



I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God;  
I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know,  
from the *rising of the sun* and from the west, that there is non  
besides me. I am the Lord, and there is no other.  
Isaiah 45:5-6



Newsletter #15 十五

# 祈tenzlers in 禱Japan

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.

**Dear family and friends,**

09-09-2024

We look back on a very busy and hot summer. But we are very grateful for all the opportunities to share God's Word.



At Lake Akan in the Akan-Mashu national park south of Kitami with Mount Oakan in the background.

In our last letter, we told you about the English camp for middle school students in Asahikawa. It was organized by a local Japanese church and we were there as co-workers. The camp was, thank God, a great success! We prepared an English children's song about creation and two children's books with a Christian message. Many of the children heard about God as Creator and good Father for the first time, and had someone pray for them for the first time as well. For us, it was the first time that we had worked with children in Japan. We had the impression that unlike Japanese adults, who are normally very cautious and reserved, children are much more relaxed and optimistic in their interpersonal interactions.

The KGK student retreat was also very blessed again. The lectures had depth and really spoke to the young people's hearts. We had great conversations in our small groups, as well as on the drive there and back with the two students who came with us from Kitami. Thank you so much for your prayers!

## God Works in the Background

As some of you have asked us about the resistance we mentioned in our last letter, we would like to give you a brief update. Our spiritual condition has improved again. The reasons for the attacks were certainly our recent breakthroughs with several people and the resulting backlash from the kingdom of darkness, but probably also the Buddhist feast of the dead (*obon*) in August and our current physical exhaustion. Thank you for all your prayers!

The interpersonal conflicts have been partially worked through, "resolved" would be saying too much. But at the same time, we realize that God is working around these obstacles making his way, and is moving noticeably or unnoticeably towards his goal. Since we do not always know exactly what this goal looks like, we mindful not to push anything humanly, apart from praying boldly for it. So please continue to pray with us that certain people will come to an understanding of their counterproductive and destructive behavior and that God will prevent others from being harmed by this behavior.

## A little bit of Japanese



At the end of September, we will be going on a mission trip to Shikoku. Shikoku is the smallest of Japan's four main islands. Its name means "four countries" and comes from the fact that historically and still today there are four prefectures on the island.

四国

shi (= four) koku (= country)

Shikoku is famous for a Buddhist pilgrimage (called *henro*), which involves walking around 88 temples on the island. The pilgrims wear traditional white robes and straw hats, which is intended to express the pilgrims' purity and asceticism. They often receive alms from local residents, which, according to Buddhist belief, brings good karma.



## Home Assignment in 6 Months!

A large part of our time was taken up by preparations for our next home assignment: emails, calls, compiling budgets. There is still a lot that needs to be clarified. However, we are very grateful to our Heavenly Father that he has organized an apartment for us for the whole year in Germany where we can live rent-free! Please continue to pray for a car and that God will guide our whole schedule. We would also like to remind you again that you are welcome to write to us if you would like to see us during this time. We are also happy to come to home groups, churches etc. and tell you about Japan, our ministry and God's work.

Speaking of administrative stuff, we would like to inform you about our current donation status. By the end of August, we have received 37% of the donations planned for 2024 (■). Together with the donations that OMF Germany is sending us from the general donations (■), this means that 49% of our need for 2024 are currently covered. Comparing this with the donations that have been anticipated by the end of August (61%), we currently have a deficit of 12% (■), which will either have to be covered by funds from the Japan field at the end of the year or means that our budget for the year will be cut. So far, we have always been sufficiently covered by other surpluses. But please pray that our donations will increase so that we can also help other missionaries. Many thanks to all our donors for your generous and dedicated support!



## Mission Trip on Shikoku

We are on vacation until mid-September. Then we'll be heading to the south of Japan. First we will visit a number of friends in Nara, Ikoma and Osaka. In Osaka in particular, we want to spend a lot of time with our dear sister in Christ Yasuko and her husband to strengthen them in their faith. After that, we will go with seven missionaries and Kingdom workers (including Yasuko) for five days on the island of Shikoku, walking from city to city, encouraging local churches and doing evangelistic outreaches together with them. Shikoku is the part of Japan where the Gospel has the hardest time gaining a foothold. This is certainly also due to the strong (folk) Buddhist tradition on this island. Please pray for spiritual breakthroughs and a successful and blessed mission.

Thank you very much for your interest, your prayerful intercession for us and your faithful financial support!

**Julian & Karolina**

## This is how you can support mission in Asia

- Become a prayer partner of us or support us practically: [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](#)

## Pray for Japan [Link](#)

One defining term in Japanese society is *doryoku* (effort). It embodies an entire world view: The more effort you put into something, the further you get and the better the results. This is why people wish each other "*ganbatte, ne!*" before important events ("give your best!"), and people look up to others who demonstrate great perseverance (*gaman*). The standards in Japanese society have shifted so that less attention is paid to actual results and efficiency, and more to how hard someone tries. This has many unpleasant effects such as overwork, stress and low self-esteem, as people always think that they could have tried a little harder.

This worldview causes many Japanese Christians to think they have to work hard for God's love and acceptance. Pray for a biblical understanding of God's love and acceptance and a healthy approach to effort in the Japanese society.

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

Our Telegram channel  
[Julian & Karolina in Japan](#)

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Like all OMF missionaries we live on donations. [Link to online donation](#)

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English camp for middle school students in Asahikawa. Here we are practicing a song about creation with movements.



Julian's small group at the KGK retreat



Karolina's small group at the KGK retreat



The speaker performs one of his Christian radio programs.



'Excursion' to the immigration office in Kushiro with Gezimu and Sara.



Cooking outside: Cook curry rice on an open fire.