

Hi everyone,

Thank you again so much again for all your prayer and financial support! I will be leaving for Japan in July, more details below. This letter will be a longer one as there has been a lot happening. Firstly some sad news.

Dad's passing

My Dad, Derek, passed away last Tues on the 26th May after being in care for the past 9 months battling dementia, as well as a couple of other chronic illnesses that affected his mobility.



He will be greatly missed, but we are relieved that he is not suffering anymore and is with Jesus.

Although hard, it also seems to be Gods best timing regarding leaving for mission. I am thankful for the support that Mum has at her retirement village as well as her church.

The funeral was last Fri 5th June and was a beautiful time of remembering the many experiences and relationships that made up his life. It was also watched online by a number of people in Perth, Indonesia, the UK and other places. I read the Eulogy and my brother Nigel read a bible passage from John 14:1-6.

Trip to Perth

I had such a blessed short trip to Perth. I had great catch-ups with old friends and at the church I grew up in there, WPC Bullcreek, visits to some of my favourite places and lots of delicious meals(many home cooked).

Also, a visit to the Japanese Church in Perth and a reunion with a Japanese women who I had attended her baptism in Sydney at a Japanese Church there many years ago!

I had a blessed stay with very good friends and their family, in the suburb I grew up in, and the use of another friend's car to get around.

I spoke at a homegroup on Friday night and they were very engaged and asked lots of questions about missions in Japan.



Then, over 50 people gathered on Saturday night for a 'Japan Missions Night'. Many people I knew, but hadn't seen for a while, and many others I hadn't met, but had a heart for mission in Japan, including quite a few Japanese people!! Praise God for his blessing and provision on this trip.



Preparations to move/leave

Air tickets have been booked (see dates below in the timeline) and things are progressing smoothly.

I passed my Medical review. I also got the COE(Certificate of Eligibility that OMF apply to the Japanese Government for, to sponsor my visa) and have an appointment with the Japanese Consulate tomorrow(Tues 9th) morning to hopefully get my Visa(minimum 5 working days). It is a 'Religious Activity' visa.

During the coming month I will have a number of small farewells, as well as more official ones (again see timeline) and will be packing up some boxes of personal items to ship them to Japan, as well as the luggage to take on the plane with me. This is not an easy task, but I trust God will help to take the right things. I have also been giving away some items.

Initial plan once I leave Australia

I will initially spend one month at OMF headquarters in Singapore for the month of July for OMF Orientation(OC). This occurs 3 times a year when OMF missionaries from all over the world gather for some fellowship and training before leaving for mission in one of a number of Asian unreached countries where OMF works.

Then I will arrive in Sapporo, Hokkaido in the north of Japan. I will initially be there for 6 months studying 'Bible and Ministry' Japanese so that I am able to more confidently and proficiently lead bible studies, read the bible out loud, pray in Japanese and public speaking/preaching in Japanese etc. I am thankful for this opportunity so that I will be more effective in my future ministry. It will be targeted tuition at my level and some on my own.

On arrival in Japan I will have a small 1 brm apartment 15 mins walk from the language school, furnished and ready for me, as well as help to go to the various places such as the bank, city hall etc to get things setup. And meals with other colleagues and OMF staff for the first few days while I settle in. I am really thankful for this support.

The rent for the apartment(which by the way is much less than in Sydney), as well as my everyday expenses for living and ministry will be paid from an allowance which I will receive from OMF, made up from the money which many of you have so generously pledged and donated over the past 2 years. I wouldn't be able to go and effectively do ministry in Japan without that support, so again thank you so much. As well as the prayer support which is also so very important.

After the initial 6 months in Sapporo, OMF will allocate me to a church which they see would be the best match for my passions, skills, experience and gifts matched to that church's needs. This may be in a similar area or down in the Tokyo area. I will continue on there to complete my first 4 year term in Japan.

Please let me know how I can be praying for you too!!

Love and God bless,

Wendy Cumberworth

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Financial Update

*Thank you so much to all who have partnered with me financially by pledging regular monthly amounts so far, of whatever amount they've decided with God to give. **My living and ministry in Japan is wholly funded by generous support of people and churches partnering with me in this mission in Japan.***

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!

Prayer Points:

- *Praise God for the funds raised so far and new partners for this mission in order to reach the initial financial target for me to leave for Japan! Pray for continued provision of partners for this journey!*
- *Thankful for a blessed funeral for my Dad and support for my Mum. Please pray for Mum especially, to have comfort and to continue to have support around her in this new season of her life.*
- *Thankful that Nigel has started attending his local church. Please pray for him to really understand God's love for him just as he is and also for job opportunities, as he is about to complete his AOD Counselling Diploma. Also courage to step into this new season of work.*
- *Thankful for a blessed trip to Perth. God's provision there and blessed re-connections with people and churches.*
- *Thankful for the smooth logistics so far for preparations. Please pray for the visa to be granted smoothly and for the packing and shipping.*
- *Pray as I finish up my life in Sydney, with family, friends and churches. For blessed catch ups and quality time.*

Timeline

Weekly Fri- The Well Church weekly Growth Group (Bible Study)

Weekly Wed – SJEC Weekly Japanese Bible Study

June 16th Last HMT (Homeside Ministry Team) Meeting

June 21st Commissioning Ceremony – The Well Church @ ACPE Olympic Park 10:30am.

June 28th Morisset Uniting Church – last Sunday

July 5th The Well Church and SJEC – Last services

July 7th Fly to Singapore

July 8th Singapore Orientation(OC) starts

August 2nd and arriving Aug 3rd – Singapore to Sapporo, Hokkaido flight (via Tokyo)