

September 2021

'Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!'

Psalm 117

Yonges Farewell

We are so **thankful** for the time we were able to serve with our senior missionary colleagues, Peter and Renate Yonge. They left Hanamaki for retirement on the 9th of September. Many of the regulars from our different outreach groups came to see them off, particularly those from the English classes Peter taught for some years. They are spending a month in the Tokyo area visiting old friends before heading back to the UK. **Please pray** for helpful and encouraging goodbyes for them in the next month. Please pray that the many people they met and worked with in Hanamaki will continue their interest in the church and will have a growing interest in the Lord Jesus.



Local State of Emergency in Iwate

For the last few weeks, our prefecture (Iwate) has been under a local state of emergency which means that the local government advised us to keep strict measures to combat the virus. These included cancelling events for children and limiting contact with other people. This meant a delay to the start of our children's events and a shortening of our Sunday services.

Praise God that numbers have now dropped and the state of emergency has been cancelled. **Please pray** for church members and for us as leaders to have patience and perseverance in the face of the changing Coronavirus situation.

North Korean Missile Tests

Within the last week North Korea has tested a new ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads into all parts of Japan. This was followed by missile tests which landed within Japanese waters. Yoshihide Suga, the Japanese Prime Minister, called the tests "an outrageous provocation" and they are a reminder of the political instability in this region. **Please pray** for a lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. **Please pray** that Japanese people who are worried about these developments will find peace in the Lord.

English Fun Club and Minecraft Club

Praise God that English Fun Club could begin again on the 5th of September (albeit online). We are very encouraged that the daughter of our new neighbours (who Sarah knew from the local shop) has joined the group. Each week we end our time by reading the lesson from our church Sunday School material and talking about it together. **Please pray** for open hearts to respond to the gospel for the handful of children who come. Minecraft Club has been delayed due to Coronavirus but will start on the 18th of September. At the end of our time playing videogames together we look at characters who Jesus met in the gospels. Isaac reads the relevant scripture and then Mark acts out each character followed by a short reflection. Caleb has also led the talk at the end. **Please pray** that these children too will want to find out more about Jesus.

Church Advisory Group

Six months ago we started a church advisory group of three church members to meet with us every two months and talk about the leadership of the church. This has proved invaluable in making sure we get input from church members and in tackling difficult issues such as our approach to the Coronavirus. Members also contribute in practical ways such as handling the church finances. **Praise God** for the commitment of these three board members and their willingness to give their time and ideas. **Please pray** that they will work together well with us to lead the church.

Church Unity

Thank you for praying for unity in our church. In particular, we did have one member who was not attending church due to some issues with other members. **Praise God** that this lady has now been to

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Sunday service for two weeks running. **Please pray** for healing and forgiveness for her and for her to feel loved in our fellowship.

Family Life

Thank you for praying for Grace, Isaac and Caleb as they study at home full-time. Grace will begin her GCSEs in Tokyo in mid-October so is now revising hard. Tokyo is currently under a State of Emergency which is to be reviewed at the end of September. **Please pray** that Tokyo will be out of the State of Emergency by October. If it isn't, she will still be able to take her exams but will have to quarantine for two weeks when she returns to Hanamaki. **Please pray** for Sarah to know God's peace as she juggles home-school supervision, looking after our home and ministry at church such as music and English teaching. **Please pray** for Mark as he also covers the role of our Sector Leader who is on ministry leave until November. We are very **thankful** for this opportunity to serve together here in Hanamaki, please pray for us as a family to be kind and gracious towards each other.

Zoom prayer meeting

Thank you so much to all those who joined us to pray in August. If you would like to join in September the details are below:

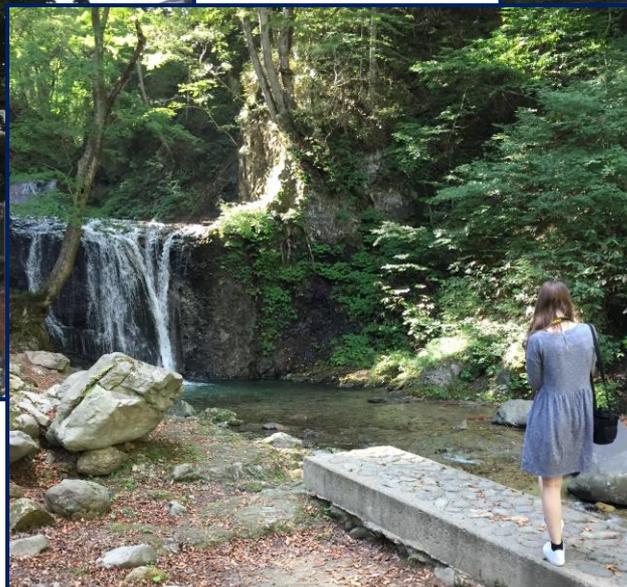
Thursday 30th, 9am until 10am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81165487307>

Passcode: megumi202!

Thank you so much for praying and please let us know how we can pray for you.

Love from Mark, Sarah, Grace, Isaac and Caleb



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