

Tamborine Mountain Presbyterian Church

'Every member ministry ...

growing to maturity ...

bearing fruit that lasts'

APRIL 2020

Dear TMPC Family,

Where do you go for refuge at a time like this? Much of our taken for granted daily lives are on hold. Some predict the suicide rate to increase. I hope not but you never know. What people cling to for a meaningful life can be pretty flimsy. It feels like there is something terribly urgent hanging over our heads but we can't really move urgently to do anything about it.

We know as Christians that we are to find our refuge in God,

*¹ God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.*

*² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, Psalm 46:1-2.*

What can be helpful in a time like this is to keep our minds oriented toward God in very specific ways. **What can I think about God right now? In today's strange schedule what can I do to anchor myself in Christ? How can I make sure I am focused and not cut adrift in today's changing circumstances? I know there is no magic wand to wave over today's problems but there is specific and concrete help.**

Obviously the Holy Spirit is with us to bring comfort and consolation, strength and encouragement, Without Him our faith inauthentic. And the Holy Spirit uses the revealed will of God, the Bible, to clarify reality for us and bring us into the presence of God.

I would encourage you, particularly if you have a bit of time on your hands, to choose some passages of Scripture that you already know a little bit and get to memorising them so you can roll them over in your mind and meditate on them and bring them onto the scene when the scene changes toward more difficulty. Do you know Psalm 23 by heart? Pause here and try it. Did you get it? Or were there a few gaps? Or Psalm 1, or Psalm 51, or any other number of incredible passages that describe reality from God's perspective (is there a better perspective?) and how we are to understand him and our relationship to him.

Make it a goal to get at least one passage in your head and heart in the coming weeks. Let me know how it is going. Email, call, or text me; be encouraged, and let me know how it is going. I'll be working on Psalm 2 as I haven't been able to get it down smooth yet. It is amazing to get a little more inside a passage than normal and see wondrous things open up!

Remember to pray for one another during this time and get into the 'triplets' for Connection and fellowship.

In Him,

Pastor Dale

Administrative Assistant
Chris Wilson 5545 3508

Music Director
Julie Eotvos 0458 005 989

Pastor Dale
kdale7@bigpond.com

Tamborine Mountain Presbyterian Church

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Church Website
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Pastor
(Rev.) Kim Dale
Ph:5545 2041 M:0402 588 827

Assistant Pastor
David Mugridge
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April

Birthdays

David Cvelbar	1st
Jean Cameron	5th
Joy Clements	6th
Michelle Hopper	8th
Diane Smith	8th
Tuuli Cartmill	12th
Peter Hall	13th
Dianne Wentworth	13th



Jeanette Boyce	17th
Mark Rose	17th
Des Erasmus	18th
Phil Fry	21st
Ian Woodward	21st
Joe Dunlea	24th
Sandi Dale	26th
Robert Bowers	27th

May God bless you with His peace, joy and happiness on your special day.

PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

It is hard at the present time with the Coronavirus, to think about what might be happening in relation to people suffering persecution for being a Christian in other parts of the world, however, the Bible does say in Hebrews 13:3 -

“Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering”

According to the 2020 World Watch List – Open Doors, 1 in 8 Christians worldwide are persecuted for their faith. The countries where persecution of Christians is the worst are:-

Country	Source of Persecution	Main Religion
North Korea	Communist and Post-Communist Oppression	Juche
Afghanistan	Clan and Ethnic Antagonism	Islam
Somalia	Clan and Ethnic Antagonism	Islam
Libya	Islamic Oppression	Islam
Pakistan	Islamic Oppression	Islam
Eritrea	Denominational Protectionism	Islam/Christian
Sudan	Dictatorial Paranoia	Islam
Yemen	Clan and Ethnic Antagonism	Islam
Iran	Dictatorial Paranoia	Islam
India	Religious Nationalism	Hinduism
Syria	Islamic Oppression	Islam
Nigeria	Islamic Oppression	Islam/Christian

Please **remember in prayer**:-

- Those who have lost loved ones that God will comfort and strengthen them in their time of loss.
- Those who are in harsh labour camps or prison facing death, torture and abuse.
- Lawyers representing Christians in Court.
- That the faith of Christians will remain steadfast in the midst of persecution.
- The refugees that our Lord would provide for them.
- Those who have converted to Christianity that the Lord will give them strength to stand firm in their faith and that they will grow in Him.
- Those in war torn countries that the wars will cease so they may live in peace.
- For changes to law in countries where Christianity is prohibited and for freedom of religion.

