



Prayer News Bulletin

SEPTEMBER 2024

“Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.” (1 Chronicles 16:11)

Dear Friends

We have now entered typhoon season in Japan. A particularly strong typhoon hit the west of Japan earlier this week and is now making its way slowly up the country dropping record amounts of rain as it does, causing flooding and landslides in various places, killing some people and injuring others. Japan is particularly vulnerable to natural disasters because of its climate and topography.

Family News

Thank you for praying for my trip. It was lovely to meet up with **Matthew** and Annamaria, to meet her family, and learn something about their culture and background. Matthew is currently unemployed but has a job interview on **Tuesday 3rd**. **Daniel** is submitting the application for Yada's spouse visa this month as they prepare to move to London next March. The process takes about 24 weeks. **Calum** has started his masters course, football and job on campus in Florida and so far things are going well. It is a Christian University with regular times of worship and other activities. His girlfriend, Jordan, got a football contract with a team in northern Greece so has moved there whilst Calum lives with her parents! **Alistair** starts his new semester at the end of the month. Please pray:

- ✚ For a job for Matthew and Yada's visa application to go smoothly;
- ✚ That God will lead Calum to make a profession of faith in this Christian environment.

OMF News

September is looking like a rather busy month. We are now waiting for final confirmation of the person to take over my role from next year. Plans for an interim solution are starting to fall into place but there is still a lot to arrange. I will probably now continue fully in my role until the end of October, rather than the end of September as had been planned. In the meantime, I am having meetings with all those who serve in my Sector to hear their thoughts too. **Prue Tan** unfortunately became ill so was not able to come to Ichikawa for TCK (Third Culture Kid) orientation, so I will now travel to Sapporo from **9-12th** to do that, plus have some other meetings with different members. Field Welcome Group meets on the **4th** as we consider new candidates applying to come to Japan. I will also do an orientation for new members on funerals in Japan on the **30th**.

The decision on my placement from next summer after my Home Assignment might be finalized this month. The Sector Leader will travel to the church on the **7-8th**. If that goes well, I will visit on the **21-24th** to attend a church service, meet church leadership, and explore the area a bit.

Some of you will remember **Kaori Chua** and her husband, How Chuang. We came to Japan at the same time in 1998 and worked together for four years starting Hiragishi Izumi Church in Sapporo. How Chuang died from cancer in 2015. Kaori is now getting married to Peter Leong, a Singaporean from New Zealand, on the **7th**. He is moving to Japan to be with her and her 12-year daughter, Airi. It will be a privilege to attend the wedding. Please pray for:

- ✚ The ongoing process of appointing my successor and planning for the interim solution;
- ✚ Good listening in all the conversations and meetings I have, including on the trip to Sapporo;
- ✚ The Lord's confirmation as to the location of my next placement; and
- ✚ The Lord's blessing on Kaori, Peter and Airi as they make huge adjustments in their lives.

Church News

Thank you for praying for the church concert. About 80 people attended, including a friend I invited who in turn invited another friend. Japanese culture likes to make plans, so I am in various discussions with people at church about what it will look like to finish up here. The next Mums and Babies outreach (up to 12 months) is on the **25th**, which will be my last. They are also starting a monthly Mums and toddlers group for aged 1+ from the **27th**, which I will attend this one time only. Please pray:

- ✚ For the church as it seeks to reach out to those in the local community; and
- ✚ That I can finish up well there.

With love and prayers, Lorna and Alistair