



Prayer News Bulletin

SEPTEMBER 2021

*“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)*

Dear Friends

It looks like the worst of the summer heat is over, which makes daily life a bit easier. The Paralympics are in full swing, but with no spectators it doesn't really feel like we are living in the host city. Japan has experienced its biggest ever wave of cases over the summer. Case numbers are starting to trend downwards but the hospital system remains very stretched in many places. Our current State of Emergency is due to last until 12 September, but may well be extended again. In the meantime the borders remain firmly closed. May we all abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit!

Family News

What a difference a month makes! Just as we thought that there was no option for **Calum** in the US, one opened up at Monmouth University in New Jersey. The application process was completed in about 3 days. He flew up there a couple of days later and has already played in the first match with his new team. Classes start on the 7th. **Daniel** has accepted a job offer with a law firm in Bangkok. He has just submitted his visa application and hopes to travel there at the end of the month. His final thing to do at Parliament is to help the Japanese delegation at the G7 speakers' conference later this month. Thank you for all of your prayers for both of them. We trust that these are the doors which God is opening for them.

Alistair's last full term at school started today, but due to a number of coronavirus cases classes will be held online for the first 10 days at least. Happily for him, football practices are continuing as usual. It is just over 3 months to the end of the season and the end of his 6 years with the team. Please pray for:

- ✚ Daniel and Calum in their transitions and to find good Christian fellowship in their new cities.
- ✚ Alistair as he waits to hear of the next steps in the process of applying to University here in Japan. And Matthew who is “no change” in Glasgow.

OMF News

Thank you for praying for the Crisis Management pilot course. It seemed to go well. We will now consider what follow up steps need to be taken. Since we have been unable to hold a field conference (since 2018!) we will have a 2-day online gathering on the 14-15th. We have an online field leadership team meeting on the 16th, and a meeting to consider new applicants on the 30th. I will also give a presentation about Japan to homeside mobilisers on the 9th. Please pray:

- ✚ That the online field gathering will be an encouragement. Our Japanese colleague (and International Director) Sho Sugaya is giving the Bible talks;
- ✚ For wisdom and discernment in the other meetings to know the Lord's leading; and
- ✚ That the Lord will provide for those waiting to come to Japan, and that the borders will open in His timing.

Church News

I am waiting for the youth group to reply on a date we can meet in September. I was grateful that the pastor gave permission to meet in person even though the State of Emergency is still in place. I am more grateful than ever now for a spacious house which means that we can meet at an appropriate distance. I meet the pastor's wife for our next study on 21st. It had been hoped that we could restart a midweek ladies' meeting now that the older ladies are all vaccinated, but this has been postponed due to the higher case numbers. Please pray for:

- ✚ Church members to be sharing their faith with friends, family and colleagues;
- ✚ All those who are lonely and longing for some more in-person contact;
- ✚ The pastor who hasn't really had a break and carries a lot of responsibility.

With love and prayers
Lorna, Calum and Alistair