

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Psalm 32:8

わたしはあなたを目覚めさせ行くべき道を教えよう。あなたの上に目を注ぎ、勧めを与えよう。

詩編 32:8

Hi everyone,

Thank you again so much again for all your prayers and financial support!

I arrived safely in Sapporo, Japan on August 2nd. 3 weeks ago. Thank you for your prayers for my transition in Tokyo on the way. Everything went very smoothly and I made my 2nd flight in plenty of time.

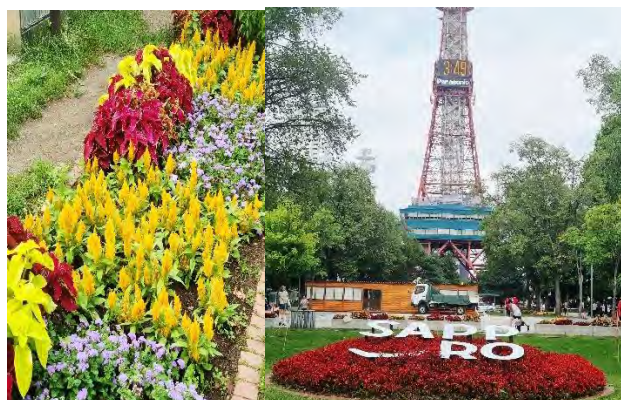


Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan

Sapporo is the largest city on the north island of Hokkaido, Japan.



its spacious land for farming, mountains for skiing, seafood and its dairy industry.



Summer here is a little cooler than the rest of the country. It has been a steady average of 30C, fine and sunny since I arrived. Very pleasant. It will start getting cooler very soon though.

OMF JLCC (Japanese Culture and Language Centre).

OMF has offices and the JLCC here in Sapporo. I will be taking ministry and Japanese language classes at JLCC for the next 6 months. The style of Japanese used in churches is often a more formal style of language, so it has been good to be able to study practical things, such as leading a gathering, praying and other types of communication in that more formal style.



There are about 20 other missionaries from various countries also studying at JLCC. Most of them study there for 2 years. We have a culture discussion and seminar every Friday. Also, a 'Fellowship group' and some other social activities, such as going out for meals and board



games. I have been enjoying getting to know the other JLCC students(new missionaries).

Fortnightly, we have a 'Hokkaido Prayer Meeting' for all OMF missionaries in Hokkaido, where we hear about missionary work here and pray together for it and for each other. Many are those who have already graduated from JLCC and are working with churches in Sapporo, and outside of Sapporo in other areas of Hokkaido, which are more unreached. OMF workers work to help the churches to strengthen and grow, so that ultimately they are able to be totally lead by Japanese Pastoral staff and volunteers in a way that they are growing healthily.

I enjoyed finally meeting especially a number of the other Aussie Missionaries working here in Hokkaido at that prayer meeting. They are those that I had read their prayer letters in Australia and heard about, but had never had the chance to meet yet. It will be great to continue getting to know them and hear further about their work.

Living

I am staying in a 1 bedroom apartment, close to a subway station, supermarket/convenience store and larger shopping centre and 5 mins walk from JLCC. Furniture and appliances are borrowed from JLCC. It is very comfortable and I am thankful for it.



There is a missionary couple for which part of their ministry is to help 'New workers'(missionaries) like myself with the transition and setup and they have been a great help and blessing to me.

They helped me to setup all the utilities - water, electricity and gas, bank accounts and also to go to the Council/Government offices to register as a resident(of Japan as well). Also, to register my mobile to get a Japanese phone number and lots of little other processes and procedures. Some involve filling out forms in a very specific way (names are surname first and in block letters only and including middle names for official forms) My name is pretty long and difficult to pronounce in Japanese, so it made the process quite long. But then there are also many processes which are digital and involve many passwords and other processes online (which produces more different problems with my name). Just when you think you've finished one process there seems to be another one related to it which needs to be done. But I'm getting through them and starting to get used to how it all works.

Other than that, although Cash is still wisely used here, digital payments are quite complicated here. Different shops accept different types of payment. Debit and Credit cards are not as easy to use by just 'tapping' like in Australia and not accepted everywhere. There are phone apps which you can load up money to (via cash at certain ATMs or from your bank account) and scan the bar code to pay. But again, these are not accepted at every shop, so it's necessary to have a few different types.

