

**July 2025**

**Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."  
John 6v29**

### **One on One English and bible studies**

**Praise God** for the handful of people doing one on one English and bible studies with church staff members at the moment. Last week, "Spring Sea", who has been doing bible study for a few months seemed to be thinking seriously about whether Jesus's miracles really happened. **Please pray** that her and others will see that the bible is trustworthy and that they will put their hope in Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

Our weekly church English classes have now entered the summer break but we have asked members if they want to meet over the summer one to one. These meetings give us a chance to get into the bible more deeply. **Praise God** that 'Big Island' wants to meet one to one and **please pray** that other English class regulars will take up this offer and will think more deeply for themselves about what the bible is saying.

### **Personal Pastoral Meetings**

Every year, we meet for about an hour individually with everyone who regularly comes to church. This is an opportunity to ask how we can pray for people and help them to know or grow in the Lord.

**Praise God** for the encouragement of these meetings as we hear about how the Lord is working in people's lives and for a chance to challenge people about daily devotions and praying for those around us. **Please pray** for wise words for Mark and Sarah as they encourage and challenge people in the church. **Please pray** that church members will respond well to the call to read part of the bible every day. This year, we are planning on including some of the elders in some of the meetings.

**Please pray** that they too will be encouraged and will grow in their pastoral support of those in the church.

### **Preaching and Bible Seminars**

In July, we began a short sermon series on the book of Ruth focusing on the wonder of our salvation.

**Please pray** for a renewed sense of wonder in the gospel for all of us.

Every second Sunday of the month, we hold a Bible Seminar in the church after lunch. From September, we will be looking at prayer and doing a prayer walk in the local community. **Please pray** for us all to pray more deeply for our local community.

### **Opportunities to Share the Gospel**

**Praise God** for some good opportunities to share the gospel. Church member Mrs Camellia is now praying with her mother in law who has been given just months to live but would like to share the gospel with her. **Please pray** for a good opportunity and for boldness for her.

Although some people choose not to do them, Shinto ceremonies to bless land before construction begins are still popular in Japan. The Shinto priest will build a small altar and make offerings on it to appease the local gods. In July, Mark has been asked to hold a Christian version of this ceremony for a Christian lady from our church. We will sing, read the bible and pray together before this lady begins construction of her new house. **Please pray** for an encouraging ceremony and for good witness to non-Christian construction workers who may be there.

### **Conference and Holiday**

Thank you for praying for the OMF Japan Field Conference we attended at the end of July. **Praise God** for some great fellowship and for some interesting teaching and discussion about The Unseen Realm. We were also able to enjoy some good rest afterwards including some time at the beach.

**Please pray** for the many OMF Japan missionaries taking rest in this season. For a good change of pace and time to reflect.

### **Grace, Isaac and Caleb**

**Praise God** that Grace passed her practical driving test recently. **Please pray** that she can pass the written test needed to receive her license by the end of July.

Isaac will start his month-long work experience at an engineering firm in the Philippines on the 2nd of August. **Please pray** for a helpful time for him and for all the details of the trip to go smoothly.

**The Gelsthorpes – working for OMF leading a church plant in rural, northern Japan.  
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We are still considering different options for Caleb's education in the coming years. In particular, we have planned a trip to visit Hebron School in India in mid-August. **Please pray** for wisdom in deciding whether international school or boarding school are good options for Caleb.

## Summer Events

Although English classes are now in the summer break, we have lots of opportunities to share the gospel and enjoy fellowship as a church in the coming months. Please pray for the Lord to bless and use the events below.

August 3rd	Indoor football event
8th	Men's dinner
9th	Welsh night
22nd	Band night
30th	BBQ

Thank you so much again for praying for us.

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



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