



October 2020

'The Lord is the great God, the king above all gods.' Psalm 95

This month, we will give you a tour of what our lives look like in a typical week. Please pray for us!

SATURDAY

9:00am to 10:00am English Fun Club

10:00am to 4:00pm Café at Church

Mark arrives at the church at 8:20am to set up snacks and drinks for the **English Fun Club** which starts at 9am. A few Elementary school children come to run around, shout out English phrases, play games and hear a bible story in our new meeting room. Their parents drink coffee in the next room. Peter (our colleague) has a good conversation with them and talks to them about Christian baptism as he shows them round the building. **Please pray** that the parents and the children will respond to the gospel.

Grace bakes at church for the café where a number of our regular guests come. One lady studies the bible in German with Renate (Peter's wife) and a young Christian new to our church meets with Mark to talk about how to do regular prayer and bible study. Two ladies come to practice their English and another regular sits down to talk about differences in culture between the UK and Japan. A young Christian meets with Mark to talk about how to study the bible for himself. A young non-Christian man attending a local college comes to play table tennis and spends half an hour reading a book about the gospel with one of the missionaries. Grace meets up with her friends. Towards the end of café the monthly Mum's parenting class starts which a few non-Christian Mums attend.

Please pray for encouraging fellowship and bible studies with Christians at cafe time.

Please pray that our student friend reading about the gospel will come to believe in Jesus.

Please pray for the parenting class and three young mums who are doing bible studies at our church – that they will see their need for a saviour.

SUNDAY

We arrive at church at 9:45am and Isaac (12) sits in at our new sound booth to learn how to operate it. We chat to church regulars including the husband of a member who isn't a Christian but has recently started coming regularly.

Our service is all in Japanese but we provide English notes for the sermon. Around twenty people come to the service, mostly Christians but there are a few interested non-Christians. Mark preaches on James chapter two. After the service, he meets with Grace (14) and another Junior High School girl for ten minutes to discuss how we can apply the sermon to ourselves.

Like many churches in Japan, we eat together after the service in the worship room. We are currently encouraging members to sign up to meet with us as a couple on a Sunday afternoon to ask them about their faith, how we can encourage them and how we can pray for them.

We leave church at about 2pm after cleaning the building with the help of church regulars and rest for the rest of the day.

Please pray for church regulars to be keen to meet with us pastorally.

Please pray for Christians and non-Christians to be encouraged and challenged on a Sunday morning.

MONDAY

This is our day off, we have pancakes for breakfast and often go out of town for at least part of the day.

Please pray for a good day off each week and good family time together.

TUESDAY

AM Sarah, Grace, Isaac and Caleb start the week's homeschool working from 8:30am to early afternoon. Caleb works one on one with Sarah while Grace and Isaac work mostly independent. We homeschool from Tuesday to Friday.

Mark is in the office beginning preparation for his duties that week including preaching, leading the service, leading prayer meeting and leading English Fun Club.

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

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PM Team meeting with our colleagues, the Yonges. We review the week, pray together for the work and one another and talk about ideas for evangelism and building up the believers going forward. Mark plays tennis in a club at the local sports centre. Grace, Isaac and Caleb have swimming lessons. Grace has an on-line Bible study with another OMF teenager.

Please pray for energy and enthusiasm for Sarah as she teaches homeschool.

Please pray for good concentration for Grace, Isaac and Caleb as they complete their work.

Please pray for unity and a clear vision for us as a missionary team.

Please pray that Mr Upriver from the tennis who is interested in coming to church will come soon with his family.

WEDNESDAY

AM Unpack some of the remaining boxes at the church and work in the office. Peter teaches an English Class.

PM Isaac and Caleb go to football club held at their old school. Weekly fellowship meeting at the church with a few regulars. We discuss how to apply that week's sermon and pray for one another.

Please pray that all the church members will enjoy warm fellowship with one another whenever they meet.

Please pray for our children and their friendships.

THURSDAY

AM Office work. Peter teaches a beginners English Class.

PM The children have piano lessons. We have our weekly evening cafe at the church. Mark leads a bible study from The Manga Bible with a young man from the church. We eat pizza toast with some of the regulars whilst relaxing and chatting and playing table tennis.

Please pray that more people will be drawn to the café.

FRIDAY

AM Mark teaches maths to Isaac and reviews Grace's homeschool progress. Sarah and Grace teach English at a local kindergarten every other week involving balloons and lots of running around.

Please pray that the kindergarten will be open to us advertising Christmas events among the children and that lots of families will come and hear the gospel over Christmas.

Please join us in praising God for:

the provision of our church building

the opportunity to meet lots of people at Café time and talk about the Bible

our relationship with the Yonges

a positive start to homeschooling

a good time at our on-line conference and the chance to go away for a few days

Thank you so much for praying and please let us know how we can pray for you,

With love from

Mark, Sarah, Grace, Isaac and Caleb

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Café

Day Off



Sendai



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