



# Prayer News Bulletin

MAY 2024

*“But the one sown on the good ground—this is one who hears and understands the word, who does produce fruit and yields: some a hundred, some sixty, some thirty times...” (Matt 13:23)*

Dear Friends

Thank you for praying for my break. It was lovely to switch off for a few days and enjoy the beauty of God’s creation in a different part of Japan. The island of Shikoku is a place with a long Buddhist history with many temples and is a hard area for the gospel to take root. It was a reminder of how vital prayer is in helping to break the ground so that the seeds of the gospel can find good soil. Thank you for praying.

## Family News

**Daniel** has exams this month to complete his conversion course to English law. He has to pass everything first time or he loses his training contract. **Matthew** didn’t get the job at the firm he is with just now, but has a job interview at another firm on the 9<sup>th</sup> and is waiting to hear about positions opening up elsewhere. **Calum** is still exploring options for further study, preferably in the US. **Alistair’s** team has a match locally on the 5<sup>th</sup> and then he will stay here that night. I am also starting to organize my belongings with a view to packing up the house later this year. Please pray for:

- ✚ A good time with Alistair, and for God to lead and provide for each of the boys.
- ✚ Good planning as I prepare to hand over my role and move out of my house later this year.

## OMF News

Thank you for praying for the tricky situation I mentioned last month. It has been a lot of work with various parties, but we hope we now have a way forward. There will be a few more meetings at the start of this month. I have online Global Vision Council (OMF’s highest board of governance) on the evenings of **30 April and 1-2 May**. From **29-31** we have Field Leadership Team meetings. One thing we will consider is our capacity to take new workers. We have many people wanting to come to Japan, but we need to think about our ability to them in language and culture so that they can serve well as missionaries here.

Recently we received an email from our General Director (over the whole of OMF) asking for prayer for our international leaders. A number of them are suddenly dealing with significant health issues. There are also several leadership positions needing to be filled. We have also heard recently of some Japan Field members receiving concerning medical diagnoses. Please pray:

- ✚ For wisdom and the Lord’s leading at the various meetings;
- ✚ For consensus on whether/how to increase our capacity to accept and train new workers;
- ✚ That we can keep our focus on evangelism and discipleship of Japanese people and seeing communities of faith established and built up;
- ✚ For those facing health issues to know God’s peace and support as they undergo treatment.
- ✚ For OMF Japan’s prayer focus this year that we would all remain in Jesus and bear much fruit.

## Church News

Mrs K is going to be baptized on the **19<sup>th</sup>**. A baptism service in Japan is always a special occasion. The person being baptised gives their testimony and baptism is usually by full immersion. We will have a church lunch afterwards to celebrate. Our next Mums and Babies outreach is on the **21<sup>st</sup>**. Some of the babies are now getting too old for the group so we are thinking how to continue contact with these families. The pastor’s wife and I also plan to deliver some leaflets to parents at a local kindergarten as we look for new people to join. I also meet the pastor’s wife on the **17<sup>th</sup>**. I am now nearing the end of my devotions in Philippians and will start to think of what to do next. Please pray:

- ✚ For protection for Mrs K and for her baptism to be an encouragement to all who witness it; and
- ✚ That God will open the hearts of the Mums in the group to want to hear about Jesus;
- ✚ For the devotions that Pastor K and I write each week to help build our church members up and encourage them to share their faith with others.

*With love and prayers, Lorna and Alistair*