Sunday Service - via our website



Welcome to Tamborine Mountain Presbyterian Church

Following a directive from the government, our normal Sunday services are temporarily suspended. We will however be broadcasting our services online. We invite you to join us.

Click on this link to access our latest online services and devotionals.



Now being video recorded, so you can see and hear from the comfort of your 'stay at home'.

Just go to the Home (front/1st) page of the church website and click on the link.

NB: Anybody, not just church members, are welcome go to the website, download and watch.

Church Website: tambopc.org.au

TMPC Weekly Update

Every Monday a weekly update email is being sent out, giving an overview of changes in the situation, what's happening in and to our church and to our church family, with prayer point suggestions.

Also including "Questions for Reflection" with reference to the previous day's sermon.

Any questions, or if you don't think you're receiving the update email, please contact Dave Mugridge at: dave.mugridge@tambopc.org.au

Pastor Kim, or any of the church Elders, are also there to help. Please contact them.



ELECTRONIC GIVING

Your tithing can be done online (Internet banking) using a Direct Deposit, directly into our Church account (Offerings).

BSB 484-799 A/C No: 167 867 395

Offering Envelopes – please chat to Chris Wilson for options.

Mob: 0408 756 610 email: tonychriswilson@bigpond.com

Friendship Club

Ladies Friendship Club will be cancelled until further notice.

Take care everyone, stand firm in the knowledge that God is with us.

Dianne



PUZZLES - for all ages

An Angel Visits the Temple Luke 1:1-24

Across

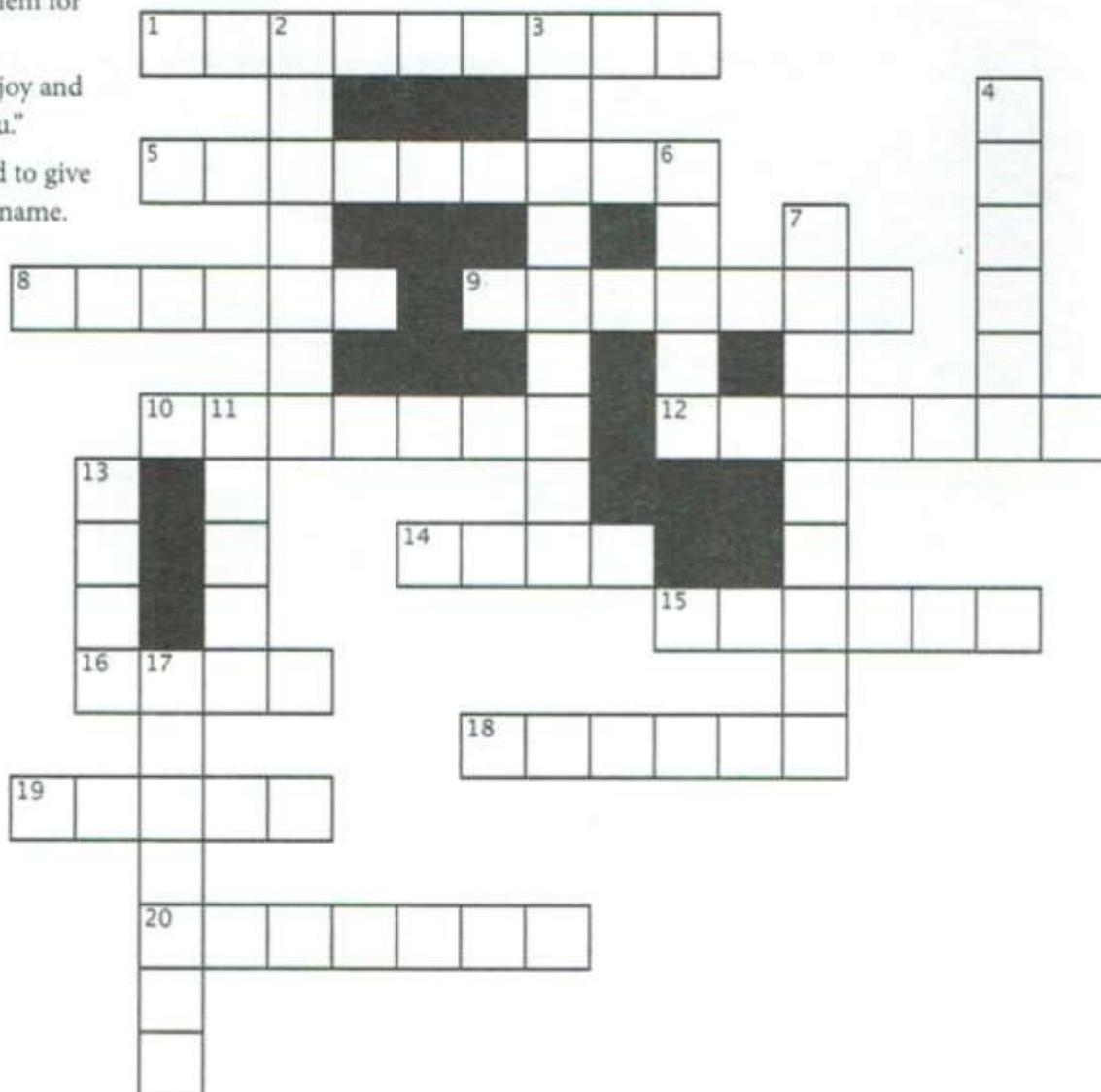
1. Zechariah and Elizabeth were this.
5. He was chosen by lot to enter the Holy of Holies.
8. Because he didn't believe the angel's words, Zechariah would be this until the baby was born.
9. The name of the angel that appeared before Zechariah
10. John's purpose was to ready the people and _____ them for the Lord.
12. "He will be a joy and _____ to you."
14. The angel said to give the baby this name.

