



Prayer News Bulletin

NOVEMBER 2023

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight...” (Philippians 1:9)

Dear Friends

Greetings from an unusually warm Tokyo where some of the trees are only just beginning to turn. I hope you are all OK after the recent storms which seem to have wreaked havoc in different places.

OMF News

Thank you for praying for the time with KGK and the Crisis Management Training. Both seemed to go well. There is still a lot happening at the moment. Some things are significant and others have been blown out of proportion. It's not easy working in a multi-cultural organization. We learn a lot about Japanese culture, but not necessarily about the culture of our colleagues, which at times can lead to misunderstandings and different ways of approaching things.

The team which produces our social media posts to help mobilise new workers and prayer for Japan will be down two key members from this month as they are on Home Assignment. I will probably need to give more help to the team for a bit unless we can find a suitable replacement.

On the 6th we have the second of our twice-yearly Members' Meetings in Kanto. I am leading it and sharing a devotion. We plan to devote a significant amount of the time to prayer for each other and our ministries. The next week, Field Leadership Team is having a two-night retreat from 12-14th and then leadership meetings from 15-17th. One thing we will discuss is who will take over my role when I finish at the end of next year. My hope is to return to church planting from my next term.

From 25-30th I will attend OMF's Global Gathering in my capacity as a member of the Global Vision Council (GVC). This Gathering is a meeting of OMF leaders from all over the world and will include the inauguration of Joseph Chang with his wife Lori as the new General Director of OMF. During the Gathering I will have my first set of meetings with GVC, so there is a lot of reading to do to catch up with the background of the various things on the agenda. The good thing is that the Gathering is near Bangkok, so I will spend a day with Daniel and his wife before joining it, and then take a few days' holiday afterwards. Please pray for:

- ✚ Ongoing wisdom, patience and perseverance with the different issues we are dealing with.
- ✚ The Lord's leading for all decisions we make at the leadership team meetings.
- ✚ The Lord's help for the GVC meetings and for the inauguration of our new General Director.
- ✚ The right people for the right roles on the field.

Family News

It was lovely to spend time with **Matthew** and his girlfriend and to have a short visit with **Alistair**. I am looking forward to catching up with **Daniel** for a day later this month. We hope to visit a national park together. **Calum** is hoping that the next set of doors will open for him in the transfer window at the end of the year. Please pray that:

- ✚ Each of them will seek God's leading in all the decisions they make.

Church News

We had one new Mum and baby to our outreach last month and she immediately applied to come to our next one on the 20th. She said she will give invites to some other Mums she knows. Another new Mum had to cancel when her baby got sick. The ladies group in the church is now meeting once a month in person, studying the Japanese translation of the New City Catechism. The Japanese worldview is very different from the Christian worldview, so this is a great chance to deepen their understanding and strengthen their faith. On the 23rd, the pastor's daughter (R from my youth group) is getting married to a pastor's son in Kyoto. It is great to see another Christian marriage. I meet the pastor's wife on the 10th. Please pray that:

- ✚ God's blessing on the Mums and baby outreach and for encouragement for the church;
- ✚ R and T's wedding. There has been a lot of stress in the lead up. May the day itself be blessed.

With love and prayers, Lorna and Alistair