And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.

- Luke 1:76-79

(Zechariah’s prophesy, when he was filled with the Holy Spirit after his son ‘John the Baptist’ was born)
1. Pray for churches

* Attendance in church has grown smaller
2. Pray for spiritual conditions

- Many people visit Shinto shrines in New Year’s time by tradition
- Buddhism has become more popular in new ways: preaching cafés, calling monks to preside over funeral services via the internet, etc.
1. Pray for churches
   * That Japanese Christians and pastors will be strengthened and find their unique voice, to make an impact on society though they are small in number.

2. Pray for spiritual conditions
   * That the gospel will shine in the lives of believers, and many more others will be added into the kingdom, in spite of spiritual darkness.

3. Pray for government leaders
   * Pray that they can lead the country in godly way.