

Prayer Update Japan



The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

Isaiah 60:19

Dear friends and supporters,
we are actually writing these lines to you from Germany. We made it and have been back for about 6 weeks now. Even though we are physically back in Germany, our hearts are still on the road somewhere between Japan and Germany. It will probably take a while until we are completely adjusted to our new home.

The above verse from the book of Isaiah was shared with us by a friend and colleague three weeks ago. After the first few days in Germany went a bit differently than expected and we had to cope with a few disappointments (more on that later), we were a bit disappointed and tired. One of the disappointments was our new apartment. It is a bit more run down than we had imagined and also a bit darker than we had thought. So it wasn't love at first sight.

Our colleague at the German Navigators had noticed this and thought of us when he read this verse. Half in jest but with a very true core: No matter how dark the flat is or how different some life circumstances may be than expected, God remains our light. He makes sure that there is light in our home. We often expect too much from circumstances or are too quickly dissatisfied when external things are not as we imagine. We all know sentences like: "Once we have that" or "Once that changes, then...". We have been caught focusing too much on the circumstances and were therefore disappointed too quickly. In the next few weeks, we want to consciously turn our focus back to Jesus and give him space in our everyday life and in our hearts. So that it becomes bright in us and around us so that others can see that light also.

Prayerfully united,
**Martina & Stefan with
Lasse & Jonas**



At Narita Airport (Tokyo)

Thanks

That we have finished all the preparations for our move to Germany in time

For a good journey back with the children

That we have an apartment to live in

For the good friendships we were able to build up in Japan

That we all recovered from Covid

The journey back home

The last few days in Japan were very much about practicalities. We handed over the house, sold our car and sorted out the last details so that we were actually finished with everything on June 22nd. In between, friends kept dropping by to say goodbye. That was very nice, but we also noticed that we were running out of breath. In the last few days, we slept very little and hardly took any breaks.

It was especially nice that our colleague Sally went with us to the airport in Tokyo. We were able to spend some extra time with her. As nice as that was, it was sad to say goodbye. We actually worked together for 7 years and became a kind of family for each other. We are so grateful to God for giving us Sally, a great colleague, wonderful friend and companion. Lasse and Jonas already miss their "Aunt Sally".

The journey itself went quite well, even though it took a very long time (about 40 hours from door to door) and we were just tired and exhausted at the end. But Lasse and Jonas did a great job, for which we are very grateful.

The first days in Germany

As already mentioned, the first few days were a bit bumpy. Shortly after we arrived, Jonas had a fever and was very tired, and then Lasse developed the same symptoms. As he slowly recovered, Martina and I as well as my mother developed the first signs of a cold. To cut a long story short: In the end, we all had Corona and had to be quarantined at home for about a week. It was good that my parents have a small garden, so the children could play outside.

It was particularly unfortunate that we had to cancel a surprise party Martina had planned for my birthday due to Corona. That would have been such a nice start with our friends here in the Stuttgart region. Now we want to meet our friends individually. We are really looking forward to that.

Last week we finally moved into our new apartment. Now with our furniture and personal items, the apartment looks much better than before. It is still an adjustment from living in a spacious house to living in a smaller apartment, but we are slowly getting there.

Lasse and Jonas are now also better acclimatised. Jonas in particular had a somewhat more difficult start. Due to his Corona disease, he was very clingy the first few days. Even after that it took quite a long time until he was able to meet other people openly again and build up trust. At the moment they are enjoying their time with grandma and grandpa and exploring the new playgrounds here in Waiblingen.

From now ...

After settling back in and meeting churches and donors in July and August we start a four-month re-orientation phase in September. During this time we will be accompanied and supported by colleagues at the Navigators. The aim is to reflect on our time in Japan, listen to God and decide how we will continue from January 2023.

As written in the last prayer update, we will have clarity about our future role by the end of the year. Should we remain in full-time ministry, we will approach this work with a new vision and inform you about it. This would also be the time when you can basically consider whether you want to support this new vision financially. We will keep you informed about this. If you have any questions about our financial situation or about the next 5 months in general, please contact us. We will be happy to share more with you about that.