

July 2026

“Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.” 2 Peter 1:2

Thank you so much for continuing to pray for our time visiting churches and supporters in the UK. We continue to be encouraged by the generous support of everyone.

Clearances for returning to Japan

We are now working with OMF to arrange medical, financial and other clearances required for us to return to Japan in September or October. **Praise God** that, given our projected level of financial support, we should have 100% of the money needed for our next term of service. **Please pray** that our discussion with one of the UK medical advisors and our DBS checks will go smoothly and quickly so that we can return as planned in the Autumn.

Student finance and India visa

Isaac (18) will receive his A-Level results in early August and hopes to study Mechanical Engineering at Nottingham. Obtaining student finance from the government can be difficult for missionaries as we have spent lots of time abroad. We have currently submitted all the evidence required for Isaac's application and we're waiting for the result. **Please pray** for God's help with this application so that he can start university as planned later this year.

Caleb (15) hopes to return to boarding school at Hebron (India) in August to start Year 11. This summer holiday we have had the challenge of renewing his passport and then his Indian school visa in a fairly tight window. **Praise God** that the passport renewal went well. Please pray for God's grace over the appointment to renew his Indian visa on the 30th of July. Please pray particularly that the new visa will arrive in time for his flight on August the 15th.

Mrs Bordercrossing

Mrs Bordercrossing was baptised at our church with her daughter four years ago. Sadly, since then she has struggled and eventually resigned her membership from the church. **Praise God** that her circumstances have now changed and she is having much more contact with church members. She is also listening to sermons online with her family. **Please pray** that she will come back to her faith and to church.

Camps

Praise God for the chance we have to go to Christian camps this summer. Please pray for good fellowship and a refreshing time at these camps:

July 27th – 29th Reconnect for missionary children in Edale (Mark, Sarah, Isaac and Caleb)

July 29th – August 3rd DTI with Soul Survivor (Isaac)

Sharing about the work in Japan

Please pray for many people to be encouraged in their interest in supporting the work in Hanamaki as we visit these places:

August 2nd Glendale Church Newbury (Culture evening)
August 9th St Peter and St Paul's Tonbridge

Thank you so much again for praying for us!

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

**The Gelsthorpes – working for OMF leading a church plant in rural, northern Japan.
mark.gelsthorpe@omfmail.com sarah.gelsthorpe@omfmail.com**

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Praise God for a family holiday!



Celebrating Isaac's 18th Birthday!



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