

Prayer Update Japan



Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. Ezekiel 47:9

Dear friends and supporters,

For some time now I (Stefan) have been studying this great prophecy from the book of Ezekiel. The above verse stands in a larger context (verses 1-12) which is entitled "The River of Life". Here it describes how this initially very small trickle starts in the temple (more precisely at the altar) and spreads further and further, becoming a raging river. When I read these verses, I was directly reminded of the Acts of the Apostles. There, too, everything began small and inconspicuous with the remaining 11 apostles. And yet, in the course of Acts, the power of the Gospel unfolds. Despite obstacles, persecution and setbacks, we read the following in the last verse of the book:

He (Paul) proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance! Acts 28:31

It was not the apostles who won this victory but the Gospel, which proved its power in spite of opposition and brought new life to many people. In the many years here in Japan, we have often had the feeling of being in a desert rather than living by this river. And yet the passage from Ezekiel shows that God is fulfilling his plan and that this river brings about what it promises: New life! We were also able to experience this in the last few weeks (more on this below).

We hope that you too will experience again and again how the Gospel and the love of God refreshes you and gives you strength. We don't have to do anything but let ourselves be filled with it. In this way we ourselves become a fountain of living water for others!

Prayerfully united,

Martina & Stefan with Lasse & Jonas



Family Life

Shortly after our last prayer update, we actually found an apartment in Waiblingen (greater Stuttgart area). We experienced how God led and helped us in this. As you know, the housing market in this region is under a lot of pressure. Therefore, we thought that we would not have many chances to find something from abroad. There are too many competitors for that. To cut a long story short, although we asked for a rent reduction and could not look at the apartment in person, we got the apartment before all the other competitors. After I thanked the landlord for his trust, he wrote me back the following:

"Thank you very much for your kind email and your acceptance of our offer. We never had this constellation of giving the flat to a family that we could not meet in person before. We are nevertheless (strangely enough) sure that we are doing the right thing!"

We are very grateful and relieved to know that we have a place to live when we return. And we were reminded anew that God has everything in his hands and will take care of us. Something that cannot be learned but only experienced.

Our daily life in these last weeks has continued to focus on meeting with individuals and preparing for



GajiBai in March

Ministry

As indicated above, we have seen the Gospel bring forth new life. Our friend Yuka shared in a gathering with our colleague Sally and a Japanese colleague that she believes in Jesus! This is a huge reason for us to rejoice. In our last update we told you that Martina and many other colleagues have been investing in Yuka for over 10 years. Sometimes it takes many years of faithful companionship. Please pray that Yuka will put down deep roots and grow in being a disciple of Jesus.

We started reading the Bible with Yuka and her husband Yusuke about a month ago. Continue to pray for these meetings (next one on April 23rd). We want Yusuke to experience what the Gospel means to him personally.

With two former students (Kota & Yuta) I (Stefan) continue to meet individually to read the Bible. After Yuta started his professional life on April 1st, he has a little less time. Pray that we will still be able to meet regularly. Kota is still living with us and is in the process of figuring out what he wants to do in the future. Pray that I can support him well during this time.

GachiBai (small Bible group) continues to meet regularly. In our last meeting in March, Yuka O. (same name but different person from above) shared how she came to faith in December. It was a really good evening in which she shared very

personal. We have the impression that this had a great impact on the other students. We think they started to understand, that the Bible is not just a book you can study but actually has a very personal connection to their lives. Continue to pray for these meetings. Pray also for Yuka O. who went back to her hometown after graduation and started working. Her faith also needs strong roots.

Thanks

- That Yuka started to believe in Jesus
- For great conversations with individuals
- That we were able to find an apartment in Germany that quick
- That Lasse enjoys going to Kindergarten

Requests

- That Yuka O. and Yuka grow in their faith and that God would protect them from the enemy
- For good conversations with Kota and Yuta
- For our meetings with Yuka and Yusuke
- For our small group Bible study (Wakana, Yoshina, Noa, Yuta, Kota)
- That Lasse would grow in confidence in using Japanese



Lasse in Kindergarten



The boys love the park



Easter Sunday with friends and colleagues



Japan is just beautiful in April

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