

AYLINGS' PRAYER NEWS BULLETIN

February 1st 2017

“He’s been called home.”

Jou was one of the young men at Hokkaido University who I mentioned in our November letter getting baptised in October. A month later he’d committed suicide. I wasn’t aware of how much he was struggling. Some of his friends in the KGK group knew something of his difficulties, but it has been a real shock to this handful of young believers. Sadly, suicide is common in Japan and is the leading cause of death among men aged 20-40. *Please pray for Jou’s family and for his friends at uni. Understandably, they are shaken by this with lots of questions, along with some feelings of guilt. Pray for me as I try to be a support and comfort to them.*

Praise God for a good **family holiday and retreat**. It was refreshing to get away and spend time hearing good Bible teaching in English, being reminded of the gospel from Romans and Psalms, discussing and praying with missionary friends. We still felt tired on our return though. So *please pray for us to find our true rest in the Lord.*

The **January fmZERO event** was a smaller, more intimate affair with only 6 students coming and many more helpers than students. We expected low numbers with exam season approaching and reports to hand in as it’s near the end of the academic year. But despite, or perhaps because of, the low numbers, it was a more relaxed atmosphere and ended with each of the students being prayed for individually. That was the last formal monthly event of this academic year; the next will be in April. *Praise God that over the course of the year, 91 non-Christians came to these monthly events and heard something of the gospel. Pray for the fmZERO team as we seek to follow them up. We are planning some smaller gatherings for groups of students from each uni. Pray for plans to come together.*

Praise God, the **Korean nights** at 2 local churches in January went well. It was a delight to partner with pastors who are so Kingdom minded, introducing both KGK and fmZERO to the students who came. *Pray that these partnerships will grow and be fruitful for the spread of the gospel amongst students in Sapporo.*

Coming up in February:

- 4th: AGM of KGK Hokkaido graduates group
- 6-10th: UK friend visiting from Tokyo during the Sapporo Snow Festival
- 11th: National Foundation Day; KGK students will meet to discuss how to think as Christians about Japanese politics
- 12th: Nathanael preaching at Hokuei church
- 12th: Anna meeting with mums in the church to discuss plans for a mums & toddlers group
- 21st: Nathanael attending the retreat for missionaries and pastors from our denomination (JECA).
- 27th: KGK meeting for all Sapporo students

Thank you, as always, for praying on for us.

Much love, Nathanael, Anna, Ethan, Micaiah & Boaz. xo



L to R: fmZERO Jan event; the Korean team had the chance to address c.500 students at Rakuno Uni chapel service! E&M, first ice-skating experience