



Prayer News Bulletin

SEPTEMBER 2020

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! (Ps8:9)

Dear Friends

Not only was this year's rainy season (June-July) the wettest on record, but August was also the hottest on record. September sees the start of typhoon season so we are hoping for no more records!

Family News

Alistair is now back at school for the second term of his 2nd year of high school. We enjoyed our few nights away in Shizuoka, a beautiful part of Japan. **Calum** is getting used to hybrid learning (mainly online but a few things in person) at University in Florida. The football season has been postponed until January, so there is no excuse not to study hard!

Matthew has had a busy time flat hunting, but thinks he has now found somewhere. Apparently the market suddenly saw a rush of people wanting to rent. He had been accepted as a volunteer with the Citizens Advice Bureau in Parkhead, but Glasgow City Council has announced they are cutting funding so it is probably facing closure. We anticipate that their services will be much needed over the coming months so hope a good solution can be found. Please pray that:

- ✚ The boys would be able to have some form of Christian fellowship during these times;
- ✚ Matthew can get some other form of legal experience, if not with the CAB.

OMF News

This month looks like being quite intense with several bigger things on. We have finished the text of the prayer booklet but are struggling to find a good design for the cover. The Japan Post Office is also not sending parcels to many countries at the moment, so we are needing to investigate other printing and postage options. We are also starting a major review of our mobilization strategy – how we share about the needs in Japan to encourage people to get involved in God's mission.

From the end of September I am also taking online child protection training as we need a second person on the field who is trained in this area. Our Field Conference is also taking place virtually from the 29th with various preparations to be done. I have also been asked to speak at a Women in Ministry retreat on the 8th of October, but need to do the preparations this month. I also need to do my 2021 OMF budget and my UK tax return.

Our Candidate Coordinator is going on Home Assignment, but our new CC is not coming until next year. We are grateful to have found someone to help fill the gap, but to make it more manageable, I will take on some of the trickier enquiries and those new workers who hope to join this year.

The Japanese Government has relaxed its rules so that residents can leave and return to Japan under certain conditions. However, for new workers and short-termers looking to come on tourist visas, the ban has been extended to 159 countries. Please pray:

- ✚ For focus on the various bigger projects this month and the Lord's leading and help for each one, especially for the Prayer Booklet – Beneath the Surface: 30 ways to pray for Japan;
- ✚ That we will soon be able to get our new workers here, and for good solutions for them to start to learn Japanese language and culture from their home countries until they can come.

Church News

For the weekly devotions, I have started a series on the book of Ruth. The Pastor is extremely busy at the moment. He is the chairman of the denomination (indefinite appointment) and also serves on the board of the Japan Evangelical Association. Since there is such a shortage, younger pastors are often asked to take on several different responsibilities, and many are overworked. Please pray:

- ✚ For the Pastor to find a way to manage his different responsibilities and not burn out.
- ✚ That the youth group can meet virtually this month now that holidays are over.

With love and prayers

Lorna, Daniel, Matthew, Calum and Alistair