

Prayer Update Japan



In the last few weeks ...

we have been getting used to life in Germany step by step and have settled in well. The apartment is furnished, the administrative work is almost done and the boys feel very comfortable in their new environment.

A big step was getting them used to kindergarten. Lasse wanted to go alone after only two days. Jonas has good days when he likes to stay but also days when he doesn't want to stay there. It will still take some time for him to get used to the kindergarten. It is a great help that both of them can go to the same group. This way Jonas always has his big brother close by.

In the last few weeks we also had the chance to meet friends and supporters in person again. That really is a great encouragement for us and helps us to further adjust to our life in Germany. Even though it will take some time until we have completely found our place here again, these small steps give us courage.

A highlight in September was the visit of two of our students from Japan, whom we know very well through our small Bible group in Shizuoka. It was nice to be able to show them around but most of all to be able to pick up where we left off in Shizuoka. Pray that what we discussed with them and what they know about the Gospel will take root in their hearts. Even though they are back in Japan from tomorrow, we want to stay in touch and continue to tell them about the hope we have in Jesus.

Also in September, Mark Rood from Japan visited us. He was our leader and has become a good friend to us. The last weeks before we left Japan were very busy for us and for him, so we didn't have time to reflect on our time together. We were able to make up for that here. It was a very blessed time with deep conversations, mutual encouragement and much joy in each other. Martina and I have the feeling that this was an important part for us to process our time in Japan well.

Our reorientation time begins ...

with the dispatch of this update. In preparation, we attended (via Zoom) a three-day workshop of the American Navigators in July. The main focus was on how to use these three months until the end of the year well to process the past, seek God's presence and make decisions for our future. We are thankful for Kelley McCutchen who is accompanying us during this time. We are also thankful for our

support team, Dwith whom we regularly exchange ideas and advice. Please support this very special time in prayer. As mentioned in previous updates, we are very tired and exhausted after many years in Japan. Furthermore, it is our wish that God gives us clarity about our future and that we can start our new roles with new motivation in January. A verse that stands over our re-orientation time is Exodus 33:14: *"My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."* We are very thankful that God will guide us during this time and lead us into His presence. In order to really focus on this reorientation time, we will not be writing any prayer updates in the coming weeks. However, please feel free to contact us personally if you have any questions or just want to know how we are doing.

Our financial situation ...

needs some support. Especially in this transitional period from our ministry in Japan to our future roles from the New Year, we are in need of additional donations. At the moment we are short of about EUR 2,000 in donations per month. Especially one-time donations help us to be fully funded. Especially in view of our new orientation period, it would be a great blessing if we didn't have to worry about our financial situation or put a lot of energy into fundraising. We would be happy if you would take this issue into prayer and potentially support us financially during this transitional period. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Before we start the new orientation period...

we would like to thank you all for your faithful support over the years. We are not taking it for granted that we have been able to do this ministry in Japan for so many years, funded by your donations and encouraged by your prayers. You have played a big part in helping students in Shizuoka hear about Jesus and the Gospel. Even though the fruit is not always visible, we firmly believe that His Word works and makes alive. The three months ahead of us are the final stage of this ministry. There is much to process but also much to celebrate. But one thing has already become clear to us: That it is a privilege to have walked this path with you. So once again, thank you very much for this!

Have a blessed time and all the best!
Prayerfully united,
Martina & Stefan with Lasse & Jonas



With Noa and Yoshina in Waiblingen

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

Requests

- That Yuuka O. And Yuuka M. continue to grow in their faith
- For the small Bible group (Wakana, Yoshina, Noa, Yuta & Kola) to continue per zoom
- For continuing to settle in well (especially the kids)
- For our financial situation (we still have a monthly deficit)

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Lasse and Jonas make apple-juice



Our friend Maik during his time with us in Germany