15. The baby would have the spirit and power of this prophet.
16. The story happened when Zechariah's priestly division was on _____.
18. When the people realized Zechariah couldn't speak, they realized he had seen a _____.
19. Many will rejoice because of his _____.
20. Zechariah was _____ with fear.

Down

2. Zechariah was chosen to enter the temple of the Lord and burn _____.
3. She was barren and could not have children.
4. Zechariah was a priest who belonged to this priestly division.
6. He was the king of Judea during this time.
7. For five months, Elizabeth remained in _____.

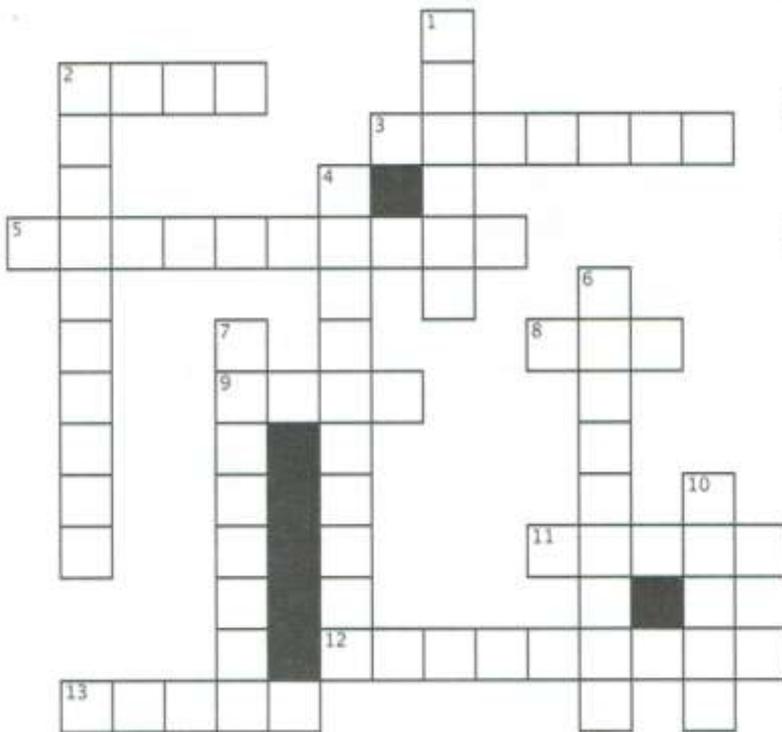
11. The angel stood at the _____ side of the altar.
13. An angel of the _____ appeared to him.
17. Both Zechariah and Elizabeth were this in the sight of God.



