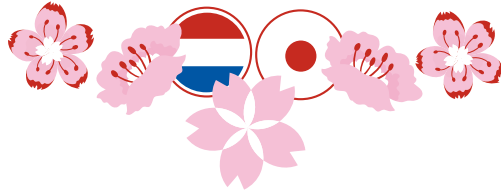


Project Deshima

NEWSLETTER 15
26 AUGUST 2022



Prayer and fasting day
for Els: September 10
info: tftels@gmail.com



- BAD NEWS
- JAPAN: OF COURSE I'M GOING!
- PRAISE AND PRAYER POINTS

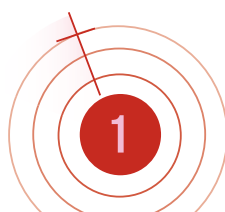
BAD NEWS

I once learnt that you are not supposed to beat about the bush with bad news, but to say it straight away. So here it comes: I've been diagnosed with lymphoma. I am not going to Japan for now. On Tuesday, August 30, I will start six months of chemotherapy and immunotherapy.

In mid-June I suddenly had swollen glands in my neck. I decided to wait a while before going to a GP because I was still in England and visiting a GP there can be a hassle. Eventually I ended up back in the Netherlands with my own trusted GP. He is usually quite laid back. Now he said, "I'm not happy." That's not what you want to hear your doctor say!

After a frightening road with scans, a small operation to remove a gland and a lot of waiting, the clarity came on August 18: diffuse large b-cell lymphoma, an aggressive form of non-Hodgkin. Fortunately, it can be treated well with a combination of chemotherapy and immunotherapy. After six months of treatment, fifty percent of the patients are already clean and ultimately the survival rate is eighty percent. Those are hopeful numbers.

Of course I am not always hopeful. Over the past few weeks I have experienced all the highs and lows that are emotionally possible. There was the fear of dying and the determination to fight. And of course there was the question: Why is this happening? Why now, when everything was ready to leave for Japan? The only answer I have to that is that I still intend to go, and that to get there I am going to fight another fight first, the fight to get well. For that need your prayers, especially to focus on God and to let Him be sovereign.



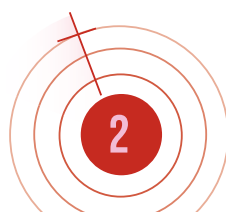


JAPAN: OF COURSE I'M GOING!

So the ambition to go to Japan remains. It is not yet clear how this will take shape in practice. The home front team will consider this question, of course in consultation with OMF Netherlands and OMF Japan. As soon as we know more, we will pass this on, for example about the importance of continuing financial support.

Maybe all that's happening now is Satan's trick to try and keep me from going to Japan. We do not know that. What I do know is that Japan remains my starting point. The people there need to hear about Christ, to have people around them who can tell about God. And I want to belong to those people! I have already spoken to some acquaintances who are in Japan or are about to go. I want to support them through prayer as I have so much time to recover. I hope you in turn support me with your prayers. In this way the link with Japan remains. Project Deshima will not be discontinued, but will just have a different focus for a while.

I'm still thinking about what I can do in this time. There are always three weeks between chemo/immunotherapy. Others who had the same illness have told me that there are also weeks in which I will feel good. I hope to pick up my Japanese training and maybe do some work.





PRAISE AND PRAYER POINTS

Praise God for having housing where I can stay during the entire treatment.

Praise God for the enormous support of friends, acquaintances and the church congregation in this confusing time.

Pray against the fear for the first chemo/immunotherapy, on Tuesday August 30..

Pray against side effects from the treatment.

Pray for wisdom about what I can and cannot do at this time.

Pray for the Japanese and for all the missionaries who tell them the good news.

