

April 2024

"You have the words of eternal life" John 6 68

Easter Opportunities

Thank you for praying for our Easter events. We very much appreciated the help of the three ladies from the Philippines who stayed with us for a week and helped to run the various events. **Praise God** that many people heard the gospel. Please pray that the seed sown will lead to people believing in Jesus. On Easter Sunday, an old friend of Mark's came to the Sunday service for the first time in a long time. **Please pray** that he will come back regularly.

New opportunities through English

Praise God for the good opportunities we have to meet people through English teaching. Every Saturday, we hold classes for children and beginners' and Intermediate classes for adults. At the end of each class, we share a short gospel message and invite people to study the bible more deeply in 1-to-1 classes. **Praise God** that a handful of people are now in 1-to-1 classes and are thinking more deeply about the bible.

Mrs Longbridge is asking lots of questions but is keen to fit parts of different religions together in her understanding. **Please pray** that she will see the truth in the gospel.

Mr Calmriver started studying the bible but said he wasn't interested. More recently, he's been sharing more about his difficult family situation. **Please pray** that this can open the door to an interest in the gospel.

New contact with Neighbours

Mrs Bamboofield lives behind our house and visited the church with her children a couple of years ago. Last week, she came again to ask about English and Minecraft Club and she attended the Beginners' English Class for the first time. **Please pray** that we can welcome her and her family well and that they will be interested to find out more about Jesus.

Homeschool and University Applications

Thank you for praying for Grace (17), Isaac (15) and Caleb's (13) schooling. **Praise God** that the local Middle School has allowed Caleb to try attending for afternoons only for a two week period at the beginning of April. If that goes well, he will join the school and attend for at least a few afternoons a week. His main study focus will still be online homeschool but he looks forward to the social side of getting involved in Japanese school again.

Isaac is now studying hard for his upcoming AS Level Maths exams (to be taken in Tokyo on the 29th of April and the 7th of May). **Please pray** that he will remember the material well and get a good result. **Praise God** that Grace now has five offers from universities. **Praise God** that this week Grace was granted UK Fee Status for Southampton University where she would like to study Music. Thank you for praying!

New Team Members coming in May

Thank you for praying for Lisa (short-term missionary) and Rachel (long term missionary) who are set to join our team in Hanamaki in mid-May. **Praise God** that Lisa has now booked her flights and will arrive on May the 17th. **Praise God** that Rachel has found an apartment very close to the church and the application is progressing well. She should be able to move here in the same week. **Please pray** for wisdom for us as we think about what ministries they can be involved in.

Yuzuki sharing the Gospel at local Kindergartens

Praise God that Yuzuki is now teaching English at local kindergartens about once a week and that many of these places are happy for her to share stories from the bible. **Please pray** that the children will listen well and remember what they hear. We are not sure if the car Yuzuki is using will be available in the long term. **Please pray** that we can adjust her ministry well if this logistics require it. Yuzuki is now planning for the end of her course in March 2025. **Please pray** for a good plan for her future.

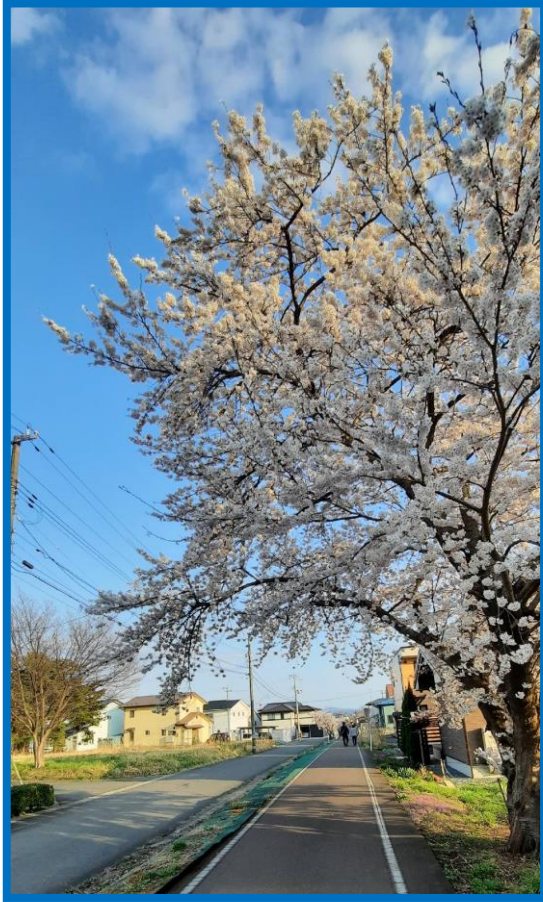
Thank you for praying for us, please let us know how we can pray for you.

With love from Mark, Sarah, Grace, Isaac and Caleb

The Gelsthorpes – working for OMF leading a church plant in rural, northern Japan.
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