An Angel Appears to Joseph

Matthew 1:18-25

Tip - write your answers on a separate piece of paper so everyone can have a go.

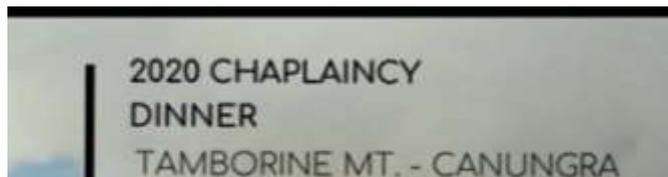


Across

2. "He will save the people from their _____."
3. The birth would fulfill what the Lord had said through the _____.
5. "What is conceived in her is from the _____."
8. "She will give birth to a _____."
9. Joseph had pledged to marry this woman.
11. This appeared to Joseph in a dream.
12. Joseph was this kind of man.
13. "She was found to be with _____."

Down

1. "The _____ will be with child."
2. Because Joseph had this king in his family tree, he was this.
4. Joseph did not want to disgrace Mary and planned to do this quietly.
6. Joseph did what the angel had _____.
7. This name means "God with us."
10. The angel said the baby should be named _____.



The Tamborine Mt. - Canungra Chaplaincy Dinner was due to be held June 1st, pre COVID19.



Please include the Chaplains, their families, And the children now without their support, in your prayers



Missionary Updates - Newsletters from Japan.....

Following are recent newsletters from the Stewart's and the Ramsay's in Japan.

豪、大阪!

Go Osaka!

stewartfamily.id.au



March, 2020

Dear partners in the Gospel,

Osaka Life

It is exactly three years since our mission work in Japan was commenced. We have lived in Japan for over three years now.

It has been a warmer winter. Many ski resort areas had no snow and those owners were not able to run their usual business. Flowers were fully blooming near those resort areas when it was supposed to be the coldest day. When finally a cold snap came, ski resorts had so much snow and many customers.

As the world has been experiencing the novel corona virus pandemic, schools were closed and many events have been cancelled. However, we are not yet confined to home. Restaurants, cafes, gyms, cinemas are still open.

School Life

Setsuli

Many events happen in March so it is a memorable month, especially, for those who will graduate school. Schools were closed across Japan from the beginning of March. Students missed many of the usual end-of-school moments that become fond memories, however, graduation ceremonies were able to be held. It was the first time



for the graduands to come back to school and to see each other since the school was closed. There were no special guests nor grade five students to send the graduands off, however, the day was warm and beautiful and they enjoyed talking to each other.

They were still given more homework for the spring holidays (from the 25th of March until the 6th of April) because they have missed many classes in March. (Japanese schools always give homework during holidays.)

Setsuli has achieved so much that her report card was dramatically improved. Her teacher gave a comment, "Setsuli makes effort more than anyone else in the class." She will go to the same local middle school as Natan'el and will attend an entrance ceremony on her 13th birthday next month.

Natan'el

January to March is the last term of the



Why, 'Go Osaka'?

This newsletter has been named 'Go Osaka!' Why is that?

In Japanese, the short-form word for Australia sounds like our English word 'go'. Japanese are as fond of a good pun as many Aussies so we decided to create a bilingual pun!

There is, however, a deeper meaning. Our ministry in Japan depends on building partnership between our Aussie supporters and the Osaka Christian Church. It is, therefore, an 'Australia-Osaka' partnership (which is the meaning of the Japanese writing in our masthead.)

Japanese school year. Natan'el turned fifteen years old in January on his first day back to school after the winter holidays. His middle school held its annual running competition (2 tracks, 5.6km) at a large public park. He was the 33rd (out of fewer than 200 boys, I think). Rev. Kuno, Tim and I went to support the boys and girls who have come to Crayon and Teens Time in the past. I was able to recognise many more boys than last year since I had met many soccer boys through watching their games. Natan'el has played in many more soccer games against other middle schools. Mothers of his soccer mates told me that the team scores sooner when Natan'el plays. The school was able to hold the final exams for



the school year before schools were closed. Some clubs, including his soccer club, will be allowed to have activities at school during the spring holidays but they will hold no games against other schools. He also has lots of homework to do. The Japanese language support classes taught by volunteers has also been closed so I must help Natan'el.

