

Tokyo Olympics

Three years ago it was exciting to anticipate the Olympics in our “backyard” here in Tokyo, but it has turned out to be not much different to any other Olympics for us: watching it from our lounge room. However, we’ve been able to see many more Australians compete than usual, with loads of digital choices (like most nations, TV stations usually show their own athletes). We had tickets to Olympic events that we’ve lost and with COVID numbers rising rapidly, it looks likely we’ll lose our Paralympic tickets too. Many in Japan are disappointed.

But from a Christian point of view, the most disappointing thing is the lack of opportunity to use the Olympics as a way to spread the gospel. So many things were planned.

The only door remaining open is that of prayer. And Japan International Sports Partnership—a key partnership that has been planning for years for the Tokyo Olympics—launched a

prayer initiative to encourage people to pray for Japan called Japan 1 Million. Will you join us? You can sign up to get daily prayer points for Japan during the Olympics and Paralympics here: japan1million.com It’s not too late to sign up!

Does Wendy get paid?

One of David’s CAJ colleagues asked Wendy this question recently. Missionary finances are a little mysterious to many people, so it’s worth explaining here. David gets a salary from CAJ, but it’s paid to OMF Japan and counts as part of our support money. The rest of our money comes from supporters, most of whom live in Australia. Each month OMF Japan pays both David and Wendy living expenses and a stipend for each of our dependent children. We claim refunds from OMF for other expenses that we incur (like health, travel, or large expenses like computers).

OMF pays both of us equally, regardless of how many hours we work. They expect that both of us will be contributing to OMF’s work in Japan.

We’re thankful that OMF provides us with good support, more than your average employer. At the end of June we had Two Year Reviews with our line manager here. We had to answer questions that included how well we’re taking care of our mental, spiritual, and physical health, work satisfaction, and plans for the future.

COVID-19 update

Tokyo entered into its fourth state of emergency (SOE) while we were on holidays in early July. The numbers continue to rise, so this SOE is likely to continue for some time.

At the end of July the 7-day average of new cases was 7,448, the highest Japan has experienced yet.

Compared to:

- UK 27,543
- US 77,266
- India 39,897

At least one vaccination dose (percentage of population):

- Japan 38.7%
- UK 70.1%
- US 57.9%
- Australia 32.2%

New visas are still not being processed, so there are a number of workers who have been waiting many months to join us here in Japan.

CAJ starts up again this month and we anticipate they will continue in person as per the last school year.

Our Japanese church hasn’t met in person since the start of the year. Please pray!

Anticipating another year

This coming school year will be David’s 15th at CAJ. It has been quite a while, and all of it blessed work. Thankfulness abounds for God’s grace to sustain us this far in living in Tokyo and serving the Lord here.

Some things will be the same as this past year: everyone with masks all day, distancing in seats and as many other places as we can manage, no talking while eating lunch (because masks are off), lots of hand sanitising and cleaning desks at the end of each class. David’s job has actually stayed exactly the same (so far anyway), which is only the second time in those 15 years.

Some things will be changed in little ways: there will be 39 new students on campus, 5 new staff in various roles, and some people doing different jobs to last year.

Some things will change a lot: the new building is finished and ready for use, and the old cafeteria is gone along with the old playground and sports field. The new sports field is likely to finished by the end of August, and the new playground a month after that. The students will be playing in the gym at lunch until the field is available.

Please pray for grace in all these transitions and safety for everyone as we manage the day to day running of the school in a pandemic.

CAJ
corner



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PLEASE SUPPORT US IN PRAYER

Prayer points

- Continue to pray that God would provide us with all we need to continue to work in Japan.
- For our Japanese church, which hasn't been able to meet in person this year so far.
- For perseverance as we continue to live with high rates of COVID-19 in Tokyo.
- For CAJ as they restart after the summer this month. Pray for all the staff who have left the country during the summer, that they will be able to return in a timely fashion.
- For Callum and Jamie as they apply themselves to their studies this semester, and for Doug as he takes the GED exams, that they will glorify God through their studies.
- For our boys as they each think about decisions for the future.
- For wisdom and daily strength for David and Wendy as we walk beside our sons in this challenging time in their lives.

Praise points

- For our holidays in July.
- COVID-19 vaccines for David and Wendy (and Doug and Jamie in the next month).
- Our support remains at a high level.
- Callum is back at uni in person (when there's no lockdown), he's also moved out of the boarding situation he's been in for 3½ years into sharing a house with friends.
- Douglas was able to finish high school with his friends and is receiving psychological help to figure out a way forward from here.

On the home front

It's feels like ages since we wrote to you last and in two months a lot of water seems to have flowed under the bridge.

Douglas finished at CAJ in early June. Due to mental health issues, he's yet to complete his final assignments. Instead, he has chosen to take a series of exams later this year (GED) that will give him a US high school diploma. We're thankful that CAJ allowed him to participate in the graduation ceremony with the classmates, some of whom he's studied alongside since he started at CAJ in Grade 2. We're still unsure what the coming months will hold for him. He's planning to transition to Australia sometime in the next couple of years, but he's unsure what he wants to do next.



Jamie finished grade 10. He spent time with his two best friends before they each left for the US. One for 12 months, the other just for the summer.

Family holidays were held at our usual getaway house in the mountains for two weeks. We spent a lot of time reading, sleeping, and watching movies. We also enjoyed walking to the local park golf course to play. It was a very relaxed time that we are so thankful we had the opportunity to take.

David and Wendy have continued to walk regularly even in the heat, though after the sun goes down. They also received two COVID-19 vaccinations since we last wrote. Wendy started back at work midway through July, but David's enjoyed much of July free from work.

In early June we also enjoyed the rare opportunity to visit friends for dinner on the other side of Tokyo—we've done very little socialising in these last 18 months. This last week we've enjoyed watching the local Olympic action via the TV and internet and continue to video call Callum each weekend.

Thank you for your prayers during the last two months.
In Christ, David and Wendy



Photos on this page:

Top—Doug in his graduation gown.

Left—Jamie, David, and Doug in our kitchen (Jamie clearly the tallest now).

Below left—holiday house.

Below right—park golf course (Jamie and David pictured).



Coming up...

August

5–8 Family camping trip

16 David officially starts back at school

24 Jamie starts Year 11