



# Prayer News Bulletin

MAY 2021

*“But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory and the lifter of my head.” (Ps 3:3)*

Dear Friends

Almost as soon as the State of Emergency in the Tokyo area ended, case numbers climbed again and Tokyo declared a new, stricter State of Emergency. In Chiba, where I live, we are under a quasi-State of Emergency. It gets quite confusing! This week is Golden Week, when millions of Japanese usually travel, either on holiday or to visit family in another part of the country. This year they are being asked not to travel and to make it “Gaman Week” – “gaman” meaning to endure something unpleasant or difficult!

## OMF News

Here is the fifth prayer point of OMF Japan’s prayer focus for 2021 on spreading the gospel more widely – please continue to pray with us for:

- ✚ 5) the Lord’s leading as to what role OMFers should play in contributing to mass evangelism tools and platforms including print, broadcast and social media.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> we are hosting our Virtual Vision Tour of Japan, to encourage those who are wanting to come as short-term workers, and to help them to know how to pray for the needs and ministries here. We are running it twice to hit different time zones. At the end of the month we hope to have a leadership team retreat (30<sup>th</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> June), coronavirus restrictions permitting. There are various preparations to be done for our meeting which starts straight after (2-4 June). Please pray for:

- ✚ Perseverance as we all deal with the ever-changing coronavirus recommendations;
- ✚ The Virtual Vision Trip to go well (it’s a first for all of us arranging it) and be helpful;
- ✚ The borders to open to allow new workers to enter the country.

## Family News

**Matthew** has passed the Diploma and starts a job from 1 May. This is mainly online, but will involve travelling to Cambridge for a few days each month. **Calum** has had various Universities get in touch with him to say that they would like to have him, but that their team is already full or that coronavirus budget restrictions means there is no money available. He has a few exams left over the next couple of days and then plans to call some places to see if they have anything available. He said it is difficult to do when you don’t have someone like a former coach pushing for you. He hopes to come back to Japan at the end of May. If he doesn’t have a place by then, he will need to rethink his next steps.

**Alistair** is attending the practices of his first choice of University on 5-6<sup>th</sup> and his second choice on the 19-20<sup>th</sup>. This is the first stage of finding out whether he will be able to enter under the sports entrance system. I had hoped to be able to go to his school for a parents’ meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup>, but that will now be online. We hope to have a PTA meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. It would be great if that could happen in person, since it gives natural opportunities to talk to other mothers. Please pray for:

- ✚ The Lord’s leading and provision for Calum and Alistair and for me as I support them in the process of decision-making;
- ✚ Opportunities to connect with other mothers to build relationships in this last school year.

## Church News

I hope that the youth group will be able to meet at my house on the 9<sup>th</sup> – I have promised them an English tea with scones! I also met the pastor’s wife recently and she is facing a lot of challenges. We hope to meet regularly to study a book together which a counselling friend recommended. Please pray that:

- ✚ I can encourage/challenge the youth appropriately as to what it means to follow Jesus in their daily lives (especially for S who is not yet believing); and
- ✚ The times with the pastor’s wife can be really helpful for her.

*With love and prayers*

*Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair*