



# Prayer News Bulletin

JULY 2022

*“For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God!” (Deut 32:3)*

Dear Friends

This year we had the shortest rainy season ever. That may sound lovely to Scottish ears, but it has meant that the summer heat of around 35°C has arrived a few weeks earlier than usual. I have also developed an allergy to something in the air, but am not sure to what!

## OMF News

Thanks for your prayers. The Hokkaido conference went well. Most of my time in Sapporo was spent dealing with the significant personnel crisis and its ramifications. Although the situation is not yet resolved, we have made some good progress recently. However, another two situations have also arisen and one in particular is taking some time to deal with. The Field Director is usually also involved in tricky situations, but he and his family are having a home assignment until the autumn, so there is less support than usual. It feels like there are quite a few fiery darts flying around at the moment, perhaps not surprising when we think of all the new workers God has given us.

Please pray:

- ✚ For my involvement with our **social media** this month as the usual team leader is away. May God use it to encourage prayer for Japan and for people to come to serve here;
- ✚ For our **Serve Asia (short-term) team** – one member is leaving early August and her replacement is arriving in mid-July. Because his visa was delayed, we have only a short time to organise his orientation and handover;
- ✚ I am being interviewed this month as part of our **Church Planting Strategy Review**. Pray that my answers and those of the 40 others (including Japanese pastors) also being interviewed will be helpful for this important project.
- ✚ For wisdom and grace for the ongoing challenging personnel situations – much needed!

## Family News

**Calum** plans to come back on the 7<sup>th</sup> as long as his pre-flight test is negative. He has one course to do online, hopes to get some part-time work (since his visa doesn't let him work in the US) and catch up with friends. July is the last month of **Alistair's** first term at University. Where he lives (and plays football) is even hotter than where I am so it is hard-going at the moment. I am grateful that Daniel has found a church in Bangkok and also passed his driving licence there. Please pray:

- ✚ For Matthew, Calum and Alistair to find suitable churches and have Christian fellowship.

## Church News

A lot has been happening in my youth group. R (24) has decided to move to Kyoto since her job is almost fully online. A (27) introduced us to her boyfriend two weeks ago at church. She met him through a Christian introductions site. He lives in a different part of Japan but hopes to move to Chiba next spring. S has said she plans to attend a church in Canada. R and A are coming round for the youth group on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, possibly the last for some time.

I was also introduced recently to a young man called Shin (25) who became a Christian in the UK but is now back in Japan and lives quite near me. I have invited him to come to church and/or meet the pastor. At the moment he works on Sundays but I hope he can come next month. It is said that about 80% of Japanese people who become Christians overseas don't manage to connect with a church when they return to Japan. I meet the pastor's wife again on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Please pray:

- ✚ For R's move; for S actually to go to church, and for A's relationship;
- ✚ That Shin will manage to get some Sundays off work in August and come to one of our services.

With love and prayers  
Lorna, Calum and Alistair