



Prayer News Bulletin

FEBRUARY 2024

*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you." (Psalm 32:8)*

Dear Friends

On Saturday, many Japanese people celebrate "setsubun". According to the old calendar, it is the day before the start of spring (even though in reality we are still in the middle of winter). People throw roasted soybeans or peanuts and shout "Devil out! Good fortune in!". The practice is said to cleanse the house or school of evil spirits. Eating the beans or peanuts is then thought to bring good luck. As with many other cultural practices in Japan, Christian parents need discernment as they decide what their children can and cannot participate in.

OMF News

The child safety response training was very helpful, if intense. I also realized we need to do more as a field to help both children and adults know how to raise concerns. This is one of the (many) things we will discuss at our field leadership team meeting from the **26-28th**. I also have to write/collate a variety of reports in advance of the meeting.

I am very grateful that we have found a new candidate coordinator. **Bea Neblung** (we worked together in Otaru) has agreed to take on this role from the middle of March once she has returned from her Home Assignment. I have now taken the role on in the interim. The review of part of our short-term programme is still ongoing, with some important conversations happening this month.

We are continuing to focus on raising more prayer for Japan. A group of people have been working on a prayer website and we hope to make progress this month. We also need to make some decisions about how to distribute the Japanese version of the Beneath the Surface prayer guide. Please pray:

- ✚ For the field leadership team to work well together and for the Lord's leading on our discussions;
- ✚ That I will manage the Candidate Coordinator role over the next 6 weeks on top of my usual responsibilities, and for the review to produce a helpful, God-honouring outcome.
- ✚ For our prayer focus this year – we are praying for fruitfulness, that we as missionaries may bear much fruit and that the fruit of the Spirit will be evident in our lives, and that we may see much fruit in Japan in people coming to faith and being baptized.

Family News

Daniel has finished his exams for the first semester of his English law conversation course and has started the second semester, which will be a heavier one – on top of working fulltime. **Calum** is still looking for a full-time football contract if possible and is also starting to study foreign exchange markets as a back-up plan! **Alistair** has a university ski trip in the local mountains from **8-11th** – a compulsory course as part of his sports science degree! He is also trying to get a better-paid part-time job. Please pray:

- ✚ For protection for each of them, physically and spiritually.

Church News

We had another new Mum at our last Mums and babies outreach. The next one is on the **20th**. Pray for natural opportunities to share our faith as we chat with the Mums. The monthly ladies group is studying the New City Catechism, which is a great opportunity for them to go over the basics of their faith and ask questions. This month we meet on the **14th**. (As it's Valentine's Day, I have been asked to make chocolates to give to the pastor from the group. In Japan, only women give chocolates on Valentine's Day. Men return the favour on White Day on 14th March.) Ayumi and Sho (newly married couple) are coming to mine on the **4th** for lunch and fellowship. I meet the pastor's wife on the **22nd**. Please pray that:

- ✚ Church members will be built up in their faith and have a desire to share that faith with others;
- ✚ I can walk well alongside the different people I meet. speaking into their lives in a helpful way.

With love and prayers
Lorna and Alistair