



As many were astonished at you [...] so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.
Isaiah 52:14-15



祈enzler Japan Newsletter #2二

Julian und Karolina want to reach students and staff at Japan's universities with God's good news of love and forgiveness, and disciple and accompany them in following Jesus.

A little bit of Japanese

Did you know that spinach plays an important role in the Japanese business world? Spinach is not just healthy but the Japanese word for spinach

菠薐草
hō-ren-sō

is also used to represent three important principles for the interaction with colleagues and superiors. In fact, if you write it with the characters

報連相

Which are pronounced exactly the same, it stands for

報告 (hō-koku) report back
連絡 (ren-raku) stay in contact
相談 (sō-dan) ask for advice.



Dear family and friends,

12-03-2023

It remains wintry cold here in the far north of Japan. With a couple of OMF colleagues we know from the language school, we made a trip to Monbetsu a few weeks ago to see the famous drift ice that comes down from eastern Russia across the Sea of Okhotsk. Most Kitami residents, however, take the cold as an excuse to go outside only when really necessary. Even on the walking paths that are so popular in summer, even after several days without snowfall, only a few footprints can be seen.



Together with our OMF colleague Chris on a trip to Monbetsu to see the drift ice which the coast of eastern Hokkaido is famous for.

Therefore, we prefer to stay indoors as well, rejoice in our hardworking stove, and try to deepen the relationship with the people we already know. Many of the students who were with us at Christmas are very busy, and so we have only had one other meeting of a similar size. So, we try to meet up with them one-on-one as often as possible for which they are very grateful.

Student Retreat and Internationals

Since the Japanese students are having exam time or vacations where they go home to their families, we hardly see them right now. However, we had the opportunity to participate in a KGK student retreat in Fukagawa from March 7 to March 10, where the Christian students from Kitami also participated (read more about KGK in the box on the second page). It was very tiring because everything was in Japanese, but we were able to share an incredible amount with the young people and strengthen their faith. It was a very good experience and a great feeling of togetherness among the students!

In the meantime, we met a lot with the international students and Red Cross trainees. Julian has spent time especially with Gezimu, our PhD student from Ethiopia, and Luc from Vietnam, who is doing a Red Cross training. Last Saturday he went with them to the neighboring town of Abashiri on the coast because they also wanted to see the drift ice. It was a really great men's trip!

Karolina meets a lot with the young women from Indonesia (especially D. is full of questions and seeks a deeper relationship with God), but also with Ms. Sone, a lady from the church, and Ms. Y., who has been coming to the services

more often lately. We are especially happy to see how Ms. Sone joyfully shares with others everything we tell her about relationship and trust in God. She is a real multiplier. Ms. Y. has been suffering from severe depression for a long time and needs a lot of attention, love and prayer. She is not sure yet if she can trust God, but is looking for real life and truth.

Cell groups and Ministry in the Church

At the suggestion of our pastor, we plan to start two new cell groups for young people in the church, starting this month. Julian will take over the one for young men (with Gezimu, Luc and Hoshi, a Japanese from the church), and Karolina one for women (with Y. and the Indonesian women). Language-wise, this will be a challenge because Gezimu still barely knows Japanese, while Luc and Hoshi struggle with English.

We are relatively free as to what we do in the cell groups and how often we meet. We hope to meet about once a week, and want to focus primarily on doing Bible study together, prayer, and outreach. The groups will be a platform to invite more people and have evangelistic meetings.

Also, starting this month, we will help with the worship services. This includes playing the piano, leading worship, doing the slides, and occasional preaching. Ministries in our church are planned well in advance, as is common in Japan, and there is a multitude of annual plans, monthly plans, worship programs, and deadlines for turning in various things. Please pray that we will keep track of all these things and display the necessary amount of horensō (see box on first page).

Short mission trip to Fukuoka and Nagasaki

At the end of March we have two weeks of vacation. One week of it we want to rest. During the other, we will again go on a mission trip with the same group of missionaries as last year. This time we are going to the island of Kyushu in western Japan to Fukuoka and Nagasaki. Please pray for many opportunities to share the God's word and show the people there the greatness and glory of God.

We thank you for your prayers and support, and for going alongside us on our journey as missionaries in Japan!

Julian & Karolina

Upcoming events

15.03.-16.03. OMF members' meeting
23.03.-04.04. vacation and short mission trip to Fukuoka/Nagasaki

This is how you can support mission in Asia

- Order our prayer letter (write us an email).
- Become a prayer partner: [Link](#)
- Become part of an OMF team of volunteers close to you: [Link](#)
- Do a short term mission trip with OMF Serve Asia: [Link](#)
- Or does God call you to Asia as a long-term missionary? [Link](#)
- Invite OMF to your church.

Pray for Japan [Link](#)

KGK (Kirisuto Gakusei Kai, Christian Student Association) was founded in 1947 from a student movement at Waseda University and is now part of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES). Its mission is to establish and promote independent student groups at universities in Japan. Many students from Christian homes first learn about the Bible in these groups. Pray that the KGK groups will be a witness and a positive influence in Japan's universities, for encouragement and spiritual growth.

Please check out our Telegram channel for photos, videos and stories. (No Telegram account needed)

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