

Social media team changes

Wendy's been working with OMF Japan social media since 2017. It's an ever-changing scene, one that requires work to stay on top of. But this year we've also had team changes. One core team member left to focus on other things and we have two new members: a short-term worker from Canada and a new missionary from Germany who is still in language school.

As manager of the team, Wendy's job has not only been helping to produce quality content, but also integrating these new team members into our team processes and figuring out how we can best utilise their passions and skills. We seem to be working fairly well, which is good, because there are more changes on the horizon. We may have another new member join us in April and then a couple of months later our Canadian will leave.

Our goal with social media is to mobilise people around the world to greater involvement in mission: to pray, to come, to support missionaries in various ways, or to simply be more aware of the needs for the gospel in Japan. Our target audience is under-35-year-olds, and so one thing we've tried to do is make sure we have team members who are in our target audience. Our Canadian and German ladies are both in their 20s, so that's a big help, as neither Wendy and Alex are as young as that.

Needs for our Australian trip

Can you help us? As a family of four we'll be in Brisbane from 21-25 June and 10 July – 1 August. During those times we need accommodation. We would prefer to be within 15 min drive of Indooroopilly, where Callum lives, if possible. To minimise stress, we would also prefer somewhere with three bedrooms.

Then Wendy and Doug will also need accommodation for most of 1 August to 15 September. Those dates are more flexible, but again it would be helpful if we could have two bedrooms so Doug could have his own space. His anxiety will be high during this trip and we want to do what we can to help him. Please email us for more details.

Retreat

March is the start of warmer weather in Tokyo, and often contains various "away" events for our family, many of which are related to the school. Wendy usually attends the annual women-in-ministry retreat at the start of the month. Thankfully this year that went ahead and she was able to retreat to western Tokyo for a couple of days of fellowship, worship, and Bible teaching.

Wendy is pictured with Janet, our field Member Care advisor, who has been helping us access some counselling services for our family, as we're feeling like we've been coping with too much for too long.



Field trips and other events

During the week of March 7-11, we sent students from grade 10, 11, and 12 on their first overnight school trips for over two years. It was something of a risk, but one that most of the parents were willing to try, and almost all of the students were able to attend. We are happy to report no one got sick, and everyone had a good time learning and spending extra time with classmates.

We particularly noticed that the grade 10 class have not had the same group work and leadership opportunities due to COVID-related cancellations of school events in the last two years, so we had to work harder to teach them the things they needed to know for a successful trip.

The following week we sent the grade 8 students to Kyoto for one night, and that was also safely achieved. We are grateful to God for protecting us all and for students being able to do some more normal things.

We are looking forward to other events starting again, with parents able to come in larger numbers to watch their children perform at music concerts and sporting events. Please pray that our community will be able to see each other again in person.

Our new head of school is planning to visit in May. Pray it will work out OK.



Plum blossom

David and Wendy Marshall
1-19-10 Shinkawacho,
Higashikurume, Tokyo, Japan. 203
0013
Wendy's blog:
www.mmuser.blogspot.com
Webpage: ido.com.au/marshalls.php
OMF Japan website: omf.org/japan
OMF Japan social media:
Facebook: facebook.com/OMFJapan/

PLEASE SUPPORT US IN PRAYER

Prayer points

- Pray that our support would increase to 100%.
- Pray that God would provide accommodation for our time in Australia.
- For mid-year plans: that God would go before us and provide exactly what and who we need at the right time. Pray especially for the right supports, wisdom, and conversations to help Doug move forward from here.
- We're feeling weary, but much remains to be done—at work, school, and also preparing for our Australian trip—pray for strength.
- For the OMF Japan social media team, as we work to mobilise for mission in Japan. Pray we'll work well as a team and have great ideas.
- Pray for the new head of school and the handover in the coming months, along with 12 other new staff slated to join CAJ next year.
- Continue to pray for each of our boys, that God would be growing them and also guiding them.
- Because OMF Japan's been unable to have a national conference for a couple of years, we have two regional ones this year. Pray for the preparations.

Praise points

- Callum got a job: full-time casual work with a builder.
- Being able to go camping this month.
- New missionaries have been able to enter Japan in March.
- At time of writing all positions filled for CAJ's new academic year (beginning August 2022).

COVID-19 update

At the time of writing there are no "states of emergency" anywhere in Japan. Borders are starting to open to new visa holders. For the first time in over a year we've seen new missionaries arrive this month and a number more are due to join us in April.

Case numbers continue to decrease and currently are less than Australia.

These last couple of weeks we've seen more people at in-person church.

Coming up...

April

- 3 Wendy's birthday
- 4 CAJ starts again
- 11 OMF member's meeting
- 15 CAJ half day for Good Friday
- 28 Jamie's 17th birthday
- Australian trip: Arrive 21 June
- David and Jamie leave 1 August
- Wendy and Doug leave Sept 15



On the home front

Thank you for lifting us up in prayer in March. We've seen glimmers of (earthly) hope that have been missing for many months.

Jamie attended the Yr 11 camp mentioned on page one. His class has not had an overnight event for three years. They had a great time. He's joined the track and field team, but we're unsure what events we'll be able to attend to watch him compete. He continues to enjoy being part of a mid-week high school youth group.

David continued to meet regularly with three colleagues from school for games and also have breakfast with an OMF colleague every now and then.

David and Wendy have finally had a chance to make future plans. It's been something that's been lacking in the previous two years. Planning for our trip to Australia is taking time and we're trusting that God will work it all out and "go before us". We're thankful for plane tickets, and also some dates in the calendar to spend with family and a holiday with close friends.

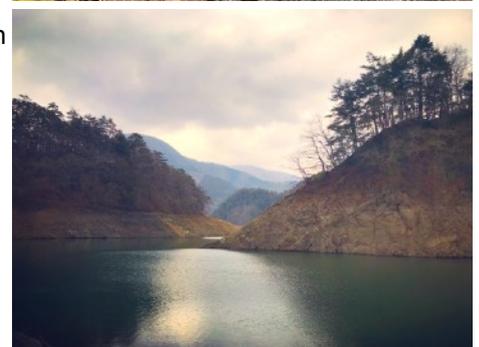
We were able to go on a much anticipated two-night camping trip in the last week of March. We narrowly avoided another snow-camp with rain on the last night turning to snow on the slopes above our campsite.

During CAJ's spring break we enjoyed a lunch date and a wander under blooming cherry blossoms.

Doug has worked hard to get into a better sleep routine and is also now in charge of his own lunches (buying groceries and making them). He—along with the rest of us—enjoyed seeing the new Batman movie. He and Jamie both continue to help around the house with various jobs.

Callum has a full-time casual job as a builder's labourer. He's enjoying learning new skills and working with his hands. He also recently helped plan and lead a joint youth group camp for his church and another.

*In Christ,
David and
Wendy.*



Photos: (left) Callum at work, (from top) our campsite in far western Tokyo, Lake Okutama—just down the mountain from our campsite, David and Wendy under the cherry blossoms in nearby Nerima city (sister city of Ipswich).