

March 2022

MARSHALL MUSINGS



Are the Marshalls coming to Australia this year?

Well yes we are, but just for a short period. Our home assignment will not be until Jamie graduates from high school in June next year. This year we're planning to come during CAJ's summer holidays (from late June). We'll focus on spending time with family and close friends and won't be doing speaking engagements.

David and Jamie will return to Japan in early August, but Wendy plans to stay several weeks longer with Doug to help plan for his future. We're currently trying to figure out what this might look like, please pray.

Two things we would love to have your help with are accommodation and a set of wheels. We'll mostly be based in Brisbane. We'd like to not be too far from Callum, who is in Indooroopilly. If you know of a house we could stay in during that time, please let us know. We'd like to have a place where we can have our own space. Also we would like to borrow a car for some or all of that time. If you can help us with either of these needs, that would be wonderful.



Japan Harvest magazine team

The *Japan Harvest* magazine is not an OMF publication. It's published by the Japan Evangelical Missionary Association (JEMA), a collection of mission organisations (including OMF) and independent missionaries who exist to network and equip their members to make disciples for Christ.

JEMA held its annual meetings in February and they showed a video that the *Japan Harvest* team made during a Zoom meeting. In the video (screenshot above) I introduced our team and showed mission leaders an overview of the process we work through to publish the magazine. It was well

received.

One thing that people noticed was how diverse our team is. Team members are located in Japan, US, UK, and Australia. We've got Australians, Americans, British, Japanese, and one Malaysian on our team.

The magazine takes over three months from start to finish to produce. That's because each of our team members has other significant ministry or employment that they're committed to, so the time they can devote to the magazine is fairly limited. But also, because we work hard to produce the very best magazine we can.

Stronger together

David spent four nights away in Kyoto during February helping another school go through their latest round of accreditation. He was part of a team of five: two from Japan in person, and three from overseas were there online.

The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) has more than 23,000 member schools in 100 countries. ACSI helps member schools with accreditation by arranging visits to verify what the school says about itself at the end of each cycle. At the end of the visit we present a report to the school community that lists the positive features we noticed, and a list of ways they could continue growing even better in the next six years. Through external accreditation, we hope that Christian education gains in quality and continues to reach people who might not otherwise come into contact with a church. Do pray that all our schools could grow and glorify God through helping each other. We want to do our best at teaching the children in our care.

It was useful learning for David, too, as his job includes overseeing the accreditation process at CAJ, and he has a few new ideas.

We are almost there with finding new staff for next year, mostly from people already in Japan. Please pray for the last spots to fill.



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PLEASE SUPPORT US IN PRAYER

Prayer points

- Pray for our plans for mid-year. We've got a lot of things that we'd like to achieve, and some aren't clear how we can achieve them. Please pray that God would provide exactly what and who we need at the right time. Pray especially for the right supports and conversations to help Doug move forward from here.
- Pray that Callum would be able to find a job.
- Though we have been fully supported the last two years, exchange rates have increased our needs this year. Pray it will all come in.
- Pray that churches in Japan would see many people return to in-person worship. Pray for true fellowship.
- Pray for daily strength and wisdom.
- The OMF Japan social media team has had one key member leave, and two new ones join us. Pray that we'll gel well together as a team and that we'd be able to continue to mobilise people and pray for Japan.
- Pray for the head of school handover for CAJ, and also for the filling of our remaining vacant positions.

Praise points

- That it looks like borders are open and new missionaries can join us in March.
- For God's strength to make it through another heavy month.
- That David's first time assessing a school for accreditation went well.
- That Wendy's time facilitating the workshop went well and that she grew in confidence.

COVID-19 update

Thank you for praying. The borders in Japan are beginning to open again to people with new visas. We're hoping to see around a dozen new missionaries arrive in March.

Infection numbers are again decreasing, thankfully, after a peak in early February. New cases are at about 5 people per 10,000 people, compared to Australia's 8 people per 10,000 people.

Coming up...

March

2-4 Women's retreat

7-11 SWOW. David away all week, Jamie away Mon-Wed.

26 March-3 April CAJ Spring break.

Camping trip for two or three nights.

3 April Wendy's birthday

On the home front

Thank you for praying in February. It continued to be a busy time and we're feeling quite tired. Just in the last few days the temperatures have started to rise a little—spring is in the air. We're joyfully

planning for a camping trip late in March.

Wendy finished with the pre-home assignment workshop in the first week of the month and spent the rest of the month catching up on her other work responsibilities. She enjoyed catching up with various friends for chats via video call or in person. She also spent time taking Doug to various medical/dental appointments. She held the fort at home while David was away in Kyoto for four nights mid-month.

David has continued meeting with friends for games and also an OMF colleague for occasional Saturday breakfasts.

CAJ had its Winter break (aka long-weekend) and we enjoyed sleeping in and relaxing, but also took the opportunity to catch up on some errands. During March the school is holding its School Without Walls week for high schoolers for the first time since the pandemic began—David and Jamie will both spend time at Lake Yamanaka. It's a week of non-classroom activities that is designed to help students grow in leadership qualities.

Jamie's wrestling season finished without him recovering from the concussion he received in his first wrestling bout at the start of December. The season included only three small meets, the rest was sabotaged by the pandemic. He's now joined the athletics team for the spring season. He's also begun tutoring a fellow physics student.

Doug has had no side-effects from the epilepsy medication he began taking in January. He's also had no further seizures. He has struggled with keeping his sleep on a

regular schedule, though. He remains unsure about what he'd like to do next after this gap year.

Callum has been looking for a job, especially in maths tutoring. Thankfully his share house in Indooroopilly has not been flooded this week.

David and Wendy were able to have their COVID-19 booster shot during February.

In Christ, David and Wendy



Above: daffodils are coming out in random places. Below: a local, riverside park. The tree in the foreground is a cherry blossom which will bloom in a few weeks.