Nathan

Nathan finished YMCA classes in March. He may study some advanced levels in future but for now he will concentrate on gaining every day experience using Japanese, especially our Osaka dialect.

Church Life

In response to government requests to limit public meetings, Osaka Presbyterian Church has decided to meet only for Sunday services and Wednesday morning prayer meetings. Everything else has been cancelled. Presbytery of Western Japan was also postponed to the end of April.

Nathan

Three years ago when Nathan arrived in Japan, he received residential permission for three years. He applied to extend his visa last month and quickly received another three year permission. Praise the Lord!

From April Nathan will move to practical learning with Rev. Kuno. Nathan will work daily to assist him and will be involved in outreach ministries.

Crayon

In January, I thought about inviting younger siblings of Natan'el's soccer friends to Crayon. Many of them are from different primary schools. I contacted their mothers to invite

their younger children. (Including three mothers and three siblings and their friends, two of Setsuli's friends and two boys,) eleven children and three mothers in total attended Crayon. They learned the Parable of the Lost Sheep and decorated a block of chocolate each.

We hoped to have them back at March Crayon to have a farewell party for the Grade 6 children but it was cancelled.



Teens' Time

In January, no teenagers attended Teens' Time.

Thank you very much for praying. The Lord answered marvellously. In February, I encouraged mothers of Natan'el's soccer friends to send their boys to Teens' Time because they were playing soccer games only in the morning and their afternoon was free. I did not want to let this chance go. Six boys confirmed by the night before but five more boys decided at the last minute to come along. Eleven soccer boys and Miss M (who used to

attend Teens' Time and Sunday School two years ago) together with our children, (in total fourteen children) listened to Rev. Kuno's Bible talk on "Jesus who is always with us and help us". They also enjoyed the food that Mrs. Kuno made and the games that we played together.

March Teens' Time was also cancelled.

Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting was held in February. All items of business were approved. The church is still looking for a new property. One year remains before the deadline to move out and they hope to move by the end of this year. Please keep praying for this.

Kashiba Presbyterian Church

I attended our fellow church, Kashiba Megumi Presbyterian Church, for their New Year's Day Service. I made Pavlova for them. They hadn't known of Pavlova but it was very popular. Two weeks later, Natan'el and I visited the same church to support their 5th anniversary service. I made Pavlova again for them and again it was very well received. Just the family of four serve the Lord in Nara Prefecture. There are no other church members. I deeply thank them for working very hard to build relationships in their community and for gospel outreach in Japan. The Lord keeps bringing many children to that church. The whole Park family are friends with the children who come to the church. Osaka Presbyterian can learn much from them. Please pray for them.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Tomoko Stewart,

For your prayers

Thanksgiving

- eleven children and three mothers attended Crayon in January and fourteen children attended Teens' Time in February.
- Nathan has learned so much Japanese over the past three years,
- Setsulil graduated from her primary school this month,
- Natan'el played active parts in soccer games.

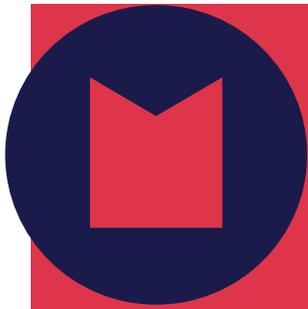
Nathan and Tomoko Stewart

Klar Platz 202,13-2 Hannanchō 5 chōme
Abeno-ku, Osaka City, Osaka, JAPAN, 545-0021.

