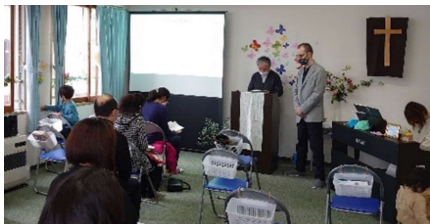




Greetings friends,

As I sit here writing this edition of Sakura Mail, a cool summer breeze is blowing through the window. Summer here is short compared to that in Australia, so we are thankful for the warm weather and the opportunities it provides to spend time in the great outdoors with family and friends. We are also very thankful for you, as you continue to partner with us on the journey.

SINCE LAST TIME



HIRAGISHI IZUMI CHURCH

Steve was formally welcomed to Hiragishi Izumi Church on Sunday, May 30 - see photo at top left. After sharing a brief introduction of himself and ministry a church member prayed over him

On June 20, Steve debuted with the music team - see photo at bottom left. One of Steve's personal development goals for 2021, was to learn a musical instrument. With an existing interest in percussion, Steve has been practicing the bongo cajón. He will accompany the regular pianist three times a month.

From September, Steve will be involved in two English classes. He will lead a twice a month evening conversation class. This will be aimed at beginners and intermediate students as well as workers. He will also support, when able, the weekly beginner's class to be taught by another missionary at the church.



ON-LINE OPPORTUNITIES

With the cancellation of this year's Home Assignment, we have made ourselves available to share updates, etc. both live and through pre-recorded videos. We have already made a number of videos for some churches and have also had the privilege of being able to attend the June 19 OMF Queensland Prayer Breakfast live.

In July, Steve will be joining via Zoom each of the small groups of one of our supporting churches. He will lead a workshop on sharing Jesus as a follow-up to a Bible studies series that the church has been doing.

FIELD CANDIDATE COORDINATOR...



Since October last year, Steve has held the position of Japan Field Candidate Coordinator. The position involves assisting those wishing to serve in Japan with the application process. During the last week of June, Steve had a successful handover with the person coming into the role permanently.

With love and in thankfulness for your prayers and encouragement,

Steve, Saeko & Emilie

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

GIVING PRAISE AND THANKS for the many blessings and encouragements that the Lord has given us so far this year.

GIVE THANKS as Emilie has resumed in-person university classes including Yosakoi - **Traditional Dance** - Club.

CONTINUE TO PRAY for Saeko in these final two months before her retirement from OMF. **PRAY** for a good ending process.



BEYOND SUSHI

Contrary to popular belief, the national flower of Japan is not the cherry blossom - which is actually recognised as the national tree - but the Chrysanthemum. The chrysanthemum is also the Imperial Emblem of Japan.

