



# Prayer News Bulletin

MAY 2022

*“If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.” (Galatians 5:25)*

Dear Friends

This Wednesday (5<sup>th</sup> May) is Children’s Day in Japan (traditionally Boys’ Day). Everywhere you go at the moment you can see carp-shaped windsocks wafting in the breeze. Carp are said to be a symbol of strength and success since they swim against the stream. So parents desire their children to grow up well and strong. To be a Christian in Japan is to swim against the stream of the culture. Please pray for Japanese Christians to have the strength they need to continue to do that in a society which values harmony and conformity.

## Family News

It’s good to have **Matthew** back until 25<sup>th</sup> May. He is working most days, but we are taking a break from 6-14<sup>th</sup> to visit Alistair in Kofu and then explore an area of Japan called Hokuriku on the opposite coast from Tokyo. **Alistair** seems to be settling in well. His football team has early morning practices, meaning that he needs to get up at 4:30am most days. **Calum** has just finished his academic year. The football summer league didn’t work out, so he has gone to Florida to see if there are any football options there whilst he does his online summer courses. Please pray for:

- ✚ A good break with Matthew – nice weather would be lovely since most things we want to do are outside;
- ✚ Each of the boys to want to live by the Spirit, and for Christian fellowship for them.

## OMF News

Thanks for praying – all of our new workers are now safely in the country. I enjoyed meeting some of them in Sapporo when I went up there last month. We are expecting 3-4 families to arrive in the summer in addition to one couple and up to 4 single people. Some more 1-year short-term workers are also due to arrive soon. I have a few calls lined up with others in different parts of the world who are interested in serving with us Japan. Much discernment is needed.

We have Field Leadership Team meetings from **16-18<sup>th</sup>** and then a short conference in Iwate Prefecture for all missionaries serving in Honshu island from **19-21<sup>st</sup>**. The last time we had an in-person conference was more than 4 years ago, so we are really looking forward to getting together. Matthew is coming to help with the childcare programme.

Please pray for:

- ✚ Wisdom as we deal with many varied candidate applications, and for the capacity to cope well with those who do come to Japan;
- ✚ The Lord’s leading, and that we may take time to listen, during our FLT meetings;
- ✚ A blessed time of fellowship at conference, among the many covid measures in place;
- ✚ The Lord’s leading and help with the Church Planting Strategy Review.

## Church News

The **Nagai family** (who currently live in Sendai) visited my church today for Kaina’s dedication. It gave a small insight into the challenges the family is facing with 2 young children with special needs. The youth group meets at my house on the **15<sup>th</sup>**, and my next study with the pastor’s wife is on the **27<sup>th</sup>**. I have now reached Chapter 5 in my series of devotions on Galatians. Please pray for:

- ✚ Ongoing support and encouragement for the Nagai family;
- ✚ The Lord to encourage and guide the members of the youth group and the pastor’s wife;
- ✚ Church members to be able to live by the Spirit and be salt and light in their communities.

*With love and prayers  
Lorna, Calum and Alistair*