



And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world [...] the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

Revelation 12:9-11



Newsletter #11 十一

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.

A little bit of Japanese

Around 67% of Japanese people call themselves Buddhists, even though most of them practice this religion only superficially or not at all. Nevertheless, there are some terms from Buddhism that have entered the general vocabulary. One of them is *satori* (悟り).

In normal language, *satori* means "understanding" or "comprehension" and the character has something to do with our five senses:

悟 = Five (五) openings (口) of the heart (心)

In the Buddhist context, however, it stands for "enlightenment" in the sense of the "true understanding of things" and the detachment from everything material and the self.

In society, this term has been used to somewhat ironically describe the millennial generation:

悟り世代

satori-sedai

In other words, as the "enlightened" generation lacking ambition and material desire.



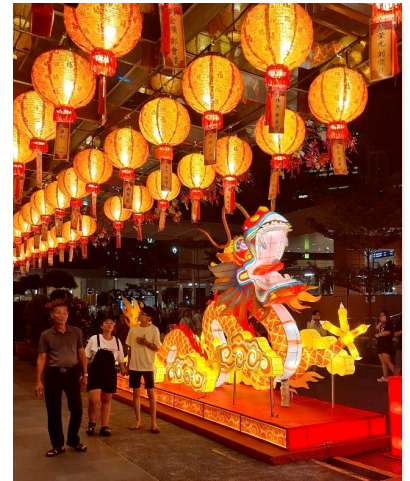
Dear family and friends,

10-02-2024

We wish you a Happy New Year 2024. Although the New Year is already over a month old for the Western world (and also Japan), this newsletter comes just in time for the Chinese New Year, which is celebrated in many Buddhist countries this year on February 10.

The Year of the Dragon?

Chinese New Year is very close to us this year because we spent 12 days in Singapore in January. Similarly to our Christmas decorations, the red and golden New Year decorations are omnipresent at this time of year. In particular, the various images and sculptures of dragons were impossible to miss, as according to Chinese tradition, this year is the year of the dragon. The Chinese zodiac signs are also widespread in Japan and are used for fortune-telling and as lucky charms. The year of the dragon in particular promises prosperity and strength, and birth rates are observed to soar, especially in this year, because many parents believe that their child will be as strong as a dragon if it is born in this year.



New year decorations at the Buddha Tooth Relic Temple in Singapore

As followers of Jesus, however, we know the true nature of this dragon. At the latest at the cross he was exposed as the murderer from the beginning, and put to public shame for his wickedness and hatred of humanity has become visible to all by the wounds of Jesus. Let us therefore join together in prayer to ensure that this year the dragon is no longer glorified, but is finally cast out of the countries of Asia and his work of delusion and oppression is brought to an end.



This year is to be the year of Jesus, who has already crushed the head of the old serpent. If you, like many other Christians around the world, would like to pray for the Buddhist world during these days, we recommend [this 21-day prayer guide](#).

A Month of Travel

But let us now tell you about our experiences in January one by one. As we announced in our last newsletter, we attended a workshop at the OMF Japan headquarters in Ichikawa near Tokyo at the beginning of January, where we reflected together how we can prepare ourselves well for our upcoming home assignment starting in April 2025. In addition to many technical and organizational tips, an important part of the workshop was for all participants to review their first term in Japan and to think about which reports and stories they could use during the time in their home countries to point to God's wonderful actions

in Japan and to inspire their listeners for joining God's kingdom work. Preparing and sharing these testimonies had the wonderful side effect that we encouraged each other and could give God the glory for his faithful work.

After that went to Singapore for 12 days to the international OMF headquarters. Because we were unable due to Corona to do an orientation course in Singapore before starting our ministry in Japan, as is normally the case at OMF, this year we were given the opportunity to make up for this by having an in-person orientation course reunion together with other affected OMF workers. At first we weren't sure whether we wanted to take the long flight, but the Lord made it clear to us that we should go. We were very pleasantly surprised!

Firstly, it was very relaxing to come to a country that uses English and where you can read and understand everything immediately. We realized that daily life in Japan alone takes a lot of energy from us. Singapore itself is also a very beautiful city with very good food and, above all, fruits that we have never seen before. As for the course, the organizers put a lot of effort into presenting us with a good mix of lessons that both brought us closer to OMF as an organization and helped us process our first term of ministry. It was extremely helpful to finally meet all the staff from HQ in person and to finally know who is writing all those emails to us all the time!

Something very special that God arranged for us is that just during the reunion, OMF's new General Director Joseph Chang was inaugurated (which only happens every 20 years or so). Despite all the hustle and bustle, Joseph also took a lot of time for us reunion participants and shared his vision for the organization with us as well as told us a lot from his personal life and ministry as a missionary in Cambodia and Taiwan.

Kitami – Second Half-Time

This month of travel has helped us to reorient ourselves and think about what our focus should be for our last year in Kitami. In general, we have experienced during the last year that missionary work (and any other work for that matter) is only successful if you rely solely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit and are open to His speaking. Every work must also be prepared in prayer, commanded into existence and sustained in prayer.

We want to continue in the same way, working towards a good conclusion of our ministry in Kitami, by maturing and equipping the people we are already working with so that they can continue God's work even after we have left.

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

Julian & Karolina

Upcoming events

15.02. KGK Semester End Party

05.-08.03. KGK Student Retreat

This is how you can support mission in Asia

- Order our prayer letter (write us an email).
- 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](#)

Japan is normally quite well prepared when it comes to natural disasters. But when an earthquake hits a remote area like Ishikawa, the situation can escalate quickly and the relief work can take a long time. The Japanese are also rather poorly prepared when it comes to dealing with such events spiritually. Their Shinto gods and Buddhist lucky charms are just as shaky and unpredictable as the ground. Please pray for comfort and hope for all those affected who are still living in emergency shelters, that Jesus will show himself to them personally and that they will understand that the real God is always for them.

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

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

 **Our email address**
info@prayforjapan.net

 **Our Homepage**
www.prayforjapan.net

 **Donation account:** (OMF account with tax receipt)

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

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