



Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed,  
or hidden that will not be known.  
Luke 12:2



# Prayers in Japan

Newsletter #14 十四

Prayer Update

Dear family and friends,

31-07-2024

Greetings from Kitami, where summer has been in full swing since the beginning of July. As there is no air conditioning in our apartment and the heat and humidity are therefore building up, we regularly flee to the air-conditioned city library. Not only is it a great place to work, it also has a fantastic view of the green mountains. Behind them on the horizon, the cumulus clouds that are so typical of the Japanese summer tower miles high against the blue sky.



Cumulus cloud over Asahikawa in the heart of Hokkaido.

In Japanese, they are called Nyudo-Gumo, meaning "clouds that enter the path [of Buddha]", because they look like a group of freshly shorn monks. Let us pray that the Japanese will understand that it is the living God alone who points the clouds their courses, and whom winds and seas obey, and that this infinitely powerful God also has already prepared a way for each and every one of them can walk on (after Paul Gerhardt).

## Our Upcoming Home Assignment

With only eight months to go until our one-year home assignment in Germany beginning in April 2025, we have started to think about the planning. In OMF, a home assignment involves several things: firstly, we need to plan enough time for rest and vacation. Even if we don't always realize it, living and working in a foreign culture is constantly draining our energy. Furthermore, we will do mobilization work for OMF and share our enthusiasm for mission and our experiences with as many people as possible to encourage them to think and pray about their own calling into God's vineyard.

But most of our time of our home assignment we want to spend fellowshiping with **you** (if this is possible from Germany). We really would like to see you again, to hear how you have been and like Paul and Barnabas tell of God's great works face to face. We also want to share with you a piece of our life in Japanese culture.

We can imagine different formats, from personal meetings, home groups, mission services in your church, to whole Japan days. Since our supporters are scattered all over Germany and other countries, and our schedules are likely to fill up faster than expected, it would be great if you could get in touch with us as early as possible if you want to do something with us. That would be a huge help to us!

Please pray for the entire planning. We also want to entrust ourselves completely to our Lord in these matters and hand over our year in Germany to Him. Please also pray for practical things like housing, car and all the administrative stuff related to our re-entry.

Another aspect of our preparations is the search for our next place of service in Japan from spring 2026, for which discussions with the OMF leadership and listening to God's leading together have now begun.

Please pray that God will make His will clear to us and also to the leadership for our next designation, as well as the type of work and whether we should work as a team or alone. Pray also for the vision statement that we are to write by the beginning of August and for all upcoming discussions and decisions.

## Summer Events in August

We are very happy and thankful that four new Japanese students joined the local KGK group (Christian student group) in April.

Please pray for the meetings and for the new leader of the group, Yoshiki, that his Bible knowledge and understanding of God's character will be strengthened and that he will be able to pass this on to the others. Please also pray for the KGK summer camp (August 14-16) that we will be attending. Pray for good conversations and that we can help the young people in their faith.


Please pray for an English camp for middle school students (ages 12-15) at a church in Asahikawa where we will


be staffing a few evangelistic sessions (2 Christian songs & 2 Christian picture books).

### *Please Pray for Our Pastor*

Recently, our pastor, Mr. Kitoh, has been very much on our minds. It is actually unusual in Japan for a pastor to leave a church, even if he is legally retiring from his pastor position. It is all the more surprising that he has told us that he wants to continue as a pastor in another church. Without wanting to judge our pastor, we increasingly have the impression that the real reason for his departure is tensions between him and various church members that have existed in the church for years.

As a pastor of the old school who is not used to hearing criticism, it is understandable that he has ruffled feathers among various church members over the course of his many years of ministry. Likewise, we have observed an unhealthy bitterness among some church members towards the pastor.


 We therefore ask you, in your prayers, to surround Pastor Kitoh with God's love and care. Please pray that Jesus will heal everything in him that is responsible for his difficult character and strict views, but also that he will come to insight and repentance where he has gone too far. Please also pray that our Heavenly Father will make His love and acceptance very clear to him, about which the pastor has repeatedly said in the past that he does not need it.

 Please pray also for the other church members, that they too will repent of their bitterness and unforgiveness and instead reach out to their pastor in love and pray for him. Pray that all hurts will be healed and that the church will become an expression of God's family, where there is harmony and mutual acceptance and support.

### *From Darkness to the Light*


In our last letter, we told you about the four sisters in our discipleship group. This time we want to tell you about Mrs. Sone. She has a past full of rejection, and even as a Christian she suffered from depression and demonic attacks for a long time. Through Jesus' miraculous intervention, she was delivered from this, but it was still very dark in her heart.

It was only last year, after we had prayed very hard for her, that the fact that God loves her unconditionally was able to sink into her heart through a direct encounter with the Holy Spirit. She says that only since that time she has been able to love others. Now she is even doing Bible study all on her own with four friends who are not yet believers. These women recently said that they understand the character of God better and better and that God is not as opaque, arbitrary and complicated as they always thought. Hallelujah!

 Please pray that God will channel His love through Mrs. Sone, will give her much wisdom to answer all questions well, and will work in the hearts of the four seeker ladies.

### *Resistance*

Where the light of God spreads, the enemy loses influence and his machinations are exposed. This inevitably leads to resistance, which we have had to experience recently through direct attacks on our spiritual life, problems that pop up out of the blue and people who suddenly put obstacles in our way. However, we see no reason to be disappointed or intimidated, but rather take it as a confirmation that our prayers are effective and that God is working mightily, even if this means that some hidden things come to light.

 We can't go into details, but please pray for the current situation. Pray that God's revealing light will reach every corner of Kitami and expose the thoughts of every heart. Join us in proclaiming Christ's victory over the kingdom of darkness and let the whole spiritual world hear that Satan's head is crushed and he can no longer do anything. It is God who fights for us!

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



**Julian & Karolina**

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

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