

## Looking Back

Now we are finally able to send an update on how we are doing. After 4 weeks without our own apartment and staying in many different places, we were happy to arrive at our house in Hanamaki two weeks ago.

At the end of April, David and I graduated from the language school in Sapporo. However, here in Hanamaki we will still study 50% while we serve in the local church.



May was full of goodbyes with friends in Sapporo, a short holiday by the sea and then we took an overnight ferry to Japan's main island, Honshu.

Northern Honshu has the lowest population of Christians in Japan, and it is here where we will be living for the next two years. Nine years ago, my (Manuela's) parents lived here, made many contacts and started Megumi Church, where we will be working ("Megumi" is the Japanese word for "grace").



## Meeting people

On one of our first days here, David cycled to the shop with the kids and on the way back was stopped by a man running out of his house calling, "Pawson San" (Mr. Pawson). There are so few foreigners here that he had guessed who David was because he knew my father and had heard that we will be moving to Hanamaki. He invited us to come and visit him and his family soon. One of the next days I was on the playground with the children and a friend of my mum came up to me chatting for a while. Just another day later another friend of my parents brought strawberries... so we feel really welcomed but also challenged how to best spend our time and energy.



So thankful for our nice new home

## Looking Forward

Now that most of the moving boxes have been unpacked and we have found the most important furniture, we can look a little further ahead.

Our next job is to find a good rhythm between all the things that we are doing; studying Japanese, community activities and personal contacts.



Early morning walk by the rice fields

It's a challenge not to always put learning Japanese on the back burner because it's not usually the most pressing issue, but we are also very aware of how important it is to get even better knowledge of the language and culture that you do not just learn in everyday life. We are excited to see what God has in store for us over the next few months.

David, Manuela, Esther and Gideon

1240-1 Minami Man Chome  
Hanamaki Shi 025-0055  
Iwate Ken, Japan