

Chris, Kesia, Caleb, Jonathan, Carys & Megumi



Mission Leadership with business and community outreach in Sapporo, Japan

'When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.' Isaiah 43:4

Dear Friends,

A month ago we wrote: *'February continues to bring significant travel, transitions and challenges,'* and that was when we thought we knew what was coming up! On 1st February Kesia left the boys at school in India and then travelled to Thailand for a week of training. **Praise** the Lord for a good course. Just after Kesia got home Chris was away for a week for Field Leadership Team and we are grateful for the Lord's leading and help as Chris chaired for the first time and the team worked on OMF Japan's focus for the next 10-15 years. **Please pray** for this process and learning the Field Director role

Just after Chris got back, it became clear that, despite a good start at school, Jonathan was struggling in various ways and one of us needed to be with him. So Kesia has been back in India since the 19th. Looking back, we can see how God had been preparing us for this in many ways including giving Kesia the above verse. **Praise God** for His tangible care and provision in many different ways.

It has been very special to have some quality one-to-one time with Jonathan, and to help him process what has happened. He is much happier, and has chosen to go back to the dorm, and try and settle into school life again. We plan that Kesia will stay until 7th March and Chris is then due to visit for the half-term break on 1st April. **Please pray** for each of us in this time of transition and separation – both in India and in Japan. It's lovely for Kesia to have time with Caleb too – he's just enjoyed a Youth Fellowship weekend away. Kesia being away has meant Chris has had to cancel his plans to attend some significant meetings with other mission leaders and pastors. It's not clear to see how or when he could have another chance to make these important connections, so **please pray**.

Things we think are coming up in **MARCH**:

- 8th Kesia arrives home
- 15th Our final Sector Leadership Team for Hokkaido before hand over to Sam & Tina Figilister.
- 26th Handover day – it's been a privilege to lead OMF Hokkaido, we have learnt so much and will miss serving the Hokkaido missionaries! **Please pray** for Sam and Tina, a good handover and OMF Hokkaido.
- 16th Megumi 'graduates' from kindergarten (aged 6).
- 25th Chris preaching.
- 26-29th OMF Field Conference (all OMF missionaries in Japan) in Hokkaido – **Please pray** for the preparations, children's work, our fellowship and our speaker Pastor Makino on the theme of *"Passion of Christ, passion for Christ"* - an opportunity to reflect on God's desire for the world and to reignite our passion for serving Him. Chris will be leading various parts of the conference in relation to OMF Japan's current and future work.

We would also value your prayers for:

- Yoko Sawae to commit herself to the Lord, and for opportunities to study with Kesia again once she is home.
- The future of Hope for Business as we leave Hokkaido.
- Knowing God's will for where in the UK we should live for Home Assignment year from July, and what it should involve.
- We **praise** God for Max Oehninger with his wife Reiko who will cover the Field Director role while we are in the UK – please **pray** for good handover – not so easy when you are just learning the job yourself!

With our love and thanks,

Chris & Kesia with Caleb, Jonathan, Carys & Megumi



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