



Japan Prayer Fuel

July 2016

Change

This time of year is often one of a lot of movement and change on the mission field. Missionaries often take holidays at this time or go to their sending countries to visit with supporters on home assignment. Whenever people leave, there are inevitable changes on the field, especially when leaders go. This year is no different, with a number of changes, some expected, some unexpected. Change can be exciting, but it often hard. Pray for grace in the midst of the transitions.

Field Director

Our field director, David Ferguson, has been diagnosed with two rare blood cancers. He is being treated in Japan, but has obviously had to step down from leadership for the time being. At short notice Mike McGinty has stepped into the role of Deputy Field Director for an interim period of six-months.

Pray for David's healing and for his family (four sons— two in Scotland and two in Japan). Pray for his wife Lorna who is continuing as our Personnel Director. Pray for Mike as he takes on this new role. He is also deputising for our Training Sector Leader who is on home assignment. Pray for him as he juggles these two roles.

Home assignments

Armin and Heike Messer (Kanto sector leader) are going on a short home assignment, during the summer.

Several other members are also going on home assignment this month. Pray that they'll have safe travels and meaningful times with family, friends and supporters.

A number of missionaries have arrived back from home assignment and are settling back into ministry or language refresher. Pray for good transitions.

Ichikawa guest home

We have had unexpected changes for our guest home too. Our temporary guest home manager finishes her time with us in mid July and from then on for twelve months we have no one who's only role is to manage the guest home. Various temporary plans are in place and we're praying

God will supply someone to fill this position in the coming months.

Serve Asia workers

As is usual at this time of year, there are many people here serving for a short time. Many missionaries have teams with them for short periods. Pray that those who come will have servant hearts and that God might lead into long-term ministry in Japan in the future. Pray that the teams would be an encouragement to the missionaries and Japanese Christians they serve with. Pray for Wera Laschenko, Wendy Law, and Karen Viljoen who are all involved in coordinating the visits of these short term workers.

Holidays/vacations

Many missionaries take holidays in July. Hokkaido Bible institute also has a break from mid-July. Pray for refreshment for all. Our finance manager, Simon North, is in NZ for July on holidays with his family. Pray for no crises to arise while he is away. Pray for a good rest for him. Pray for the two Japanese workers he leaves behind in the office in Japan.

At our recent all Japan conference we rejoiced to hear about (and see photos of) the work recently done by Martin Ghent and short-term teams on renovating the Takayama Holiday Houses near Sendai. Many are looking forward to taking vacations there in the future.

Churches looking for pastors

Several churches that OMF has planted or are working with are looking for new pastors. That includes Chapel of Adoration (Ichikawa), Saitama International Church, Kisarazu Hatazawa (in Chiba).

Japanese Language and Culture Centre (JLCC)

Transition is never far away from the JLCC and this month four new long-term workers arrive plus one short-term worker. One student finishes full-time study at the end of the month.

Training sector

The training sector leadership team meets this month on the 19th. One of the things they will discuss is training designations (where JLCC students will work after graduation). Pray for wisdom.

Enquirers

There continues to be a steady stream of people enquiring about vision trips to Japan and also about becoming missionaries to Japan. Pray for wisdom in how we manage these, but also that God would call many to be harvesters in this land.