



Not by might, nor by power,
but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.
Zechariah 4:6



Newsletter #17 十七

祈tenzlers in 禱Japan

A little bit of history

The first missionaries in Kitami were the American couple George and Ida Pierson, who lived and worked in Kitami from 1914 to 1928. Already during their time in Asahikawa (1901-1914), they were allowed to experience great revivals among the locals, especially in several large prisons that existed on Hokkaido at the time. In a report from 1908, they summarized their experiences as follows:

“Perhaps the strongest conviction of all is that of the terrible and universal need of the Power of the Holy Ghost, in ourselves first, and in our pastors, evangelists and Christians. [...] In the Hokkaido we have learned that an outpouring of the God’s Holy Spirit is sent in answer to definite and persistent prayer, and that when the Holy Ghost comes a Revival follows. The Revival already come to the Hokkaido seems to be drawing nearer day by day.”



This showed us that then, as now, the Holy Spirit is the only one who makes a difference in people’s hearts and that we are in a long chain of kingdom workers, building on the prayers and spiritual advances of past generations.

Dear family and friends,

05-02-2025

There are now only three weeks left until our time in Kitami comes to an end. During this time we will have several farewell meetings and there will certainly be some tears. We are deeply grateful for the past two and a half years in Kitami, during which we were able to experience God’s mighty work and learn so many spiritual truths.



Prayer meeting in Mrs. Hoshi’s (front) home. Her husband is now joining us quite often.

Lately, we have been particularly happy about Mrs. Hoshi’s husband, who is making great progress in trusting God. Both of them now have a daily morning devotion with Bible reading and prayer. **Please continue to pray for him. We have the feeling that the breakthrough will come soon.**

God Makes a Good Closure

Over the past two months, we have realized in several ways that the work God has called us to do in Kitami is fully his own, and that now he is gradually taking it out of our hands again to prepare us for the next assignment. For one, we experience this by God fulfilling, what he promised us about a year and a half ago. As we got more and more contacts then with “young” Japanese Christians scattered all over the country, we started to worry whether they were getting enough fellowship with other Christians. At that time, God made it clear to us that we should relax and let that be His concern, because he is the one who is building his church. We learned that we are not able and not meant to control everything, but that it is our part to be ready for action when he calls us. All the rest is done by the Holy Spirit, the Commander-in-Chief of God’s mission. He sees the big picture.

God has now fulfilled his promise by once again bringing the Kawasakis from Lake Toya to Kitami in December and this time connecting them with several brothers and sisters from our church. They spent a lot of time together, told each other their conversion stories and exchanged phone numbers. In a similar way, Yasuko and her husband from Osaka, who we told you about in our last letter, visited us in January. On both occasions, the visitors were able to stay at Mrs. Hoshi’s home. This was particularly important for her husband, as it allowed him to talk to Christian Japanese men who have come to faith in very different ways.



Yasuko, her husband and we were invited to a feast with Mr. and Mrs. Hoshi.

On the other hand, God is bringing our ministry in Kitami to a close by giving more and more brothers and sisters in the church new assignments and with it the courage to work proactively in the kingdom of God. For example, several church members have now received a clear call to work on the church council, although they could hardly have imagined it before.

Also, more and more brothers and sisters have the desire to open their homes for regular spiritual fellowship and to care for lonely members of the church.

We can see that the brothers and sisters from the Megumi church have grown strongly and have recognized and are living out their identity in Christ. Gone are the days of "we are weak" and "we can't do anything". Now they shout with Paul "I can do all things through him who strengthens me, Christ" (Phil 4:13). Full of hope and confidence, they no longer look at their circumstances, but trust in their almighty God, who provides for them and takes them by the hand. **Please pray that they will maintain this new momentum and that the new pastor, who starts in April, will also be gripped by it.**

Our Next Steps

We won't be interacting much with the new pastor ourselves, because we are already moving to Sapporo on February 25, putting our belongings in the OMF warehouse and leaving for Thailand on March 10 for three weeks of vacation and reflection. Our busy home assignment in Germany will then begin on April 1. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you once again that we would like to visit you privately or in your church, home group, etc. We are attaching a provisional schedule of our time in Germany to this letter. As it is filling up quickly, please feel free to contact us for specific dates.

Please pray for our remaining time in Japan, which we will spend packing and dealing with administrative matters, but also for a few important meetings with brothers and sisters. Please also pray for our old pastor, who is also in the stress of moving. He is preparing to support another church without a pastor now that he is retired.

Thank you very much for your prayers for us and the people of Japan, and for all your gifts and other support!

