

March 2025

“To him be the dominion for ever and ever. Amen”

1 Peter 5v11

House Move

Thank you for praying for our house move. We have now received the keys for the new house and we will move out of our current house on the 21st of March. **Praise God** for a spacious house in an excellent location close to the church. **Please pray** for good use of time for us as we go through all the different administrative processes associated with moving. **Please pray** for God's help with all the arrangements on the day of the move and for us to be a good witness to our new neighbours.

Team Changes in April

Thank you for praying for Yuzuki as she leaves Hanamaki at the end of March.

Praise God that she is making progress in finalising the details for her work with international students in Australia in 2026. She also has some possibilities for volunteering in 2025. **Please pray** that a solid plan comes together in good time for her to start work soon.

Rebecca, Karlheinz and Birgit (short term missionaries from Germany) are making their final preparations to come to Hanamaki in April. **Please pray** for good ideas for what they can be involved with in Hanamaki and for God to use them powerfully here in sharing the gospel.

Next time I want to ask about the Virgin Mary

Praise God for “Springsea”, a lady in her twenties, who knocked on the church door a few weeks ago. She has been watching a Japanese cartoon (anime) with some Christian themes and wanted to find out more about the Bible. We have met 3 times to continue to read through Luke's gospel together. She already understands quite a bit from researching on the internet and asks interesting questions like “what is the link between the Virgin Mary and the White Lily?” **Please pray** that she will believe in Jesus as her Saviour. **Please pray** for Mark and Sarah to communicate the gospel clearly with her as they hope to meet every week.

Home Assignment Planning

Last month, we shared with the church here that we plan to go on Home Assignment to the UK for a year in 2026. Currently, it seems unlikely that any long term missionaries will be available to take over the church during that time. Therefore, we're beginning to think with OMF and the Church Eldership how the church can be led during this Home Assignment. **Please pray** for good provision of leadership for this church. **Please pray** for God to help Mark and the Advisory Board with the handover.

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.

People on the Edge of Church

We have a number of regulars on a Sunday who are not committed enough to become church members. **Please pray** for them:

Mr Down-mountain is still processing a difficult situation at his previous church. Please pray that, as a fellowship, we can help him.

Mr Trickle-brook wants to have more fellowship but is still dealing with issue some very difficult health problems in the past. Please pray for a new heart for him.

Mr Sun-valley is very busy at work. He would like to be a church member but we don't see him very much. Please pray for wisdom for us, as a church, in knowing how we can best support him.

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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Grace, Isaac and Caleb

Praise God that Grace has been able to be involved in music ministry at Southampton Christian Union.

We are currently considering different options for Caleb’s education after our next Home Assignment.

Please pray for wisdom.

Thank you for praying for the planning of Isaac’s Gap Year (from the summer of 2025). **Praise God** that he has made progress with some of the ideas. **Please pray** that he will come up with a good plan and use his time well.

Financial Support

Praise God that we were 96% supported in 2024. **Please pray** that God will provide the remaining 4% this year.

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



Rebecca our Short Termer from Germany



Family
Worship

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