Petition

- that the church will find a suitable new property to buy or rent,
- that the Australian Dollar exchange rate that has fallen too low recently will rise against the Japanese Yen,
- that Setsuli will have a smooth transition from primary school to middle school.

facebook.com/stewartfamilyjapan



CMS

The
Ramsays
in Japan

Diary Dates

- April 6 School Year Begins (subject to government advice)
- May 12 Ellie's Birthday

Prayer Points

- Pray for our family to grow more like Jesus during COVID-19
- Thank God for good report cards
- Pray for the Mirabellas new ministry
- Pray for good team relationships
- Thank God for His faithfulness

I can now confidently declare that Spring is happening! Consistently warmer temperatures, cherry blossoms falling from the trees and vibrant coloured flowers lighten our days. We can't quite savour it all as we normally would, because of course, the world is in a state of Pandemic. Rather than waiting for the end of winter, we're waiting to hear what the pandemic means for our kids' schooling, our ministry, our finances and the progress of the Gospel here in Chiba city. We'd love to hear from you what challenges and surprises you're facing in the midst of COVID-19.



Our kids have now been off school for almost a month, effectively missing the end of the school year. They've been working on their Japanese, improving their English writing skills, having a few play dates, playing some video games and variously enjoying each other and getting on each other's nerves. They are due to return to school April 6th for the start of the new school year. Pray that whatever the outcome, we would be growing more like Jesus together as a family. Give thanks for some good results on their report cards. It was a challenging year, which fizzled towards the end, but we still we're thankful to God bringing them through it with strength.

March has been a month of cancellations. Our team retreat was cancelled. Our speakers had to return



to the U.S. and our children's workers were no longer able to make the journey from Australia. Team retreat is something we always look forward to, being an opportunity for refreshment, planning, and a break in the middle of a big first half of the year. Spring picnics were also cancelled. Our usually busy hospitality schedule is on hold as we try to be part of protecting the community from the virus. Playdates with kindy friends couldn't go ahead either. Easter plans are uncertain. So in the midst of so much cancellation, what's actually going on?

From page 1: Leo in a mask for school, the kids with their new sandpit, Easter story stones,



We have a minor ministry of texting our friends to see how they're doing, asking if they want to catch up one to one or online, and if there is any way we can help. We have some bible studies online with Japanese Christian friends. Helane is working on 'Easter Story Stones' and 'Calvary Rocks' as gifts for some friends who are already curious about the Gospel.

When the virus threat has faded, Chiba City will still be gospel poor, and we will still be here, ready to share Jesus with those he is bringing to himself. So we are continuing to prepare ourselves for the long term. This means continuing language study, reading the bible in Japanese and chatting with Japanese friends. It means Adam continuing to work through his ordination study. And Helane is working on a culture questionnaire to deepen our understanding of Japanese people's deep held convictions. She also has a Japanese kids ministry song in process, ideas for an Easter movie and kids ministry resources to make. The pandemic is affording us opportunities to be productive in different ways.

In team news, we've been in discussions about the direction of the church plant since January. It has been a stressful time, as friendship, conviction and calling have all been put under pressure. After careful consideration it was agreed that the best way forward was for Tom Mirabella to move into leadership in the missionary school and international church within our wider church network. Recent challenges have left these ministries in a difficult situation. Tom's existing relationship with these ministries puts him in a good position to help build them up. We are sad to see the Mirabellas go, and excited to see God use them in their new ministry opportunities. We are unsure about how this decision affects us in our ministry, but we're continuing to trust God and faithfully serve where we are. Pray for wisdom for us all as decisions are made, and that the Gospel would continue to go forth in Chiba City. Pray for relationships between team members, that through them God would be glorified.

Through both the team challenges and the pandemic crisis, God has continued His faithfulness to us. He has



provided strength, clarity, good counsel, gracious words, and perseverance when it was desperately needed. We've been encouraged by the words of Psalm 23 "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." We're reminded that the Lord's provision of a feast is not away in a safe place somewhere, but in the very presence of our enemies. And that God isn't casually waiting with goodness and mercy for us, but doggedly pursuing us to bless us with those things. We have felt the strength of that pursuing love in our time of need.

Amongst the long list of God's good gifts to us is you, our team in Australia, who make this ministry to Chiba City possible. Thank you for praying, for giving and caring. Please let us know how we can pray for you all. We're conscious of the economic situation occurring in Australia, and the increased concerns for those of you who are vulnerable. We're praying that in God's good timing a new day will come when we can together count the blessings God has brought through this challenging time.

Much love, The Ramsays.

