

John & Birita Timothy's Newsletter July 2019



Isaiah 40:28

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary and his understanding no one can fathom.

祈り (Inori:prayer)

Many of you have been praying for the friends we have here and I want to encourage you to keep praying. Not long after returning to Japan, one of Birita's friends wrote to her asking if she'd be willing to read the Bible together. They have since met twice and plan to do so every two weeks. She is a wonderful friend to us and very close to our hearts. Birita would really appreciate your prayers as she opens the Bible with her and shares about what she believes. I have started helping out at a friend's farm when I have time. People always ask why on earth a man from Belfast and his wife from the Faroe Islands are living here and planting vegetables. The truth is planting vegetables and working with my hands relaxes me and brings me back down to earth; but I continue to explain why I'm doing it in Japan of all places, since N.I. has plenty of opportunity to plant vegetables. We pray that these people would see Jesus in our lives and want the same. Whilst on the theme of farming, I'd like to recommend Charles Spurgeon's 'Farm Sermons: Lessons from the Acres' that I've found very challenging and inspirational recently.

日本語 (Nihongo: Japanese)

Seven more months and our sheltered time of learning Japanese will be over. It's quite normal to feel panicked at this stage, when you ponder over your level of Japanese and think of the prospect of being asked to preach a sermon. But our nerves are well mixed with excitement and we look forward to sharing with you about our designation as soon as it's officially confirmed. Both Birita and I have finished our basic learning from Japanese text books and have moved into the Bible course which prepares you to explain your world view, different biblical doctrines and such in as contextually sensitive way as possible.

感謝 (Kansha:thankfulness)

We last wrote shortly after Jónas' birth: since then we have been home and managed to see many of you. Being able to visit of our churches both in N. Ireland and the Faroe Islands was very special. There was an air of optimism and joy in both that was uplifting for our faith and gave us courage coming back to Japan. We have been given a tremendous amount of help by many of you, with gifts and much needed advice. We have tried to let you know of our appreciation in personal ways, but are anxious that we may have missed some of you, so please accept these words of thankfulness, you have made us feel very loved indeed.

写真 (Shashin: pictures)

And now I will stop this talking and show you some pictures, which I know you have already scrolled through, but lets pretend you read all these words first. Thank you for your love and prayers as always.

God bless you, John, Birita and Jónas

If you like to pray...

- Birita's Bible study with her friend
- Wisdom when witnessing to people, especially how to explain certain things to somebody with a different world view
- Our remaining time at language school
- More missionaries to come to Japan. Around 10 are in the pipeline but aren't certain yet. Thankyou as always for following us, encouraging and praying for us

Some pictures to enjoy!



Can you spot the foreigner's car?



Jónas is very active and enjoys trying to crawl and eating anything he can get his hands on



An example of religious practice here in Hokkaido. We recently watched a festival take place in which residents of a small fishing village danced through the streets carrying a shrine, most likely encompassing a god to bless the village. Afterwards they set sail with the shrine on the boats to bless the water. There are many festivals like this in Japan where benefits are sought by different practices.



We are lucky to have Birita's parents with us for two weeks. This day we visited a flower farm called Tomita which is very famous in Hokkaido

This is our latest prayer letter. If you want to be taken off the list, let me know. I won't be offended.

**John & Birita Timothy: Libea Kita 38 Jo, Kita 38 Jo Higashi 14-1-13 # 301 , Higashi-ku Sapporo-Shi,
Hokkaido 007-0838, Japan**

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