



David and Manuela Pawson, with Esther, are OMF missionaries in Japan, currently engaged in language and culture study.

Dear Friends,

We are now back to language study after our two-week summer holiday and have just started lessons with new teachers. Plus, we have a special announcement...

Getting Away...

In August we had a two-week holiday at an OMF owned holiday house that is a three-hour drive south of where we live. The house is right next to the sea, so it was a welcome (quiet) break from living in Sapporo. It was only when we started our holiday that we realised just how tired we were from the language study. Having some time to rest was definitely needed and very much appreciated.

Once our holiday was over it was back to language study again. David has finished the first (of two) introductory textbook and Manuela is almost finished with the second one. That means we now have...a long way to go until we are finished. And even after two more years of language study this will only give us passable Japanese.

COVID remains an ever-present reality but life in Japan is getting back to normal. Services in our church are still shortened but we are thankful that we can at least meet in person in some way.

Looking to the future...

A very important word in Japanese is 姉 (*ane*), which means older sister. This is important because next year that is what Esther will become! That's right, we are having a baby! Everyone is well and healthy and Manuela is becoming familiar with Japanese hospitals (see below). Esther is also starting to show a lot of affection for her stuffed toys so we're hoping this will transfer over to her young sibling. Although it might take a little bit of time for her to get used to the new situation.



Left: Having a walk on our holiday (one of us did less walking than the other)

Right: Making a new friend on the beach.

Prayer Points

We are very thankful for our holiday and the rest that we could have.

Please pray for language study as we want to do as much as we can before baby arrives.

Please pray for a safe pregnancy for Manuela and baby.

David, Manuela, Esther & ???

A Visit to the Hospital...

Prenatal check-ups in Japan are very frequent and I (Manuela) have had some interesting experiences. A single appointment takes about 3 hours and involves 7 different stages spread across three floors of the hospital. Due to COVID, David cannot attend any check-ups and, if things don't change, won't be allowed at the birth either. We are very thankful for all the doctors and nurses who are willing to talk slowly and try and communicate while using lots of gestures. Even though a Japanese friend is willing to come along, I love the challenge of working out what is happening!