



Prayer News Bulletin

NOVEMBER 2025

*"The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel declares,
'I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.'" (Isaiah 56:8)*

Dear Friends

I have been reading through Isaiah over the past few months. In the ESV the heading of the first part of chapter 56 is "Salvation for Foreigners". I was especially encouraged by this latter part of verse 8 and pray that the Lord is indeed going to gather new people to the shrinking congregation in Sakata.

Sakata News

As I have been praying, I sense that there are five areas God wants me to be involved in: (1) service in the church (Sunday school, ladies' meetings etc); (2) outreach through the church (like cooking and English classes); (3) supporting Pastor Kizu and his family; (4) being involved in the local community as a way to get to know people; and (5) volunteering with those who are disadvantaged.

Thanks for praying for the Kids' Time last month. Five non-church children came, and I was able to meet their mothers too. One commented that she had seen me out and about in the town. Pastor Kizu has suggested starting trial English classes for these children and possibly also their mothers from January and we are currently praying about this.

It was good to meet the non-Christian ladies who came to the wreath-making class. One older lady plays the sport of 'fukiya' or blow darts. We exchanged contact info and I will attend a trial session on the 6th. She will also come to the Scottish cooking class on the 19th and has invited two friends.

The Sunday school leader is stepping down after many years of service. Pastor Kizu sees this as an opportunity to make changes in the hope of engaging the children more. We will start to discuss his suggestion at the teachers' meeting on the 2nd. In the meantime, I am leading the Sunday school on the 2nd and 30th and giving the message on the 23rd. This month I also lead the breakout group for the older children each week, that is (Rin (15), brought by her grandparents and Hatsuho (10), the pastor's oldest daughter. Hatsuho is not always there since she plays basketball for her school and sometimes has matches on Sundays).

We have heard that the Mrs T and her family have decided to go to another church. One older church member died last month, and two others are in hospital on end-of-life care. One other older church member has moved into a home near her son in another prefecture. Pastor Kizu was sharing the discouragement of seeing the congregation getting older and smaller. We long for God to "gather yet others", especially younger folks. Please pray for:

- ✚ Good connections with the two families at Sunday school - may each child to come to know Jesus;
- ✚ The cooking class on the 19th. We will make lentil soup, cheese scones and apple crumble. I will also give a short message and need the Lord's guidance for what I should speak about;
- ✚ Encouragement for Pastor Kizu and wisdom for church leadership as they consider changes.

Family and OMF News

Daniel has his next set of exams on 4-6th (written) and 13-14th (oral). **Calum** is very busy this term with two masters courses and two jobs. OMF celebrates 75 years serving in Japan, and 60 years for the Japan homeside (which sends missionaries out). We are having celebratory meetings with OMF's General Director on the 22nd and 24th. We will also have our twice-yearly Tohoku members' meeting in Hanamaki (a 3-hour drive away) on the 3rd. I will help facilitate the next round of the Crisis Management Training 4-6th and take the final part of an online course on conflict mediation 17-18th. I hope this might be useful in both OMF and the church when needed. Please pray that:

- ✚ Each of the boys will seek the Lord in their daily lives and want to listen to his voice;
- ✚ The anniversary events will help mobilise Japanese churches to be involved in missions;
- ✚ The Lord will help me as I balance OMF and church responsibilities. I am also in the process of getting a car which is suitable for the winter here. I am grateful for a recent gift which makes this possible. I will then give Alistair my current car since it doesn't snow much where he is.

Thank you so much. With love and prayers, Lorna