

February 2025

“The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer.”

Psalm 18 v1

YWAM team from Yosemite, USA (13th January - 6th of February)

Thank you for praying for the team of 9 from YWAM USA who stayed and worked in the church last month. **Praise God** that they were able to share the gospel with lots of people and that, through their tracting work, we had contact from new people with an interest in the church. The team have now finished their time in Japan and returned to the US. **Please pray** for God's guidance for each of them as they settle back in.

House Move

After an on-going difficult relationship with our landlord, it was suggested that we look to move house. **Praise God** for the provision of a house near to the church through a lady connected to our church. **Please pray** that everything will go smoothly as we hope to sign the contract for the new house on Monday 24th February and move on the 21st March.

Team Changes in April

At the end of March, Yuzuki (church intern) will graduate from her course and leave Hanamaki.

Please pray for God's provision and guidance for her as she hopes to work with international students in Australia.

Praise God that from April to mid-June, Rebecca, Karlheinz and Birgit (short term missionaries from Germany) will live and work in the church.

Rebecca is in her 20s and has experience with children's and youth ministry.

Karlheinz and Birgit are semi-retired and have served as short term missionaries in Japan before so have some knowledge of Japanese.

Please pray that God will help these new team members to settle in quickly and to build good relationships with church members and seekers here in Hanamaki. **Please pray** that we will work well together as a team and compliment one another's strengths and weaknesses.

Evangelism Course

Praise God that we are continuing to appreciate the monthly Evangelism Course being held with church members. In February, we talked about barriers to evangelism including “not knowing what to say” and “fear that we will ruin relationships”. Some of the common barriers shared would be familiar in the West but some are more keenly felt in Japan. **Please pray** that all of our church members will be passionate about sharing their faith and that they will have the boldness to overcome any barriers to doing this.

People Close to Believing

M lives in sheltered accommodation in Hanamaki and has been studying the Bible with Christians from the next town for some years. They introduced her to our church last year and she has been doing bible study with Yuzuki since then. She struggles to understand sin and to believe the miracles in the bible but understands a lot.

G comes to our worship service once or twice a month and has been attending different a church in our county for more than 30 years. He says he's not ready to believe because of sin in his life.

Please pray for people like G and M connected to our church, that they will believe in Jesus forsaking everything else. **Please pray** that, as a church, we can minister to them and challenge them with wisdom.

Termly Evangelistic Event

As a staff team, we are encouraging our church eldership to plan and run an evangelistic event once a term. Please pray for good ideas and smooth planning for the Spring event. **Please pray** that lots of people will come and hear the gospel. **Please pray** for each of the elders to grow in their faith and in their leadership skills.

Isaac's Gap Year

Isaac (15) is currently studying for his A-Levels and plans to take a Gap Year from this summer. He is applying for Church internships in Japan and for Engineering internships (or work experience) in

The Gelsthorpes – working for OMF leading a church plant in rural, northern Japan.
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Japan and abroad. **Please pray** for doors to open in both these areas and for Isaac to use this year well before hoping to start university in 2026. **Please pray** for him as he studies for his exams.

Pastoral Visit from Emmanuel Canterbury

We are looking forward to Richard Hagan and his son George visiting Hanamaki in early April with one of their church members. **Please pray** for safe travelling for them and for an encouraging visit for everyone.

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



The American Team



Karlheinz and Birgit



Green Tea Ceremony with Sakaki San and the American Team

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