

September 2025

“All flesh is like grass and its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever..”

1 Peter 1v24-25

Short Term Workers Arriving in October

Praise God that from September the 30th, David and Markus (from Germany) and Dany (from Chile) will arrive in Hanamaki to begin work at the church (see their pictures below). They are all in their 20s and have a range of interests including music, cooking, technology and sports. As a staff team, we are already preparing for them to attend a range of groups in the community. **Please pray** that they will get to know lots of people who they can invite to church and share the gospel with. We are also planning International Nights, Cooking Classes and we will ask them to teach the church English Classes. **Please pray** for them to settle in quickly, work well together and for the Lord to use all these opportunities to share the gospel.

Summer Evangelistic Events

Thank you for praying for the Barbeque at the end of August. **Praise God** that more than twenty people attended and a good number of non-Christians heard the gospel (one of the elders shared a short message about Jesus feeding the 5,000). On the same weekend, we had more than twenty children from the local children's home, church and the community attend our Children's Summer Festival. The children competed in different games at stalls around the church and then heard a message about Jonah. **Please pray** that we will continue to have a good relationship with the children's home and that all the children and staff who attended will think deeply about the gospel. On the 22nd of August, we held a music night where church members enjoyed playing music together. **Praise God** that a couple of non-Christians joined and heard Mark's gospel message. **Please pray** for continued opportunities in the community through music.

Fellowship at Day Camp

Praise God that, on the 14th of September, we held our annual Day Camp at the Kinshuko Christian Camp Ground (<http://www.kinshuko.com/>). While there, we held our worship service (with preaching on 1 Peter as above), enjoyed a meal together, did archery and walked in the surrounding countryside. **Praise God** that Mrs Highbridge, who has been somewhat out of fellowship due to a falling out, attended and enjoyed the day camp. **Please pray** for good relationships among the ladies in our church.

Teaching on Israel and Gaza

Both among the church members and those who attend the English classes, there is some interest in understanding the background to the conflict in Gaza. Therefore, from October, Mark will begin teaching a short series of Bible seminars on Judaism, Islam and the present day conflict in Gaze.

Please pray for guidance for Mark in his teaching and that, through this subject, we can all learn more about God's plan for the world.

Grace, Isaac and Caleb

Thank you for praying for Grace (19), Isaac (17) and Caleb (14). Grace is about to start her second year of university in Southampton studying Music. **Please pray** that God will use her gifts as she takes on more responsibility for music in the Christian Union this year.

From September the 24th to December the 12th, Isaac will be doing an internship at Setagaya Grace Church (<https://setagayagrace.jp/>) in Tokyo. **Praise God** for provision of accommodation and **please pray** for God's help for Isaac as he translates between English and Japanese and gets involved in campus ministries. Please pray for good new friendships for him.

We have decided that Caleb will join Hebron School in India from October the 24th after his recent visit. This is a boarding school which follows the British education system with a significant discount for missionary children. **Please pray** for all the preparation that needs to be done both practically and emotionally and for Caleb to settle in well and to enjoy his new school.

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Teaching on Relationships with Non-Christians

Recently, a regular attendee at church mentioned that he is about to get married (we think to a non-Christian lady). This is an issue that we have taught about in church from the front and in Bible studies. Please pray that those looking to get married will be wise about this issue. Please pray for Mark as he meets with this gentleman - that he can advise him with clarity and grace.

Thank you so much again for praying for us.

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



Markus, David and Dany, short term workers arriving from end of September



Hebron School, India



Day Camp

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