

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 ongoing financial support!

Thankfully, I have settled in to life here well over the past 2 months and am starting to have a routine. My extra boxes arrived safely from Australia and it's been great to have some personal things with me that make me feel more at home.

The weather has started to cool down and it is expected that the first snow will probably fall around the end of October. So I have a month to get the necessary boots and other clothing ready for it. Doing life in the snowy and cold weather will be the next thing to adjust to.

OMF JLCC (Japanese Culture and Language Centre) Japanese and Culture Study.

My Japanese lessons have been going well. The first week or so, we went through the books of the Bible in Japanese, the general format of more traditional church services and reading the service outline, and the Lord's Prayer and Apostles Creed.

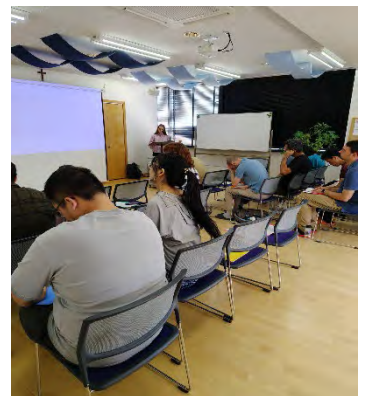
Then we went through common examples of types of prayers (offering prayer, prayer for the sick, repentance prayer etc) and phrases related to them. I need to write a prayer and pray it at the beginning of class every 2nd day. I'm not confident at praying in Japanese so it's been a great help to have this opportunity to practice.

Then now I'm doing the Bible Course. It's a series of lessons. Each one has a few paragraphs about

a topic, like about the Bible, creation, sin etc. It includes related Kanji (Chinese characters), vocabulary and grammar forms used to explain about these things. Then at the end there is a practical writing part to write about something related to that topic. And also a speaking part, to speak a short explanation about that topic, as if you were explaining it to a Japanese non-Christian.

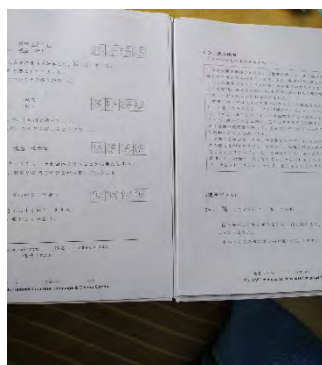
Also, we have a Chapel service once a month that is wholly run by the students/missionaries at JLCC studying Japanese. Students lead the service, give prayers, read the Bible, give a short testimony or message etc all in Japanese.

It's a great chance to practice and improve our skills in a safe place.



So, although I do understand a lot of Japanese already, the lessons are a really good opportunity to practice and so are helping me be more confident and proficient at producing (writing and speaking) Japanese in various scenarios, especially in terms of talking about the Bible and Christian things, reading the Bible out loud and praying. And also, at speaking at the right level of politeness for different church situations and with people I meet for the first time. I'm enjoying it and thankful for the opportunity. Fdsfdff

It's also great to have great teachers to check things with or to correct me, as I haven't had formal lessons for a long time.



We also have a lesson each week on different aspects of Japanese culture and especially as it relates to ministry.

Meetings with OMF Leaders

During the month I also had a meeting with OMF Kanto (Tokyo area) leaders, visiting from Tokyo and with the Hokkaido leader and training leader, discussing the plan for me moving forward. They were great meetings and it was nice to get to know each other better. Each of these 'Leaders' are also missionaries who are based in the areas they oversee.

As a result, we decided that once I graduate from JLCC language and culture studies next February, I will stay for 1 more year in Sapporo to work with a, possibly more traditional, Japanese Church here in order to have a better understanding and get the experience and a general overview of examples of Japanese churches and ministries while still being part of the community here that I've already started to get to know. As I was working with an International Church last time I was in Japan, I think this will be a good opportunity. We hope to confirm the placement over the next month or so. I will also have more opportunity to visit areas around some parts of Hokkaido, as it's my first time in this area.

Also, during that time still in Sapporo I will do a 'Centre Visit' to OMF in Tokyo (Ichikawa, Chiba) to visit various churches in that area and work out where I will be placed there (if God still leads that way) more long term from 2028, perhaps in a ministry/church that more matches my skills, gifts and passions.

We also had a meeting with OMF finance team members to work out my needs and a budget for my needs over the next year, which will be fulfilled (by God's grace) through the monthly financial support from supporters. The level of support needed will not change much from the current amount of support needed, that was forecast before I arrived, due mostly to the fact that I will be staying here in Hokkaido, which is a little cheaper for everyday living. OMF is very good at balancing good stewardship of resources, while also making sure that Missionaries have enough that they are not struggling in everyday life, so that they can focus on their ministry (or for me at the moment learning).

Other Activities



a couple of large shopping areas (above and below ground) and a park in the middle of it. Then also a number of other large parks and a cute one-carriage tram network. I can easily get the subway about 10-15 minutes to that area.

Outside of OMF and JLCC Classes and activities and Church, I have also had the chance to see various areas of Sapporo especially the city centre area. There are



I also was able to visit a neighbouring Port town called Otaru. It has lovely canals and is famous for the beautiful glassware it produces as well as seafood. It has a lovely older style (1900s) Japanese shopping street.



I joined a group of other missionaries to go a fireworks show and the city's 'Autumn Festival' with food stalls and trucks.



Prayer Points:

- *Praise God for provision of all supporters both 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 for wisdom and direction for him to find a job, after completing his AOD (Alcohol Other Drugs) Counselling Diploma.*
- *Please continue to pray for me to learn Japanese language and culture that will be useful for me in the future.*
- *Pray for those who attended a recent concert at my church. That each would become closer to God (no matter where they're at on the journey) as a result and for any community/relationships formed at the concert to be continued.*
- *Pray for direction for a church to work with in Sapporo next year, where I can grow and learn about Japanese Churches and ministry there. And then for direction regarding longer term ministry in Tokyo area.*
- *Praise God that some vaccinations that I needed to have (which I missed having before I left for various reasons) were without too big side effects so far. Pray for my body to continue to adjust well to a couple more doses.*

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!

Timeline

2nd Oct - Sharing time with group from Lifestreams Church, Perth who are visiting for short term mission.

8th Oct – Hokkaido Prayer Meeting

14 Oct – Fellowship Group