

December 2025

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.” Luke 2:14

Merry Christmas! Thank you for all your support in 2025.

Handing over to the Church Elders

Praise God for a good meeting on the 14th of December with the church elders where Mark discussed regular duties on a Sunday among other topics. From March, the elders will take over most regular responsibilities with Mark still around to advise until mid-March when we return to the UK..

Please pray for grace and good leadership for the church as the elders and church members take on more responsibility. As a group of elders, it can be difficult to decide which decisions can be made on the spot and which require more thought and prayer or consultation. **Please pray** for wisdom for all of us.

Australia Opportunities

Praise God that a handful of non-Christians came to the Australia night at the end of November and heard a gospel talk about the bread of life from Spencer (short term worker from Australia). They also enjoyed a quiz and Aboriginal art.

On Saturday the 13th of November, Spencer and his wife (Hannah) ran an Australia booth at a Hanamaki City International exchange event. **Praise God** that 150 people visited and some of them heard about why they are doing in Japan and the work they are doing at the church.

Please pray that people in Hanamaki will be intrigued to find out more about Jesus and that events like these will continue to be effective ways to meet new people.

New people and Bible study at Christmas events

Praise God that “G” has continued to come to Christmas Cafes on a Thursday morning and recently brought his partner. He asks lots of questions about the bible and clearly understands his need to repent (although he isn’t ready to do so yet). **Please pray** for his heart to be opened so that he can repent and believe.

At a Christmas baking event with Dany and David (short term workers from Chile and Germany), a girl from their volleyball club came to the church with her boyfriend. **Please pray** that they will have a good impression of the church and of Christians and will come back and hear more about Jesus.

Y, who is a friend of Mark’s from football, recently made friends with some of our short term workers. Through this link, he came to our Carol Service and then the Sunday service the next day. **Praise God** that he was interested in the message and said “I should bring my (adult) sons” **Please pray** for him to grow in his interest in the truth.

Children’s Christmas Party

On the 14th of December, we held our Children’s Christmas party at the church with games, craft and a Bible story (read by one of our elders). **Praise God** that about fifteen children from the local children’s home and some others enjoyed the time with us. **Please pray** that staff from the home and all the children will think more about why Jesus came into the world.

Saying Goodbye to our Short Term Workers

Our short termers Dany (Chile), David (Germany), Markus (Germany), Spencer and Hannah (Australia) have now left Hanamaki. **Praise God** for all the hard work they’ve done in sharing the gospel, running events, tracting and flyering and with practical jobs around the church. We are very thankful to God for each of them. Most of them are seriously thinking about long term mission in Japan. **Please pray** for God to use them powerfully and to guide them into the future.

YWAM team in January

From the 5th to the 15th of January, we will host a multinational team of 10 people from a YWAM missionary training base in southern Japan. Most of the students are 18 and 19 and they will be doing publicity, practical work, running an international night and teaching English. Please pray for them to work well with us and as a team. **Please pray** for God to use their work for His Glory.

Church Fellowship Groups

The Gelsthorpes – working for OMF leading a church plant in rural, northern Japan.
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All of our church members in Hanamaki are assigned a fellowship group which meets once a month on a Sunday after our worship service. In these groups, we share prayer requests and pray for one another. **Praise God** for the encouraging times of fellowship we are enjoying. **Please pray** for open

sharing and deepening relationships as we begin to include accountability questions in each group time.

Thank you so much again for praying for us!

With love from Mark, Sarah, Grace, Isaac and Caleb



Thank you for praying for our children! **Praise God** for safe journeys back to Hanamaki for the Christmas Holiday and for the opportunity to spend some time together.

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