

Hi everyone,

Thank you all for your continued prayer support and for those who have pledged financially to support me ongoing in Japan, as well as those who have given one-off donations.

The focus of this prayer letter is on things that have been happening in my family over the last couple of months. These things have taken much focus and energy, but I am very glad that there has actually been a delay in my leaving for Japan previously, so that I was able to be here at this time. I have not, however, been able to focus on raising support for Japan during this time and therefore, there has not been much change in my financial support % and I will again not reach the deadline in early Sept (to leave for Japan in Nov). I believe God has his perfect timing; once things have settled down in my family, by which time he will provide the financial support I need to leave for Japan.

### **Family Update:**

#### **Reconciliation with adopted brother**

My parents adopted my half-African brother from an orphanage in England when he was 15 months old. We grew up together, but he had trouble at school (even though he's very intelligent) and left home early and got into trouble with drugs and alcohol. We tried to support him for a while in various ways, but he ended up being estranged from us for a long time.

Recently, he had started to text me and was back living in Sydney. It seemed that he was doing better and was off alcohol and drugs. After a while, I agreed to meet up with him, and we met at a café and had a great catch-up. He asked about Mum and Dad and wanted to meet up with them too, so I asked them if he could start by emailing them. Mum thought he sounded different in his emails, and so she gave him their phone number, and he started calling them. Then I met up with him one more time and we made a plan for him to go up to their place, for the day, on the Saturday before Mum's birthday, at the beginning of August, for a reunion for the first time for the 4 of us to be together in many years.

#### **Dad's health decline**

Dad's dementia has been developing quite quickly over the past year or so. He also has mobility issues and walks with a walker. Mum has been caring for him 24/7 at home, but he has needed more and more care to the point where Mum has had to watch everything he does, help him or do it for him. She has been unable to leave him at home for more than a short time, and where they can go out has also been restricted.

#### **Family Reunion - but not as we planned**

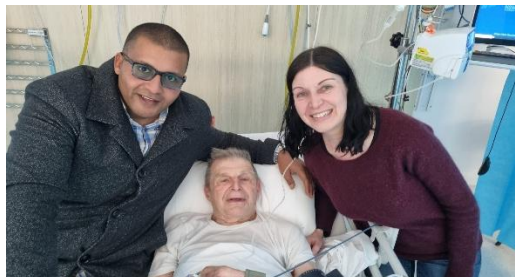
In the first weekend of August, we had a plan to celebrate Mum's birthday and I planned to go up to Lake Macquarie and stay with them for a few days over that weekend. It would also be the reunion with my adopted brother, Nigel, as well.

I drove up on the Friday afternoon as planned, but within an hour or so of being there, Dad started not being able to answer or do anything. He was unable to walk or really do anything else and was very confused. It was like his brain was not connecting with anything else, and he was frozen. Mum and I tried all kinds of strategies for quite a while, but nothing helped, and we ended up calling the ambulance. He got taken to Wyong Hospital. The Paramedic agreed that the way he was would be too hard for Mum to handle in the future (he had had similar episodes previously and also gone to the hospital then, but they seemed to be getting worse).

We called Nigel to cancel plans on Saturday for now, but he insisted that at least he wanted to come up and see Mum again and celebrate her birthday with her. So, he drove up on the Saturday morning, and the 3 of us had a fairly brief lunch at a local café (not the place we had planned to go) and caught up a bit after a long time and kind of celebrated Mum's birthday.



Then, he said that he also wanted to go to the hospital with us to visit Dad. Dad was still in the emergency ward, waiting for a bed in a ward, so only 1 visitor was allowed at a time. But when we explained the situation, they especially allowed Nigel to go in with me. We are thankful that Nigel was actually able to have a good time (considering) with Dad, reconnecting and chatting a little.



### **Dad's move to a nursing home**

For the following 3 weeks, Dad stayed in Wyong Hospital. During that time, I was up and down from Sydney helping Mum with admin and filling out forms, and with the move to the nursing home. The nursing home across the road from the retirement village where they live (which they always thought they would go to), didn't respond to various phone calls and in-person visits from Mum. But another place, Avondale House, called and said that they had a place for Dad, and after an inspection he was able to move in there last Thursday. It is a Seventh Day Adventist-run and there are many Christian residents there from many denominations, as well as staff, and it encourages worship and prayer. It has a lovely, caring atmosphere, and the staff are caring and attentive. He is well looked after there, although he is not convinced yet and is still asking to come home. We are working with them on strategies to help him settle in and get him involved in the many activities there (as much as he is able).

It has been a relief for Mum that he is now well looked after, although all the admin continues and she has to now adjust to running all the household affairs alone. She is looking forward to being able to do some activities that she hasn't been able to take part in for a while, and hopes to balance them with visits to Dad (a 15-min drive from where she lives).

We are very thankful that God has opened up such a great place for Dad to be cared for. Being an area with a high number of retirees, places in nursing homes are hard to come by.

We are also thankful that Mum has a very supportive church and retirement village neighbours, who have helped and supported her a lot during this time.



### **Financial Update**

*Thank you so much to all who have partnered with me financially by pledging regular monthly amounts so far, according to what they are able to give, so that I have around 65% of the pledges that I need. I will be on a 'religious activity' visa in Japan, which does not allow me to work for a salary there. So, to do mission work in Japan, I need to have financial partners to regularly invest in the kingdom work, to sustain my life and ministry there. **I hope to be able to now have 100% of the amount needed pledged in God's timing.***

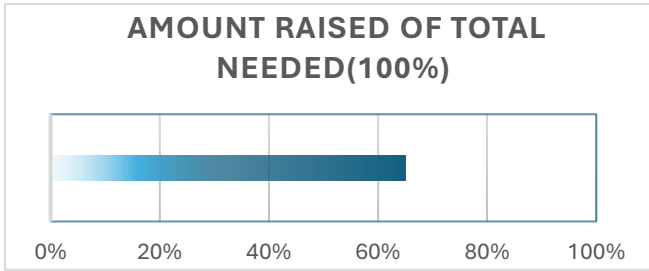
***Please pray for people, who are able, to consider how they may be able to play a part in this ministry by financial partnership with this exciting mission to tell the good news of the Gospel to those in Japan, to the many many who have never had a chance to hear it before!*** For those unable to give financially at this time, I am so appreciative of your continued prayers and they will also help sustain me in my ministry!

*Pledges of regular financial support are counted towards the year's financial goal and one-off donations are spread out across the first 4-year term 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/>***

***For those outside Australia, please contact me for ways to pledge through OMF in your country and currency.***

***Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at all about Japan, my mission work and how the finances work!***



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,

**Wendy Cumberworth**

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**Prayer Points:**

- *Pray for continued provision of financial partners to join and support this ministry so that the goal of 100% financial support can be reached, so that I can leave for Japan in God's perfect timing.*
- *Give thanks for reconciliation with my adopted brother. Please pray for him to continue to make wise choices and for our relationship with him to be strengthened.*
- *Give thanks for the provision of a place in a great nursing home for Dad and for Mum to have had support throughout the process for the past few weeks or so. Please pray for Dad to settle into his new 'home' and for Mum to adjust to living alone and for her to have peace as well as continued support and help where needed.*
- *Give thanks for the provision of great relationships during this season. Also, give thanks for and pray for continued ongoing personal provision and support. Please pray for wisdom for and provision of ministry, work, accommodation etc, for however long God still plans for me to be here in Sydney.*