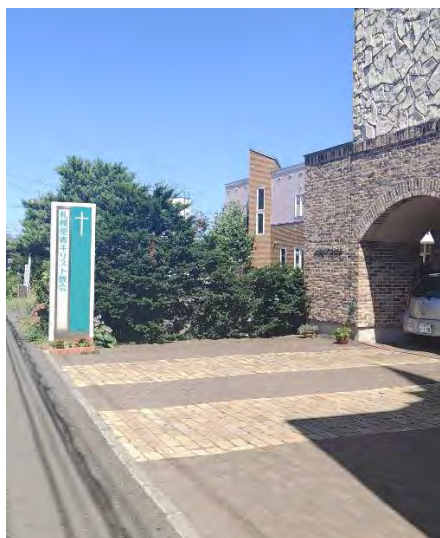
Bins and rubbish have also very very specific systems. There is burnable(like our red bin), non-burnable(red bin rubbish that can't be burned), then recycling needs to be separated into 'paper/cardboard', 'plastic(including soft plastic)' and 'cans/bottles'. There are specific things like

meat trays and milk cartons which need to be washed and taken back to the supermarket. Almost every type of general food or other packaging used here is able to be thrown into either the 'Paper' or 'Plastic' rubbish. Rubbish needs to be washed and prepared in specific ways, separated in clear plastic bags(or special ones bought from the council) before throwing it into the correct type of rubbish bin on a specific day for each type and by 8:30am.

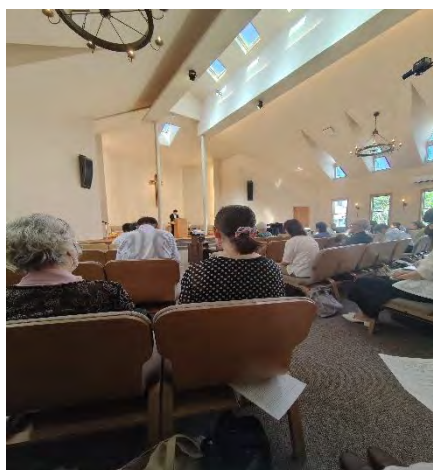
Even though I can speak the language well, it still takes a while to get used to all of these types of lifestyle things, but after 3 weeks I feel like I'm getting more settled and used to them, and have more freedom to start enjoying everyday things.

Church

During this 6 month period I will be attending a church in the southern suburbs of Sapporo. It takes about 45 mins-1hr to get there - by subway, a 10-15 min walk to transfer to another station to the local train line at the main Sapporo Station, then by Train and then 10 mins walk.



The church is one of the stronger churches in Sapporo with a history of 50 years or so. The service is all in Japanese. We sing a couple of hymns and then some more contemporary songs(from the 90s?), read the Lord's Prayer and Apostles Creed, have a prayer time and offering and a sermon



message. It is all in the more formal style of Japanese that I am learning to use more proficiently and is a good opportunity to go there and practice hearing it. There are a few children/youth and they have a Sunday School after the service. Many of the church members have been there since the church started and are very faithful. They have also been very friendly to me and I hope to get to know them better as I attend more and maybe get involved in some events/activities with them.

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 provision of all supporters in prayer and financially to allow me to minister in Japan! Pray for continued provision of all support that I need ongoing for this journey!*
- *Please continue to pray for my brother Nigel to really understand God's love for him just as he is. Also pray for wisdom and direction for him to find a job, after completing his AOD (Alcohol Other Drugs) Counselling Diploma. Also, for courage to step into this new season of work.*
- *Praise God that I arrived safely in Sapporo. Please pray for me to continue to settle into life in Sapporo and at my church.*
- *Pray for me to learn Japanese language that will be useful for me in the future and to continue improving in my general language skills day by day.*
- *Pray for blessed relationships and friendships with other OMF Missionaries and staff, as well as to find local friendships with Japanese people.*
- *Pray for direction for what God wants me to do, and where, once I finish at JLCC. Pray for all involved in this discussion and decision.*