



**ONE MISSION  
FAMILY  
NOV 2025  
Vol.8  
Leong's Family**

Dear friends,

During the Mid-Autumn Festival, missionaries gathered to share mooncakes and roast duck – a small taste of home. Since October, the temperature has dropped significantly, perhaps it's time to grab next summer's clothes while they're on sale!



### **I) Need:**

Besides clothing, we also have to replace our car. When we arrived in March, we inherited a small car from a missionary family returning home. However, our leader reminded us that the small car was only suitable for summer and autumn. We need a 4WD to drive to church (passthrough certain suburb area) safely during winter.

After confirming the plan in early October, we were given a budget of 800,000–1,000,000 yen for a used car. OMF emphasizes to be good steward, any major expenses should be discussed with finance staff. Initially, the cars we found were beyond our budget. Later we were introduced to Brother Chiba, a Christian car dealer, who helped us bid and find a car within budget. With his excellent maintenance, it looks almost new.

This experience reminded me the joy of “living by need.” When we focus on being used by the LORD, personal preference like color or design no longer matters.



2006 Honda FIT



2013 Subaru Forester



## II) Desire:

My first Yosakoi dance performance was scheduled on October 19. After four months of practice, I do look forward to performing and hope it will open doors for deeper conversations with teammates.

Since most performances are on Sundays, I intended to discuss with my pastor and share with brothers/sisters. Missionaries are not “substitute pastor”. when a local pastor is present, we should explore other ways to reach out to people and build mature disciples. Following leadership’s advice, I did prayer walks, visit community centers, and meet Christian university student. Having said that, as church co-workers, we must be careful about being away on Sundays. A few days before the show, I learned that the team would take a break in winter, marking my debut as finale of this year. In any case, I treasure this opportunity to enrich my Japanese culture exposure.

Matthew 6:25 “Therefore I tell you,  
do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink,  
or about your body, what you will wear.  
Isn’t there more to life than food and more  
to the body than clothing?”



Stage outfit

## III) What the LORD wants:

Start from October 12, our whole family were infected with influenza. School, ministry, gatherings, and even local driving tests all had to be postponed, and we hardly left home for the entire week. As everyone gradually recovered, Keila continued to have recurrent fevers. Ultimately, we decided to bring Keila to hospital on Sunday thus cancel the dance performance and family trip (which had been arranged back in August for a fall break before the snow).

A rational reader might think that choosing between daughter’s health and dance/leisure is an obvious decision. A sensitive reader might feel that Mark could be disappointed. The truth lies somewhere in between.

Life is certainly important, but making the “right” choice is easy to be said than done. Sometimes we tend to make choices that benefits ourselves, forgetting the greater value of life — both physically and spiritually. Following Christ teaches us to live wisely, without clinging to what we eat, wear, or even what to do for fun. This isn’t about asceticism, but about focusing our efforts on pursuing truth, goodness, and beauty. Caring for family and serving as missionaries follows the same principle: it doesn’t always take a push from the Lord, what He wants pretty clear - a humble heart that follows His steps.

Praise the Lord, our family had recovered by the time this letter was sent. looking forward to sharing our update next time.



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Recently, there was a brown bear encounter incident in Sapporo city, about 30-minute driving distance from our home. In mid-October, Keila's school alerted us that a bear was reportedly heard in a nearby park, though police found no evidence.

The bear may have approached residential areas due to a shortage of food. We are staying vigilant while taking Keila to and from school.



Keila's Classroom  
Observation Day

With teacher's guidance,  
Keila wrote a short Japanese  
composition.



## Two big differences between schools in Macau and Japan.

Once, Keila was reminded not to sharpen her pencil in class. Later we learned that the sound of sharpening can disturb others. Teachers expect students to prepare their materials/stationaries at home, which explains why students bring five pencils to class and why pencil sharpeners are never on the check list. We cannot assume Macau habits applied here.

Secondly, Japanese elementary students have daily cleaning time after lunch, using two cloths provided by themselves, rotating tasks like sweeping, mopping, wiping the blackboard, and taking out trash. This is part of character education, teaching cooperation, care for the environment, and self-discipline. In Macau, school helpers usually do those tasks, so Keila initially struggled with wiping the floor herself. She solved it by designating one cloth for desks and another for the floor.

Seeing children adapt their own ways to new cultural practices reminds us that they can gradually adjust, and it helps us better understand the cultural meaning behind these routines.

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# Cathy's Corner

- At the end of August, I gave a short talk about Macau in Japanese— my first time sharing in front of classmates and teachers. I never imagined I could present in a fourth language. This progress is not just from my effort, but also from my teacher's guidance and the LORD's grace. I was especially touched that two teachers came to support me even though they had no classes in the morning.
- On school days, I often see Mother Chieko when taking Keila to school. I had been praying for a chance to talk with her. Praise the Lord, during a 10-minute walk home, I chat with her and we exchanged contact. I hope to continue building this relationship.
- In mid-October, Keila had a high fever of 40°C from influenza, and store medicine didn't help. Dealing with children illness in a foreign country, I was anxious and unsure how to seek medical care. We are grateful for church sisters and fellow missionaries who provided timely guidance. On weekends and holidays, we must go to designated on-duty clinics. Mark quickly made an appointment and drove us there. Hence, I understand that for missionary families who are unfamiliar with Japanese and without a car, the challenges could be enormous. As written above, our whole family caught influenza and Keila's condition was worse as she experienced side effects from medication, including stomach pain and vomiting, and couldn't complete the full course. I was entrusting her to the Lord's care. Through this experience, we felt both the challenges of living abroad and the grace of Lord's sustaining hand.



Hosting Family of  
Pastor Takeda  
in our home.



Mark serves in worship team  
weekly



Mark delivered his first sermon  
in Japanese



## Looking for 2026 Trailblazers

In OMF, all missionaries are fully supported through the giving of faithful partners who want to take part in God's global mission. Everyone receives an allowance based on need — the same principle applies to all, from General Director to the new missionary attending language school. The goal is that everyone can live and serve effectively where God has placed them.

We are grateful to all who supported us in 2025 and to the OMF finance team for preparing our 2026 budget. We trust the Lord will provide for His work.

Anyone wishing to support us, new or long-time friends, can complete the financial response form or contact us to learn more. We are seeking partners, not “patrons.” In the coming year, we hope to serve the LORD together, build genuine relationships, pray for one another, share life and ministry.

2026 Financial Support Form (link / QRcode)  
<https://forms.gle/AdPJToUKaPfmYRsa8>



### Prayer Requests:

1. Since September, Mark has been serving in ministry. Pray that the Lord uses him to bless others and build him up. Also pray also for Cathy's strength to balance studies and caring for the children.
2. Pray for Mark to successfully complete the written and practical tests to convert his international driver's license to a Japanese one before it expires in March.
3. Pray for Cathy's healing and rest after health and sleep issues in October, and for guidance during her dental treatment starting in November.
4. Give thanks for the brothers and sisters in Macau who visited our parents over Mid-Autumn Festival, and pray the LORD continues to work in their hearts.
5. In view of Bear rapid emergence, pray for the safety of residents, the government to take measures, and the natural balance between humans and wildlife could be restored.

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