



I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
Isaiah 45:2-3



祈enzler Japan Newsletter #6六

Prayer-Update

Dear family and friends,

29-08-2023

The summer heat continues and is breaking all records this year in both Kitami and Sapporo, so we are escaping to the cool city library more and more often to work. The last two months have been very busy for us. In July, along with the other international people who visit our church, we put a lot of work into the country exhibition for our church summer festival on July 29, which we were in charge of. The goal of the church festival was to attract people from the surrounding area to the church. For this purpose, various outdoor games, a bazaar, tea ceremony and our 6 countries exhibition were prepared. However, the number of visitors was rather moderate, but at least a few new people set foot in a Christian church, which can be a big challenge for Japanese people.

After that, Julian immediately continued with the preparations for his next sermon on Gideon, which he was able to deliver successfully on August 13. The same day was also the annual memorial day for the church members who had passed away, which was intentionally placed in the middle of Obon (the Buddhist feast of the dead in Japan). While others commemorated their departed ancestors in the cemetery, we celebrated the resurrection and eternal life in Christ at the church gravesite. The next day we went to a three-day student retreat of KGK Hokkaido, where we helped in the small groups.

However, besides these scheduled ministries we are always amazed at what God does on the side and quite unexpectedly, and what riches he brings to light for us. For

example, Karolina, Mrs. S., Mrs. H. (both from the last letter) and two other women now meet very regularly for Bible study. We can watch them blossom more and more in understanding the fullness of the gospel, the beauty of God's character, and the freedom and power in Christ. Please pray for these women, but also for the many other Christians in Japan who are influenced by a church tradition of legalism, duty, lovelessness, pressure and ritualism.

We also had another experience that sounds just like a passage from the Book of Acts just last week: A missionary friend of ours stayed for two weeks with a Christian Japanese farming couple at Lake Toya west of Sapporo, who were bombarding her with questions about faith and the Bible the whole time. Since her Japanese is still limited, she asked us if we could come and support her. Since we were planning to come to Sapporo anyway, we left two days early and spent an incredibly blessed time with T. and M..

We have never experienced such spiritually hungry and attentive people who even forget about dinner over Bible study. From early morning until late at night we sat together and were able to strengthen their faith. We have the feeling that God is up to something big here. Please pray for whatever God wants to do here. Pray for hills to be leveled and for doors of bronze to be broken!

Thank you very much for your support in prayer, your emails, and for your faithful financial support!

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