Julian & Karolina

This is how you can support mission in Asia

- Support an OMF worker: [Link](#)
- Volunteer in an OMF team: [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](#)



This song by the Christian musician Takafumi Nagasawa entitled "Land of the Rising Sun" recently moved us very much and invites us to pray ([Youtube link](#)):

We long to see your face. / We humble ourselves and return to you / Except in your name / There is no salvation for this land.

We will not let the light of prayer go out / and wait for the glory of the Lord.

Over this land so wounded / the sun of righteousness is rising. / It is the love and healing of the cross. / Arise and recover, land of the rising sun.

Your tears are wiped away. / In the light of a new dawn / Let us bless the other nations / For the glory of the Lord.

Sing, land of the rising sun.

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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 **Address Germany**
Julian & Karolina Tenzler
Bodenseering 15
95445 Bayreuth

 **Address Japan**
Julian & Karolina Tenzler
c/o OMF Hokkaido Center
Kita-36-Jo-Higashi 17-1-35
Higashi-ku, Sapporo
007-0836 Japan



Trip to lake Mashu with our cell group.



Christmas illuminations in Sapporo.



Christmas party with the whole international cell group.



White Christmas at Kitami Megumi Church.



Joint prayer meeting with the Kawasakis in our home.



Family Christmas fellowship in Mrs. Sone's home.



Mount Io was a sulfur mine back in the days.



Annual schedule for our home assignment

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| 01.04. - 11.04. | Arrival in Bayreuth | 20.10. - 21.10. | Cornerstone Bible College (Netherlands) |
| 13.04. (Sun) | Spring Mission Festival (FeG Gießen) | 24.10. - 27.10. | OMF Autumn Mission Festival (Mücke) |
| 14.04. | FTH Berufungsmesse (Gießen) | 02.11. (Sun) | (Still open) |
| 15.04. - 16.04. | OMF Germany (Mücke) | 09.11. (Sun) | (Still open) |
| 19.04. - 21.04. | Easter Conference (Gunzenhausen) | 16.11. (Sun) | (Still open) |
| 22.04. - 10.05. | Stay in Bayreuth | 23.11. (Sun) | (Still open) |
| 11.05. (Sun) | (Still open with 80% probability) | 30.11. (Sun) | (Still open) |
| 13.05. - 15.05. | OMF Germany (Mücke) | 07.12. (Sun) | (Still open) |
| 16.05. - 23.05. | Possible stay in Kleve area | 14.12. (Sun) | (Still open) |
| 24.05. | Männergebetsbund Day of Prayer (Hanau) | 21.12. (Sun) | (Still open) |
| 25.05. (Sun) | Possible stay in Frankfurt area | 23.12. - 31.12. | Vacation |
| 31.05. - 12.06. | Stay in Northern Germany | 01.01 - 07.01 | Prayer Week Bibelgemeinde Bayreuth |
| 13.06. - 15.06. | OMF Germany (Mücke) | 11.01. (Sun) | Youth Mission Conference (Stuttgart) |
| 16.06. - 20.06. | Possible stay in Düsseldorf area | 18.01. (Sun) | (Still open) |
| 21.06. | Volunteers4asia OMF (Karlsruhe) | 25.01. (Sun) | (Still open) |
| 22.06. (Sun) | Possibly church in Karlsruhe area | 01.02. (Sun) | (Still open) |
| 23.06. - 28.06. | Possible stay in Düsseldorf area | 02.02. - 08.03. | Preparation for Departure and vacation |
| 29.06. (Sun) | Gemeinde in Herborn | 09.03. | Provisional departure date |
| 06.07. (Sun) | (Still open with 80% probability) | | |
| 13.07. (Sun) | (Still open with 53% probability) | | |
| 20.07. (Sun) | (Still open with 53% probability) | | |
| 27.07. (Sun) | (Still open with 53% probability) | | |
| 30.07. - 03.08. | Allianz Conference (Bad Blankenburg) | | |
| 04.08. | Männergebetsbund Day of Prayer (Bad B.) | | |
| 10.08. (Sun) | (Still open) | | |
| 17.08. (Sun) | (Still open) | | |
| 24.08. (Sun) | (Still open) | | |
| 31.08. (Sun) | (Still open) | | |
| 07.09. (Sun) | (Still open) | | |
| 14.09. (Sun) | (Still open) | | |
| 21.09. (Sun) | (Still open) | | |
| 22.09. - 10.10. | Vacation | | |
| 11.10. - 19.10. | Possible stay in Kleve area | | |