

June-July 2022

MARSHALL MUSINGS

Serving
the Lord in
Japan with
OMF.

What will you be doing in Australia?

From June 16 we are taking six weeks leave to visit Australia. This will be holiday time as well as time to deal with some family matters. We won't be visiting churches to talk about our ministries in Japan.

On August 1, David and Jamie plan to return to Japan for the start of the school year. From the same date Wendy will be back at work, for Japan field, but temporarily in Australia for another six weeks.

Please pray for us as we travel around to see both Wendy and David's families (Central Qld and Toowoomba), as well as a week at the beach with friends, and time in Brisbane. We'll be staying in several different beds over these weeks (and Wendy and Doug will be in two additional places in the following weeks). Pray we'll be able to relax and enjoy time in Australia and away from work. We're aware that COVID could disrupt our plans, please pray we'll stay in good health and especially that David and Jamie are able to return to Japan as planned.

How was conference?

David and Wendy went 550km north to the first in-person conference held by OMF Japan in four years. It was an intense, but valuable three days. There were many conversations and we savoured the time to spend in person with people.

We had several worship times: we sang, people spoke about the Bible and what God had to say to us about unity. And we discussed the talks in small groups. We had a fun evening and a prayer evening.

There was an option to choose to attend a small "focus" group on a specific topic. Wendy led one about good writing and prayer letters.



Above: view of our conference venue; Wendy's small group.

It was also the first time that our social media team had all been in the same place at the same time, so we gathered for a short time.

We had some free time on Thursday afternoon, where most people chose to either go to a local dam (Wendy) or a local Japanese bath (David).

The kids had their own program, which parents were so thankful for. As our boys are older they chose to stay home. That's the first time we've gone together to an overnight work event in Japan without at least one of our boys.



What happens at school over breaks?

For the first few weeks some of our students will be enjoying summer school. This is a time of fun thematic days for our elementary students, and some sports and craft activities for our middle and high school students. This year will be a smaller program than usual, as there are more people (staff and student families) travelling internationally this year. Please pray for safety for the travellers, and refreshment for all of our community.

Our maintenance department will host construction workers as they complete a number of smaller renovations that our campus needs. This includes the last piece of our new playground, so we are expecting to be able to enjoy a complete setup when we come back in August, although some of our students who live locally will be eyeing it off well before school starts.

Our new head of school will arrive in the latter half of July, and is planning to start work on August 1. He will need a great deal of patience getting used to both CAJ and Japan, so please pray for him to make a smooth transition and positive start.

**CAJ
corner**

Jamie's class ran a mini bazaar to raise money for various causes. His group made and sold Korean cinnamon pancakes.



David and Wendy Marshall

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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/

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

OMF Australia: www.omf.org/australia

PLEASE SUPPORT US IN PRAYER

Prayer points

- Pray that our support will increase to 100%.
- Pray for all the details associated with our trip to Australia. International travel is more complicated and our stay in Australia is comprised of many details and appointments.
- Pray our Japanese visa extensions will be granted so we can pick them up before June 17.
- Pray that Callum will find another job, but also that he can have time to spend with us.
- Pray that Doug would cope with all the changes and uncertainties of our trip. Pray too that God would guide his thinking about the future.
- Pray for Jamie as he too considers the future.
- Pray for the work that Wendy will leave in other's hands for six weeks, that there will be no complications.
- Pray for the staff leaving CAJ (five retirees, plus seven others) and those joining for the start of school in August, including the new head of school.
- For daily strength, but also rest during our holiday time (June 17–July 10).

Praise points

- Our roof will be repaired during June.
- That the OMF Honshu conference and writing workshop went well.
- For this opportunity to go to Australia and also put aside work for six weeks.
- For opportunities to enjoy nature and fellowship with friends during these months.
- For a good relationship with all our boys.

COVID-19 update

Japan continues to contemplate how to move forward from here with regards to international travel across its borders. We expect things will change while we're away, but exactly how, we cannot tell. There are also small changes with the usage of masks outside, but it's very hard to discern with more than 90% of people still wearing them everywhere.

Coming up...

- June 10 Jamie finishes school
- June 15 David finishes school
- June 17–July 10 Holidays and visiting family
- June 18 We arrive in Brisbane (Lord willing)
- July 11–Aug 1 On leave and taking care of various matters related to our health and the boys' futures.
- Aug 1 David and Jamie fly back to Japan
- Aug 1–mid Sept Wendy working for Japan field but from Australia.
- Mid Sept Wendy and (probably) Doug return to Japan.

On the home front

Thank you for praying during May. In retrospect it seems like we packed a lot into the month!

David and Wendy went to Honshu conference, as we've mentioned on page 1.

We also met two friends/colleagues in Tokyo for some leisurely sightseeing one Saturday. **Wendy** also met some friends/colleagues at various times for coffee or a meal.

We enjoyed watching **Callum** wrestle at the Australian senior national championships, though it was nail-biting action as usual. The tournament had a live-stream running, so we got to see him wrestle in the gold-silver match in his weight class. He was beaten by a good wrestler, and secured the silver medal. His casual labouring job has dried up, unfortunately. We're praying he'll find another job soon as his savings are dwindling.

Jamie finishes Year 11 this month. He's looking forward to seeing his best friend again in August (Joel's been away in the US for the last year). Jamie's been eating a lot of protein recently and hopes to continue to work out during our time in Australia.

It's going to be a bit of a shock to see all three boys together again after three years. Jamie has grown a lot, we're not sure if he's taller than Callum yet, but it's possible!

The roof above **Doug's** room is to be fixed in mid-June.

We had an early-morning outing to the local immigration office this month to apply for visa extensions. We're praying these will be granted before we leave for Australia, or we'll have to reschedule Wendy and Doug's return flights.
In Christ,

David and Wendy



Photos: David and Wendy being Tokyo tourists with Peter, an OMF colleague; Callum with his medal; a park we visited near the Imperial Palace in inner Tokyo. Below: another park that Wendy visited with a friend in inner Tokyo.

