



Japan Prayer Fuel

March 2017

Spring and a change of year

Japan's school and fiscal years finish at the end of March. Most churches also operate this way. While many of OMF Japan's missionaries are still deep in snow in Tohoku and Hokkaido, spring is definitely on its way in the greater Tokyo area, with cherry blossoms forecast to bloom in the last week of March.

Moves

As a result of the change of year many Japanese people move, which can be challenging for small churches. Pray for encouragement as churches lose key members to transfers.

Many missionaries also move at this time. Pray for smooth transitions and good health, plus time to make connections in their new communities.

Here are some missionaries who are moving this March:

- The Jessop family moves on from language school (Japan Language and Culture Center, JLCC) to begin their training placement with a church in Aomori. Pray for housing and a good move, especially for the children.
- Chelsia also moves on from JLCC to Sendai for her training placement.
- Aaron moves from Sapporo to Tokyo to work with hi-b.a., a high school ministry.
- The Yonges move on from Chiba to head on home assignment (HA) but first will have handover time in Hanamaki (Iwate) for their next assignment.
- The Figilister family is also packing up for home assignment. Pray for good farewells.
- Matthias will go on home assignment this month. Pray for his wife and kids who will remain in Japan for schooling and meet up with Matthias in Switzerland during the summer.
- Some return from HA this month: Bel and the Baumgartner family.
- The Killer family is preparing to leave for HA in April.

With the school year ending in March, that means transitions for many of our families who have children in Japanese schooling. Pray these will go smoothly.

At the end of March the new pastor arrives at Sapporo International Church and Kisarazu Hatazawa church (Chiba) inducts their new pastor.

Serve Japan (short term program) always has new arrivals. This month we welcome two, including Kevin who will be helping restructure our OMF Japan website. Wera, our Serve Japan coordinator is retiring and will be doing handover with our new coordinator, Jane, this month.

Some churches have lost leaders. Aomori and Wakaba (Sapporo) churches have had their pastor resign. Sendai Evangelical Christian church has had their church evangelist leave to study at HBI.

Graduations

Hokkaido Bible Institute (HBI) has its graduation this month. Praise God for three graduates. Seven new students are preparing to enroll from April.

Camps and other spring events

Spring camps are popular. Pray for the Hokkaido KGK camp 7-10, Natch, Sunny, and Elvira will be there. And the Kanto KGK camp from 13-16, with Kelly.

Preparation for Easter baptisms is happening this month in some churches. Pray for a man preparing for a possible Easter baptism in Saitama International church

English Speakers' Fellowship in Sapporo is preparing for their International Welcome Party in April.

Sorachi Area Evangelism has a Spring-themed 'Furusato Café' in Mikasa.

Hirosaki Nozomi (Tohoku) has an English class presenting an Easter play on the 24th as well as other Easter events in April. They also have a primary-aged boy preparing for an Easter baptism.

Preparation for new year

With the new church/school year starting in April, preparations are underway for new programs, classes and meetings from April. Pray for wisdom in preparations.

Health

Please continue to pray for our Field Director. He is out of hospital but continues to face a long recovery. Pray for his two hospital appointments this month.

CAJ (Christian Academy in Japan): a long-term staff member (not OMFer) with terminal brain cancer is out of hospital and returned home.

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.