



Preparing to be a long-term Missionary in Japan with OMF

Welcome to those who are new to following this prayer letter!

Praise God that I have now completed all of the online training, the various medical checks and much of the recommended reading, in preparation to minister in Japan.

However, as 100% of my financial support, to sustain me on the field for the first year, has not yet been raised, my departure date has been pushed back to the next orientation in July 2025.

I have been making it a point this Christmas season to make sure that I enjoy celebrating it in some ways that are truly an Australian expression of Christmas, in the summer. Things that we may take for granted, but that can't be experienced in Japan.

## Aussie Christmas



**Jacarandas** – in the area I'm currently living in I am blessed to have a number of Jacaranda trees which are so beautiful in November.



**Carols in the Park** - I attended the Carols in the Park in Cammeray with members from SJEC(Sydney Japanese Evangelical Church), which was run by their umbrella church Naremburn-Cammeray Anglican(NCA) Church. It was a little drizzly and actually a little cool, but it was lovely to share food together and sing Carols outside in the park.



## Christmas in Japan

Christmas in Japan is celebrated as a romantic time, due to the cold and with the many decorations and illuminations displayed (photo above at Kobe Luminaire, when previously living in Japan). Couples usually meet up on Christmas Eve for a romantic date. It is not a time for families to get together, as it is in Australia, as that takes place over the New Year period in Japan.

Christmas Day in Japan is also not a public holiday. If friends or family do celebrate on the day (after work or school), it is popular to order KFC Chicken (as Colonel Sanders reminds them of Santa Claus, as does the red colour theme of KFC) and a Strawberry Shortcake (again red). These are available to pre-order from convenience stores and department stores in advance.

Many churches, therefore, have their Christmas services and events throughout December to take advantage of the commercial celebration of the season to let people know the real meaning of Christmas and about Jesus and his love for them. One of the most important times for churches, as a time when people are more likely to come along to events, to join in celebrations as they may feel lonely if they don't have a romantic date.

Photo below, when previously living Japan, sitting around a heated (Kotatsu) table at my place, sharing homemade Western-style Christmas sweets and sharing about the real meaning of Christmas.



## **Financial Update**

*I praise God for each of you who has felt that God has been stirring your heart to partner financially towards enabling me to do ministry in Japan next year. As I am going as a long-term missionary, all my living and ministry support needs to be provided by God through financial partners who feel called to regularly support me financially, so that I am able to go and live and do ministry in Japan, to help the 99% who don't know Jesus, hear about and hopefully come to know him. And as well, through the prayers of prayer partners, as it is only God who works in the lives and hearts of Japanese people I may have the opportunity to meet and talk to, as well as giving me personally the strength, wisdom and grace to serve him there everyday.*

***Although a number of you gave pledges for regular payments, as well as donations, it seems that it will take a little longer to raise enough to be able to sustain me on the field in Japan (at least for the first year) and so, I will be here for a while longer to continue to pray and believe for God to gather more financial partners and prayer partners, so that I will be sustained well in Japan once I go.***

***Would you please pray with me for God to keep providing financial partners so that I can leave by July 2025, for my first 4-year term, with full support to sustain me (at least for the first year)?***

*Pledges of regular financial support are counted towards the year's financial goal and one-off donations are spread out across the terms and used for other incidental costs and moving costs etc.*

***If you would like to partner with me financially, please visit: <https://omf.org/au/giving/>***

***Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at all!***

## **Other Prayer Points:**

- *Pray for continued provision of financial partners to join and support this ministry so that the goal of 100% financial support target can be met in God's timing to leave for Japan next year.*
- *Pray for all the medical check-related paperwork to be finalised.*
- *Pray for continued ongoing personal provision and support especially as I will still be in Sydney longer than expected. For guidance in terms of accommodation, part-time work/financial provision, church(es) involvement etc during that time.*
- *Pray for Churches in Japan as they plan and prepare Christmas outreach events, as a great opportunity to tell people the real meaning of Christmas and about Jesus.*

***God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply.  
- Hudson Taylor (OMF founder)***

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. Please let me know how I can be praying for you too!!

Love and God bless,

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