



# Japan Prayer Fuel

December 2016

## Christmas

Christmas is a huge time for outreach for missionaries and churches in Japan. Most of our members are involved in Christmas-themed outreaches and events this month. Pray that many will attend these events and for open hearts and understanding. Pray also for missionaries, that we would be able to celebrate Jesus' birth with renewed joy and awe. Especially pray for those in their first term, for whom it can be difficult to be away from family at this time.

Here are some specific events to pray for:

- Jo (first term) hosts a Kids' Christmas party for her daughter's friends on the 10<sup>th</sup> in Sendai.
- Mikasa Church (north of Sapporo) has a Christmas service and party on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Ricky and Winny (first term) will serve in the service as host and worship leader/flautist.
- Samuel and Tina (also first term) will host a German Christmas (15<sup>th</sup>) and a Children's Christmas (16<sup>th</sup>) in Noboribetsu (southwest of Sapporo).
- An eight-person Christmas Outreach Team will come from Australia to Sendai and be involved in many different outreaches especially at universities.
- At Hanamaki Megumi (northern Honshu), Wolfgang and Dorothea will host many Christmas events this month including cooking classes, a concert, and worship.
- fmZero, a student outreach in Sapporo, will hold an outreach event on the 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Chris will speak at the Sapporo City Hospital's Christmas party on the 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Hokuei church (Sapporo) will have lots of Christmas events this month.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to work in all of the above situations, as well as in the ministries that we couldn't mention here due to space.

## Study

Japanese is a difficult language and it's also hard to acquire a good understanding of the culture of Japan. Pray for all members to persevere in the life-long learning involved in ministry here. Pray especially for two doing a national language exam on the 4<sup>th</sup>: Andrew and Samuel.

## Travel

Pray for those who will travel at this time. Those in Hokkaido and northern Honshu will deal with snow on the roads and potentially dangerous conditions.

Our deputy field director and his wife will also travel back to the US for Christmas and New Year.

There are people travelling in and out of Japan this month too: short termers, our new finance manager and his family, and Bel (going on Home Assignment).

## Health

Please continue to pray for our Field Director as he undergoes another round of chemotherapy this month plus a hoped-for second stem cell harvest. His family is hoping he'll be well enough to come home temporarily from hospital for Christmas.

CAJ (Christian Academy in Japan): a long-term staff member (not OMFer) has been diagnosed with two rapidly growing brain tumours.

Missionaries work very hard during the Christmas season, pray for daily strength and also rest and refreshment during the "down time" post-Christmas.

## 2016 Prayer Vision

May the Lord give us the 150 full-time workers and 50 others by 2020: OMF Friends and greater than six-month short-term workers. Pray also for the strength and resources to support and equip them.

## Praise

- **New missionaries coming:**
  - A replacement for our Serve Asia coordinator has been cleared to come in January
  - New finance manager (see Travel)
- **New pastor:** Kisarazu Hatazawa (Chiba): Mr Maruyama has accepted the call to become the church's first Japanese pastor.
- **Baptisms:** This month there are baptisms planned at Hokuei church (Sapporo) and New Hope Yokohama.
- **Believers taking on ministry:** Kisarazu (Chiba): a new believer will take on the Cake and Café outreach event in the new year, Bibai (north of Sapporo): youth taking the lead in the Youth Café ministry
- **A house to rent:** the Gelsthorpe family has been needing accommodation in order to move to Hanamaki to begin ministry there. Praise God a house has been found and they will move on the 10<sup>th</sup>.