



From David and Lorna Ferguson

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Dear Friends

Life seems to have gone full pace over the last couple of weeks and this month does not look much better. Perhaps it is timely that only today a book arrived in the post with a reminder on the back cover that God does not demand hectic schedules but only wants his people to know him more intimately. Looking forward to reading that – and putting it into practice!

Boys' News

Daniel and Matthew arrived safely in India, though not without a bit of adventure (nothing new there!) Matthew managed to leave his rucksack (along with passport and other documents) in a Tokyo train and then the next day they turned up at the wrong Tokyo airport for their flight (parents' fault that one!) Anyway all turned out well and the boys are back at Hebron and straight into an intensive period of exams. The younger two boys are also back at school but it is not long till this term (and school year) is over.

- *Pray for Daniel and Matthew's exams.*
- *Pray for the new Principal along with the staff and dorm parents at Hebron.*

Church News

Hiroko has just left for her three month study trip to Italy. Thankfully we were able to make contact with a Japanese pastor of a Japanese church in Milan who just happened to be back in Japan from last month. Even though there is no Japanese church in Florence, there are one or two Christian contacts there and the pastor too is very happy to be of help. We hope to keep in touch with Hiroko regularly too.

We are planning that Wataru will be baptised on 18th March. His birthday is a few days before so he was keen to go for a date round about then. Since before he has had a desire to be baptised in the sea but we will give that a miss at this time of year! We are looking forward to another special day in the life of Izumi Church.

David has begun weekly study with Mr Sakagami and it would be great to see him coming through to faith over the coming weeks as it may be that he moves away from Sapporo in April. We have been encouraged too recently that the daughter of a pastor that we know well has started to attend Izumi Church. She fits in really well so hopefully it will work out for her to be part of our church longer-term.

This month being Valentine's Day we are planning a low-key event on **12th February**. Two of our younger folks are planning something to which they can invite friends and we hope some come later to the service too when our colleague JP will give a short message.

David has begun a new series on the story of Joseph from Genesis. It started on the **5th** but there will be a gap of three weeks till the next one on the **26th**. David will also be preaching at another church on the **12th**.

- *Pray for Hiroko in Italy.*
- *Pray for preparations for Wataru's baptism.*
- *Pray as always for new seekers for the church.*

Other Matters

- Lorna continues with her English classes and is now also making plans for the next year from April. Pray for the children as they listen each week to the Bible story at the end of each class.
- Life continues to be busy as we also deal with all involved in being the Regional Director of OMF in Hokkaido. There are many big issues that need to be thought about and lots of people matters to be dealt with too. We need continual wisdom, energy and juggling skills!
- David attends the Japan Field Council and other meetings for a week from **27th February**.
- **Richard** and **Catherine East** (who will become the leaders of the church later this year) await the birth of their second child on **7th February**; JP and Nora's first child is due at the end of the month.
- Support is always an issue for those who work in Japan so please do pray that the needs of the workers here would be met. We always seem to have a very poor start to the year with support and this year has been no exception. With the high yen continuing and uncertain economic conditions elsewhere, a number of colleagues face struggles with issues of support. We really feel that this is a time of great opportunity for the gospel in Japan so please do pray that all of those serving here (or wanting to come and serve here) would see the Lord provide for their needs.

With our love

*David, Lorna, Daniel, Matthew,
Calum and Alistair*

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