



# Japan Prayer Fuel

March 2018

The Japanese fiscal and academic year ends in March and begins afresh in April, and many churches also follow this pattern. March endings and April beginnings also affect many OMF members' lives. Would you pray with, and for us as we move forward, praising the Lord for "all that is past, and trust[ing] him for all that's to come".<sup>1</sup>



## Hokkaido Sector Leader

On 26<sup>th</sup> March, Chris and Kesia Pain will hand over leadership responsibilities for Hokkaido to Samuel and Tina Figilister. Pray for a good handover and for them as they get to know the Sector and the role.

Chris and Kesia Pain continue in their role as Field Director, while preparing for home assignment from summer. Please pray for God to sustain, bless, strengthen and guide them.

## Max and Reiko Oehninger

The Oehningers were due to retire this year, but have kindly agreed to stay on for another year to take on the role of Deputy Field Leader during the Pains' home assignment. Please pray for energy and wisdom to continue ministry at their present church until summer, while learning the ropes of their new role.

## Student Camps

KGK (Christian Student Group) and others hold various camps in March. Pray for students to be challenged, changed and recharged with the Gospel, as well as bold and creative in reaching new students at the start of the academic year in April.

## Hokkaido Bible Institute (HBI)

Students are busy with final papers and exams. Pray for a good closure of term for Keith Olson and Michael Widmer, and for their marking of papers. All five graduating students have successfully defended their graduation theses.

Besides the students from the Pastoral Program, three from the Believers' Course are preparing for graduation (10<sup>th</sup>). Pray for blessing on their future ministries. Three people have enrolled for next year, but HBI would love to see more.

## Hokkaido House Church Network

As this new ministry starts from this month, pray for a good pace and a good team launch for the Kochs and the Euseys. Louis Lau, OMF Japan Church Planting Facilitator, will support them from 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> March while they think about their mission, vision, values and action steps.

## Nayoro Grace Church

Tim and Miho Walker, who have been in charge of the church for the last three years, give thanks that a Japanese leader is planning to come to Nayoro in April. Pray for Pastor Yamahiro and his wife in their preparations. Pray for the Walkers, too, while they prepare for home assignment and all the changes it will bring to their family of five.

## Annual General Meetings (AGM)

Many churches have their AGMs in mid- to late March. Pray for stamina for missionaries and pastors who have to prepare many documents; for Spirit-led planning for the new church year; and for unity in all the decisions that need to be made.

## OMF Families

One family has returned from Canada to Aomori, another is moving to Hong Kong for home assignment, and another one to the UK. One girl graduates from Japanese middle school, and five children from kindergarten. Please pray that God would be their rock of peace in every ending and new beginning.

## OMF Field Conference

About 250 people (including 81 children and young people in that number) gather at Jozankei, Hokkaido, 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March. Please pray for rich blessing, deep joy and great fellowship.

## Easter in Japan

Easter is becoming more 'popular', but most people still have no idea what it is about. Please pray that the good news of the risen Lord would be proclaimed widely, joyfully and creatively.

\***Hanamaki Megumi Church** is hoping to do an Easter event in a local children's home.

\***Mikasa Church** prepares an Easter outreach with a special 'English Café' (24<sup>th</sup> March) linking attendees into the Easter Sunday service.

\***Sapporo Izumi Church** invite their contacts to an Easter lunch, followed by an evangelistic service.

<sup>1</sup> Joseph Hart, How good is the God we adore