



Prayer News Bulletin

AUGUST 2024

“the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.” (Psalm 147:11)

Dear Friends

Hello from a rather hot Tokyo. Summer has arrived with a vengeance. I wish I could send you some of the heat! Thank you for praying for last month's requests. Quite a few have been answered. We have a field prayer focus this year on being fruitful. Please join us in praying “that the fruit of the Spirit will be increasingly evident in our lives; and for fruit from the gospel seeds sown over generations here in Japan – may many people come to faith and be baptised”.

Family News

I am travelling until the **10th** to Prague and Košice (Slovakia) to meet **Matthew's** in-laws – Annamaria's parents, sister and hopefully her grandparents. This will be the first time to meet any of them. We will have a family celebration of their marriage on the **4th**. Please keep praying for a job for Matthew when his traineeship ends in the middle of the month. **Calum** got his student visa and has already gone to Florida. He ended up getting a last-minute spot on the football team with a scholarship to help with his fees. Welcome week begins on the **15th** when he can get his social security number and then start his job on campus. It's a Christian University so I hope he can make some good Christian friends. **Alistair** has a 2-month break from classes, but football and his job continue. He turns 21 on the **12th**, when I hope to be able to visit him. Please pray for:

- ✚ A good time getting to know Annamaria's family and the culture she grew up in;
- ✚ A job for Matthew, and for all of the 'boys' to seek God's guidance in the decisions they make.

OMF News

We have asked someone else to take over my role, and they agreed to let their name go forward, although they will not be able to take it on until next summer. Now we are waiting to see if field members approve the appointment. We are also working on an interim solution for the next 12 months, which is quite complicated because of the variety of areas my role covers.

I had a good Tohoku trip. It was encouraging to see ministries in different places and to understand some of the challenges faced by churches in smaller towns. The Field Leadership Team will now discuss my next placement at our meeting on the **20th**. We have a full agenda of other matters too to discuss that day. **Prue Tan**, who will become the field's TCK (Third Culture Kid) Advisor, visits Ichikawa from **21-23rd** for initial orientation, although she won't start to take the role on until she has done a few months of language study. The members of the team who create our social media posts is changing again, with one person leaving, one returning and a new person joining. Missionary life and ministry is always full of transitions! I have also been asked to help with a revision to part of OMF's Handbook in connection with role on the Global Vision Council and hope to do that later in the month. Please pray for:

- ✚ The process of appointing my successor and wisdom for the interim solution;
- ✚ Wisdom in all decisions we need to make at the field leadership team meeting
- ✚ The Lord's leading for the decision on my next placement from summer 2025; and
- ✚ Transitions in the social media and TCK teams. May we equip people well for their roles.

Church News

The church is holding an outreach concert on the **11th** and is busy delivering flyers to homes in the area. The pastor will then take a one-week break. The next Mums and Babies outreach is on the **27th** and I meet the pastor's wife on the **29th**. The church is now considering starting a monthly group for Mums and toddlers too. Please pray for:

- ✚ Many people to come to the concert and be connected to the church as a result;
- ✚ Wisdom as the church continues to look to build connections with the community. One key need is for a place where people can park cars to make it easier for people to come;
- ✚ A good break for the pastor and his family.

With love and prayers, Lorna and Alistair