum to connect with a local church – even if only online.

## OMF News

Whilst not at the UK level, Japan is continuing to see coronavirus case numbers and hospitalisations rise. After 5 people came back from the UK with the new strain of the virus, the Government responded by banning new entries from the UK and South Africa. Then on boxing day, there was an announcement that all new entries are banned until at least the end of January. We were due to see several new members and short-term workers arrive this month. One can still come, two managed to rearrange their plans and get in just before the ban came into effect, but the others have to wait.

It has just been announced that from the 8<sup>th</sup> Tokyo and the 3 surrounding prefectures, including ours, are being put under a **state of emergency** until the end of the month. We are waiting to see the details, but it will likely include a request not to be out after 8pm unless necessary. Please pray:

- ✚ That those of us on the OMF Japan coronavirus taskforce can keep up to date with the changing guidelines and advise our members and ministries appropriately, so that we can all be good witnesses to those around us;
- ✚ For those suddenly not able to come to Japan this month, and others hoping to come in February. May the Lord provide all they need and give them peace in the midst of uncertainty;
- ✚ That churches can find ways to reach out with the gospel message of peace and hope that is needed by so many;
- ✚ For the logistics of managing international orders of the *Beneath the Surface* prayer booklet.

## Church News

It was great to be able to have two of the youth round at the end of last month for a late Christmas gathering. S didn't make it but came to church for the first service of the New Year. I was also able to connect with a few of my neighbours as I delivered the small Christmas gift. Please pray:

- ✚ For strength and encouragement for the pastor who has a lot of responsibility in the church, denomination and in 2 other Christian organisations; and
- ✚ For the youth and for ways to get to know my neighbours better in the midst of the pandemic.

*Wishing you all a blessed 2021*

*Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair*