

**April 2025**

**"He is not here. He has risen, just as he said."**

**Matthew 28v6**

### **Happy Easter**

**Praise God** that we could celebrate Easter across the world. **Praise God** that, in our Easter Family Service, we could remember Jesus's resurrection and His call to believe in him and receive eternal life. **Please pray** for Mr Midcastle, that he will overcome his confusion from his involvement with other religions and believe in Jesus.

**Praise God** that S, who is a church member but is currently out of fellowship, could come to the lunch after the Easter Service. **Please pray** for repentance and faith for her.

**Praise God** for all those who heard the gospel through our Easter Cafe and Craft Time and through the Easter Teen Event - that they will remember what they've heard and believe in Jesus.

On May the 17th, we will hold our Easter/Spring party and invite children from the local children's home. **Please pray** for a clear gospel message and for open hearts among those listening.

### **Short Term Workers**

**Praise God** that Rebbecca (short term worker from Germany) could arrive safely at the beginning of April. She is now running English classes and helping with Teen Club. Please pray for her to make good connections in the community and to continue to serve with joy and enthusiasm. **Please pray** for a good start for Birgit and Karl-Heinz (also from Germany) who arrive on the 27th of April.

### **House Move**

Thank you for praying for our house move at the end of March. **Praise God** that the move went smoothly and we are now enjoying our new house. We have met all the neighbours who seem to be friendly. **Please pray** for good relations with them and that we can be bold in sharing the Gospel.

### **Cherry blossom viewing**

Cherry blossom is a very important part of Japanese culture and many people still flock to parks to eat and drink under the cherry blossom at this time of year. Therefore, this year, the church elders chose to hold a cherry blossom outreach and fellowship event. **Praise God** that the weather was clear and we enjoyed some warm fellowship. We were discouraged that we invited non-Christian friends but none of them could come. Despite this, we did meet some new friends in the park and were able to share something about the church. **Please pray** that God will use meetings with new people like this as a step to them hearing the gospel and being saved.

### **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.

### **Craft and Cooking**

As a church, we are blessed with many people who come and hear the gospel regularly through events such as English classes. However, it does sometimes seem like the same people are coming again and again. **Please pray** that, through community events and our everyday lives here, we will be able to meet new people and connect them with the church.

**Please pray** that, even though their time in Hanamaki is short, Rebecca, Birgit and Karl-Heinz will make lots of friends they can invite to the cooking and craft classes they plan to hold.

### **Exams**

**Praise God** that Isaac and Caleb are able to continue their English studies here in Hanamaki through online home-schooling. From April the 28th, Isaac will begin his exams for A-level Physics and Maths.

**Please pray** for efficient and effective revision and for good recall of information in the exams. Praise God that Caleb has taken his Year 9 end of course reviews and is able to start studying for his IGCSEs on-line.

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Thank you so much again for praying for us.

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



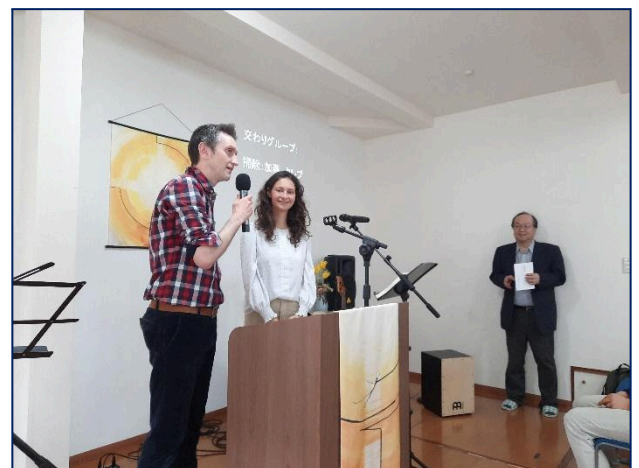
We were blessed by a visit from Richard, George and Nial from Emmanuel Church, Canterbury. Enjoying green tea with Sasaki San



Easter Café



Enjoying the cherry blossom in Hanamaki



Rebecca from Germany

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