

**March 2024**

**"Truly this man was the Son of God!" Mark 15 39**

### **Easter Outreach**

**Praise God** that we have lots of opportunities to share the gospel over Easter. Please pray for God's help with the events below:

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>: Meditative prayer evening

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> : Easter Garden making and craft event for adults

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> : Easter Café Special event with baking for children and craft for adults

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> : Easter Day Service with lunch together and craft event for Sunday School children and chocolate hunt

**Please pray** that the gospel will be preached boldly and clearly at these events and that many people will come and be challenged. We have a team of three ladies from the Philippines staying in the church and helping to prepare these events over Easter. **Please pray** that they will work well with the church and that God will encourage them and use them in Hanamaki.

### **University Applications and Homeschooling**

**Praise God** that Grace has received three offers from universities so far. She is now waiting to hear about her application to be considered a home-side student (to avoid having to pay double for her tuition as an international student. **Please pray** that the universities will complete their assessments soon and look with favour on her situation. Isaac's first Maths AS Level exam is on April the 28<sup>th</sup>. **Please pray** for good revision for him as he works through past papers in the remaining weeks. Caleb is now aiming to finish his GCSEs a year earlier than originally planned. **Please pray** for good progress for him and for Sarah as they work through his material at a higher pace.

### **Em returning to the Philippines**

Thank you praying for Em, a member of our staff team from the Philippines who has been in Hanamaki since the summer of 2023. **Praise God** that she safely returned to the Philippines on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March to care for her elderly mother. **Praise God** that she has been able to build close relationships with many of the regulars at our weekly English classes. **Please pray** for a good transition for her back into the Philippines and for her to be used mightily by God at home. **Please pray** that, as we meet with some of those she was studying with, we can continue to talk to them about the gospel and see them approach faith in Jesus.

### **New team members coming in May**

In mid-May, we are looking forward to welcoming Rachel Dexter and Lisa Moniello to our church staff team. Rachel is from the UK and is a long-term missionary in her first term. After graduating from language school, she will complete her training in Hanamaki. Lisa is a short term missionary from Italy. She will spend six months living in the church and supporting the ministry here. **Please pray** that both of these ladies will thrive in Hanamaki and will have lots of opportunities to share the gospel with people. **Please pray** that we can find a suitable apartment for Rachel within walking distance of the church.

### **Encouraging church members to read the Bible**

Every year, we aim to meet with all the regulars at church individually to ask how we can pray for them. We ask the Christians about their walk with Jesus and the Non-Christians how we can encourage them to find out more. A number of our church members struggle to read the Bible every day. **Praise God** for the seminar on daily Bible reading we could hold on March the 16<sup>th</sup>. **Please pray** that those who attended will be encouraged to read the Bible every day. We have also made Bible reading schedules available and talked more about bible reading in the Sunday sermons. **Please pray** that our church members will read the Bible every day.

Thank you for praying for us, please let us know how we can pray for you.

With love from Mark, Sarah, Grace, Isaac and Caleb

**The Gelsthorpes – working for OMF leading a church plant in rural, northern Japan.**  
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Leaving Lunch for Em

Church Ladies Lunch



**The Gelsthorpes – working for OMF leading a church plant in rural, northern Japan.**  
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