

March Opportunities

In March we both had opportunities to share with others outside our usual responsibilities.

David (pictured on far right) was asked to give his testimony at our church's Testimony Sunday, an event they hold about four times a year instead of a usual service. It was great for him to share a little of our story with our new church family.

Wendy attended a Women in Ministry retreat and facilitated a one-hour workshop for people who don't like writing prayer letters (photo above). Eight ladies joined in and we talked about some ideas for making prayer letter writing easier and faster.



It was a good opportunity to talk about a not-so-glamorous topic that all missionaries deal with, but often don't have a chance to talk with others about.

We're encouraged to be able to contribute in small ways to the communities that God has placed us in during this season.



Time with friends

The women's retreat was, as always, a wonderful opportunity to spend time with friends, new and old. Wendy got to spend some one-on-one time with Kesia, one of her closest friends in Japan. Such a precious opportunity as she lives over an hour from us in Tokyo and time to spend together is rare.



Saying farewell to Rachel, our social media short term worker.

What's different about hiring at CAJ?

In the last few weeks David has been involved in a number of interviews in our search for new staff. CAJ has been in the process of seeking new staff since December last year. It seems to be taking extra-long to get through this process this year. Part of that is due to some openings not attracting applications until just recently, but there are some aspects that present unique challenges.

Our staff potentially come from all over the world, not just within Japan. We advertise on our own website and with Christian international school groups. We are searching for qualified, experienced staff like every other school, but we're also looking for people who love Jesus and want to see his kingdom grow and are willing to live and work in Japan. We need our Lord to lead people to find our advertisements and apply, and we pray to that end.

Prayer is also a big part of our decision-making process, as we need God's wisdom to discern successful applicants. It's a large financial (and time) investment to bring people from overseas, often with their families. With our finite resources, we have to be confident that we are making the right choice.

In the end, we trust that God will bring us the right people at the right time. Please continue to pray with us for him to do so. And maybe apply to work with us, if you think it's where the Lord is leading you.

CAJ
corner



Front gate of CAJ with the 75th anniversary banner.

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serving in Japan.

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OMF Japan website: omf.org/japan

OMF Japan social media:

Facebook: facebook.com/OMFJapan/

Instagram: [omf_japan](https://www.instagram.com/omf_japan)

OMF Australia: www.omf.org/australia

Prayer points

- CAJ and OMF Japan need new people to fill positions in 2025. Please pray for two finance managers and a field medical advisor for OMF. And for an Elementary School Principal, HR manager, biology teacher, and librarian for CAJ.
- That Callum, Sophie, Doug, and Jamie will all continue to grow and know God better.
- That in all we do, think, and say, we would glorify God and keep our eyes fixed on him.
- Pray that David's short trip to Taiwan to assess a school for accreditation would go smoothly.
- Pray for preparations for the writing retreat (May) and also OMF Japan's field conference in June.
- Pray God will provide us with accommodation at the end of July in Brisbane.
- One of the pastors of our church is American, he and his wife are waiting on their visa to be renewed. Because it's taken so long their visa has expired and their bank account has been frozen and health insurance cancelled. Immigration seems to be processing things slowly at present (an OMF couple from Australia is also awaiting their visas). Please pray the church will trust God amidst this waiting period.
- Pray for the social media team as we continue to adjust to changes and plan for the future.

Praise points

- For a few days off in late March to go camping.
- 75 years of CAJ serving the missionary community and being a light for Christ in Japan
- The beauty of spring.
- For opportunities to serve in the communities God has put us in.
- For Jamie's 20 years.
- For the gift of friends.

Family

Thank you for praying during March. We've had a wide array of weather, including

snow and nearly summer-like warmth. Spring flowers have started to bloom everywhere and many trees have a green tinge to them as leaves begin to break out.

Packing for our camping trip was a challenge as we had no real idea of what seasons we'd face! Thankfully we didn't get snow, but it did rain a lot on the third night. Our tent held firm, however, and we didn't get too wet inside. This was our first camp ever without any kids or friends. It was a great four days away and we came back feeling quite refreshed, although **David** came back with a sore throat exacerbated by poor air quality and cooking over a smoky fire.

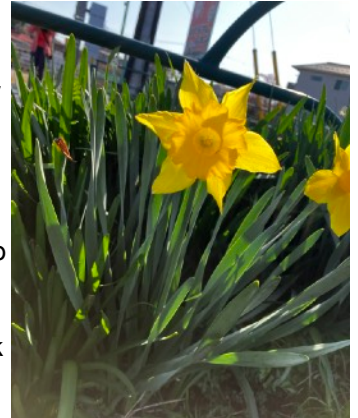
Wendy got to use her baking skills to help make cookies for the CAJ anniversary celebrations and she also volunteered to cook for our once-a-month coffee time before worship.

We were thankful for one last time to spend with our friends Dan and Linda before they head back to the US for retirement. God has sustained Dan through 20 years of chronic ill health and we praise God for his sustaining grace.

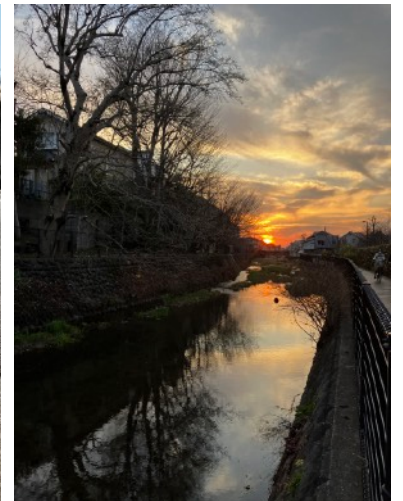
We talk with the "kids" weekly and they seem to be doing well. Thank you for praying for us all.

In Christ,

David and Wendy



Photos (clockwise from top): snowing outside our front door, spring is also here, camp cooking on our small Japanese BBQ, sunset in our neighbourhood, flowers along our cycling route to church, baking biscuits for CAJ's celebrations, dinner with Dan and Linda.



Coming up...

April

3 Wendy's birthday

3-5 CAJ 75th anniversary celebrations

13-16 David in Taiwan for a school's accreditation

28 Jamie's 20th birthday!

Coming up later in the year:

June 30 – August 4 We'll be in south-east Queensland—some holiday, some working remotely for Japan field