



"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

Romans 8:16

Dear friends, may the grace and peace of our God be with you all.

June update

We give thanks to God for a long-anticipated, yet still **unexpected baptism**. Some of you have prayed for Mrs. N for 5 years. She made a profession of faith more than 2 years ago, but had never quite made it to baptism. This last month, however, she made a decisive commitment and amidst great joy, we baptised her on her birthday! Please pray for her ongoing discipleship and salvation for her family. Health issues make it difficult for her to get to church.

"**Can Christian churches help people who are suffering?**" asked the man on the phone. He has suffered from schizophrenia with relentless symptoms for 25 years. "*All my life I have followed Shinto, but the gods have never helped me, so I gave it up last month.*" He wonders if the Christian God is willing and able to help. I have met with Mr. F. 3 times now, introducing him to Jesus through the gospels, praying for him, and talking together about ways to ease his symptoms (mental health care is very limited here). May he know that, "The LORD, he is God".

A **lady who attends Mums and Tots, and English has been asking good questions** about the Christian faith, and a young mum in the church has had opportunities to speak to her about the Lord. **Hiragishi MEN** had just one non-Christian guest this time, but it seems to have been an important time for him, hearing the gospel, and building relationships with other church men

We also got the **closest we've got to buying some land** (lots of admin), but it didn't work out.

Looking ahead to July/August

3rd: John's last sermon (Col 2:1-7) and Sian's last Sunday School; one the same day we **baptise Mrs. M!** We are thrilled that her non-Christian daughter has agreed to come; **5th**: JECA/OMF mission committee (John); **10th**: I will lead and speak at a memorial service for a church member's late husband, she is expected a good number of non-Christian family and friends; **12th**: Pastors' meeting (John); **16th**: Take 3 planes and 33 hours to get to the UK – please pray for safety, sleep and saintliness.

Also on the **16th**, the **church will take part in the local summer festival** with a bazaar, banana milkshakes and games. Please pray for many tracts and flyers to go out, for connections to be made, and for gospel opportunities and fruit.

Our UK schedule is still somewhat in progress, but July and August should look a bit like this:

17th-22nd: Be jet-lagged and hopefully recover a bit; **23rd-26th**: Camping holiday with Sian's family; **26th-29th**: Stay with Sian's brother and family; **29th-Aug 5th**: In Dorset with John's family, during which, **31st**: All-age talk and presentation at The Lantern, Merley; **2nd**: Broadstone Baptist Church prayer meeting; **5th-8th**: Stay with John's sister, during which, **7th**: Emmanuel Church Leamington Spa (am/pm); **14th**: Ridgeway Church, St. Albans (am/pm); **21st**: Evangelical Baptist Church, Hatfield (am); **28th**: Bethel Church, Coventry (am), St. Paul's Little Eaton (pm); **Sept 1st**: Seth and Joy start school...

...Or do they? It is proving **difficult to get them school places** in time. Please pray.

Please also pray for our final preparations to leave, and for peace in our hearts – all 4 of us are already feeling the unsettleness and tiredness of transition.

Please pray too for a **Christ-centred, God-glorifying, Spirit-led Home Assignment**, for our trust in God to deepen, our zeal for the gospel to be renewed, our love to grow; for our church visits to build up the believers and increase zeal for the Lord's mission, for our witness to non-Christian family and friends, for quick adjustment and good rest.

And please pray for the **church in our absence**. We have hopefully done a reasonable job of handing over responsibilities... Please pray for Bea and Meeyeong (and Steve returning mid-August) and the deacons, for the whole church to be "*rooted and built up in Christ, strengthened in the faith as they have been taught, and overflowing with thankfulness,*" and for the Lord's saving grace to be poured out on many.

Thanks you for your prayers for us as a family!