



I will instruct you and teach you in the way
you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
Psalm 32:8

祈 Tenzler ○ Prayer letter 2022 #1

Dear Friends and family, 25-01-2022

Winter here in Hokkaido is showing its best side. So far this year, there has been a lot more snow than last year and the city authorities can hardly keep up with the removal. All the snow and the thick layer of ice on the streets and roads make going to school a challenge every day now, and we often have to get up early to shovel snow at school.

On the other hand, since our Christmas holidays, learning has become easier despite the heavy workload. Thanks to God! Julian continues to make good progress, especially in the fluency of his speech and in listening comprehension. Karolina will be through with the official material by the end of January, and will then start a period of visiting several churches in and around Sapporo and participating in their activities as an observer.

Center Visit

Our Center Visit¹ which we wrote to you about in our last newsletter has unfortunately been postponed to March/April due to the current corona situation in Japan. Because of the increasing numbers of positive test results, the government has imposed pre-states of emergency (so-called *manbo*) in several prefectures, which means that it is advised to avoid traveling between prefectures and to exercise increased caution. More prefectures will probably be added, especially in the Kanto region around Tokyo, where we also wanted to go.

Pray for wisdom for our leadership as they respond to this new situation. Pray also that the situation will ease soon, and continue to pray that the borders will be opened again.

The Center Visit is part of the decision process for where and how we will be assigned as missionaries after our language school time. Due to the postponement, the schedule for this has now become quite tight. Please pray that God will start already now to give us and those in charge at OMF a clear idea of

¹ a two-week round trip through various churches and ministries of OMF in eastern Japan

what He has planned for us, and help us to communicate well.

Cultural experiences with our neighbors

Things are also progressing with our neighbors. Since their second visit in December, we have repeatedly told them that they can come over on the weekends, but they have not come. We thought that we had alienated them because when they invited us to go together to the New Year's shrine visit (*hatsumode*)², we kindly declined and told them that we get all our protection and blessings from our God.

A question for you: What would you have done in such a situation? Write us your opinion!

However, it turned out that they were just uncomfortable coming "just like that". Apparently, Japanese people always need a specific appointment. Otherwise they feel like they are taking you by surprise or being a burden. Learned something new again! Please pray for the next visit, which we have scheduled for mid-February.

OMF Japan's Church Planting Strategy Review

Another thing that is on our hearts is a current project of OMF Japan, which wants to find out very thoroughly and in cooperation with Japanese churches and experts, which ways and models to use for church planting in Japan and how church can look like in a Japanese context. Please pray for God's guidance for this important issue and for many new impulses and ideas.

We wish you all a blessed new year and thank you very much for your support in prayer, your emails, and for your faithful financial support!

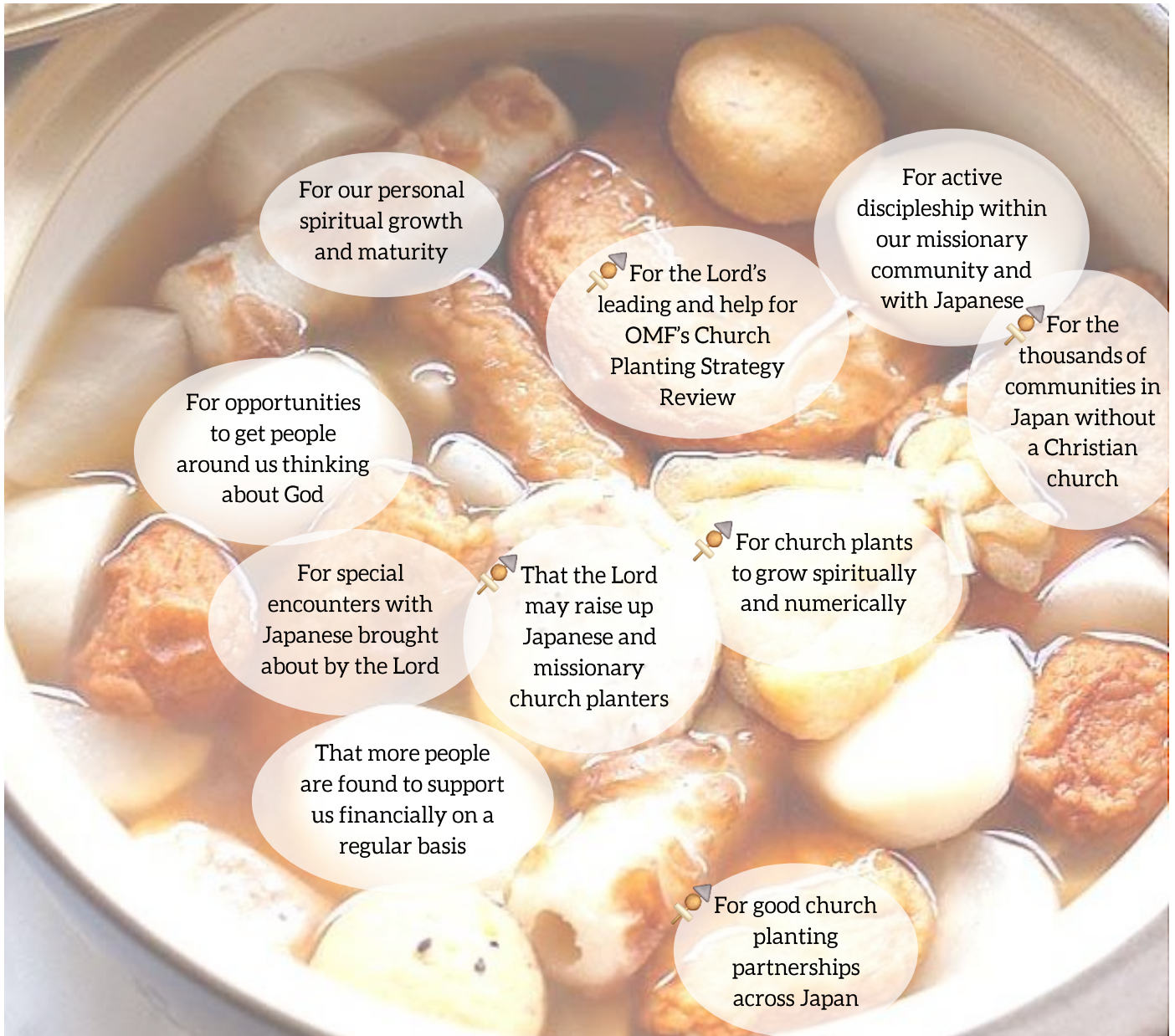
Julian & Karolina

² Here is a short video explaining what is done at *hatsumode*: https://youtu.be/RjHhFgvq_co

おまけ OMAKE

This time, our omake (Japanese for “extra”) features a Prayer Oden. Oden is a typical Japanese winter hot pot dish consisting of a strong soy and fish broth in which various ingredients such as eggs, potatoes, daikon radish, fishcake or tofu are cooked together. You take these ingredients out piece by piece and eat them. In the same way, you can take prayer requests

from our Prayer Oden Pot every day (or at whatever interval you like) and bring them before God. These are general prayer points of ours and specific prayer points that OMF Japan is focusing on for the year 2022 (marked with an Oden skewer emoji).



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