



# Prayer News Bulletin

JANUARY 2026

*“Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.” (Psalm 78:7)*

Dear Friends

Happy New Year (for tomorrow!). I hope you all had a good Christmas. I managed to cook a Christmas dinner for 7 in my tiny Japanese kitchen and the Kizu family seemed to enjoy it. There wasn't much left anyway. Daniel and Yada were in Bangkok with her family; Annamaria's parents and sister joined her and Matthew in London; Calum was with Jordan's family in Florida; and Alistair was working in Tokyo, helping scout for players for the following year's team. (Christmas Day is not a holiday here.) Alistair then came up here for a few days and became the first overnight visitor in my flat. He went back to Tokyo this morning, after they blew all the snow off the plane!

## Sakata News

Thank you for praying for the different events last month. We were encouraged by those who came to the ladies' Christmas, kids' Christmas and Christmas Eve service – not huge numbers, but each had more than last year and there was a good atmosphere. We will have a New Year's Day service tomorrow, followed by a “mochi (pounded rice cake) eating party”. The new church year starts from January and the AGM will be held on the **26<sup>th</sup>** when some new deacons will be elected.

I also had a good time with my various guests. Mrs KT (the relatively new believer) is keen for me to meet her daughter S. She studied for a year+ in London so speaks a fair amount of English. We are wondering if she would be interested in reading the Bible in English together. We are also looking at starting some English classes in the church from the spring, with “taster classes” in February.

Our new Sunday School format starts in this month. Unfortunately, one of the two families is no longer coming to church. The children's mother was working on a Sunday so was happy for the grandparents to bring the children to church, but now she has changed job and has a Sunday off so they are not coming. That leaves just the pastor's children, and the older two often have basketball matches on Sundays.

A Japanese OMF missionary is visiting on the **10-11<sup>th</sup>** to share about his work with a tribal group in North Thailand. We hope to encourage the church members and the Sunday School children to be praying for world mission. Please pray for:

- ✚ The three children from the SB family to be able to come back to church – perhaps with their mother too! May the pastors' older children also be able to attend more regularly;
- ✚ The new Sunday School format to engage the children better. May each child come to believe in Jesus for themselves;
- ✚ The Lord to give wisdom as the church makes plans for 2026, in particular for various outreaches. We would love to find ways to connect with 'younger' people (under 50s);
- ✚ The Lord's leading as to who should serve as deacons to help lead the church.

## Family and OMF News

**Alistair** moved into his flat just before Christmas. Football training for the new season starts in mid-January. Although he is working as a coach for the University team, he doesn't officially start to be employed (and therefore paid) until after he graduates in March so will also keep going with his part-time job in the meantime. My fukiya (blow darts) and sashiko (embroidery) start up again. I hope to continue to build relationships in those groups and also with my neighbours so I can invite folks to events at church and also be able to share something of Jesus with them.

I have also been asked to serve on OMF's international team which responds to safeguarding concerns and will have some training this month. Please pray for:

- ✚ Each of the boys and their spouses to commit and/or continue to follow Jesus and know God's leading in their lives: and
- ✚ My relationships with different people here and to be “prepared to speak in season and out of season”. May 2026 be a year when many more Japanese people put their trust in God

*Thank you so much. With love and prayers, Lorna*