

**October 2024**

**"...all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him." Luke 13 17**

### **Opportunity with Christian Radio**

The "Light of the World" radio program is broadcast everyday by a Christian organisation across local radio stations in Japan (<https://www.radio-yonohikari.com/>). Each day, a pastor will share a gospel message for five minutes with anyone listening. Despite the very early hour of the broadcast, many people listen to these broadcasts and people have become Christians through it (including one man we met at a church in Sapporo).

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, some of the staff from the "Light of the World" program will lead part of the service here at Hanamaki Grace Church (including a message from one of the regular pastors). This is a good service to invite non-Christians to and, as it will be advertised on the radio, may attract more guests than usual. **Please pray** for many people to come and hear the gospel on that day and to feel very welcome at the church here.

### **Baking Classes**

**Praise God** for the two baking classes held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November where Rachel and her Mum (visiting from the UK) were able to demonstrate how to make Welsh cakes and share a gospel message based on the story of Ruth. **Praise God** for the twelve people who came, including one lady who is completely new to the church. **Please pray** that they will think deeply about what they have heard about Jesus.

### **Lisa's (Serve Asia Worker)**

We **thank God** for the five months we've had with Lisa from Italy. She has faithfully led the Beginner's English classes and helped out with lots of practical jobs around the church. **Please pray** for a good holiday for her (21-27<sup>th</sup> of October) and for her to be a good witness as she says goodbye to the friends she has made in Hanamaki.

### **English Class Discussions**

During the time that Lisa has led the Beginner's English, she has introduced more discussion into the Bible teaching part of the class. Recently, we talked about justice and where our sense of justice comes from. One of the regulars said that she would no doubt have a different sense of right and wrong if she had been brought up in another country. When asked about how we compare systems of morality to decide which is correct, none of the class members could answer. **Please pray** that all those in the English classes will see that we need the Lord to give us a moral foundation.

### **Relationships amongst Church Ladies**

Thank you praying for the relationships among the ladies in church. There has been some bad feeling among them for years now which came to a head more recently. One particular lady (Mrs Longbridge) had retreated from fellowship but in the last few months we have been able to challenge and encourage her about the importance of having fellowship with other church members.

**Praise God** that she seems to have had a change of heart and is much more open and friendly with others in the church. She is also offering to help with more church activities. **Please pray** for the Lord's protection on the relationships between the church ladies and that Mrs Longbridge will truly have a change of heart and not just be changing her actions out of a sense of duty.

### **Exams and University**

**Praise God** that Isaac could complete the first of his A-Level Maths exams last Thursday (Statistics). He thinks it went well and will now continue preparing for the Pure Maths exam on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. **Please pray** that the results will reflect his hard work in recent months.

Grace is enjoying her music course at Southampton and is settling in well into church and Christian Union and University life. **Please pray** for good friendships and a growing faith for her.

### **Team from the Spring**

We are still hoping to recruit more men to serve in the staff team here from the spring. **Please pray** that God will lead the right people to come and serve here in Hanamaki. If you are interested in coming, please get in touch.

**The Gelsthorpes – working for OMF leading a church plant in rural, northern Japan.  
mark.gelsthorpe@omfmail.com sarah.gelsthorpe@omfmail.com**

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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



Rachel and her Mum

Worship Service



Nabe Party – praise God for good food and fellowship and for the 2 non-Christians who came.

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