



estimate reading duration – about 6 minutes

こんにちは Hello

Now that I've been in Tokyo since July 3rd, I'd like to take you along and give you a glimpse into my first weeks here.

As mentioned in my previous Friendsletter, my housing situation was fortunately already settled before my departure, so I was able to move into an apartment right upon arrival.

I managed to overcome the jet lag quite well after the first week.

I've also gotten used to the Japanese summer by now, with temperatures ranging between 28 and 35°C and high humidity.

Nevertheless, I'm not a big fan of the tropical air—I much prefer the dry heat in Germany.

There were a few minor challenges in the apartment at the beginning, which unfortunately took some time to resolve.

Since the apartment had been vacant for about two months, and the person who had temporarily moved in a few weeks before my arrival hadn't set up a gas contract, there was no hot water for showering or gas for cooking during the first ten days.

So cold showers quickly became part of daily life—and I simply heated the water for my coffee in a rice cooker.

In addition, my room was still filled with unusable furniture from the previous tenants (former students), who hadn't taken care of disposing of it before they left.

Because of this, I initially had to share a room with another church staff member and was only able to move into my own room a few days ago.





My room is 6.6 m² in size, and I've already furnished it with a loft bed, a small table, and a chair. This week, I'll be thinking about how to further design the space so that I can use it not only for sleeping, but also as a small, cozy home office.

Yesterday, the planned change of roommates took place, so two other church staff members have now moved in, and we are now living in the apartment as a group of three.

Administrative matters

At the beginning of my second week, I went to the city office (similar to a local registration office) to register my residence, sign up for Japanese health insurance, and apply for my tax number.

Thanks to Google Translate, communication worked quite well—and in the meantime, I've received all the important documents and confirmations by mail. So I assume that everything has been processed properly.

My role here on site is a combination of serving in the café, the church, the Bible school, and the small group.

I'm realizing how important it is to remain flexible, as my responsibilities and role will become clearer over the coming weeks and months—even though I already have a general direction and understanding of where I'm headed.





Café

At the café, I have already had the opportunity to work several shifts, optimize some of the initial processes, and conduct barista training sessions for the staff.

My main focus in this area is to train the team, improve workflows, and actively contribute to the further development of the café.

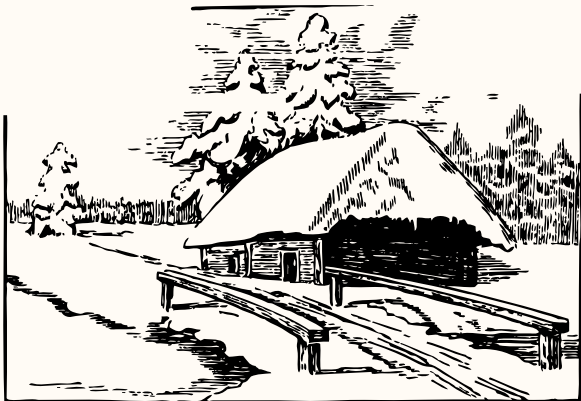
In about four weeks, the space for the church and café’s second location in the Shibuya district will be completed.

Last week, I had the opportunity to visit the new location—and I can say: What is being built there is truly exciting.

It will be a place that operates as a café from Monday to Saturday, with the purpose of reaching people with the Gospel, hosting live worship music, as well as meetings and training sessions. On Sundays, two church services will be held there.

Shibuya is a vibrant district in Tokyo—a true hotspot characterized by countless shops, offices, and a creative atmosphere.

At the same time, it is considered one of Tokyo’s trendiest areas for tourists, young people, and entrepreneurs—making it an ideal place to share the Gospel with people.





Church & Ministry School

At the church, I already had the opportunity to preach on a Sunday. My topic was “Faith”—a faith that is not dependent on feelings or external circumstances, but instead stands firmly on the Word of God as its foundation and must be applied in the here and now in order to bear fruit.

Starting next week, the Bible school year will begin, and I am currently preparing several teachings on the Biblical foundations.

I will be leading at least one 75-minute session each week, which I plan to structure into three parts:

- 1. Teaching
- 2. Reflection
- 3. small group discussions

I am convinced that making the sessions interactive will help the content become more deeply rooted in the students’ memory and to keep them engaged throughout the session.

At the same time, the students will be challenged to actively reflect on the biblical topics and share what they have learned directly with their classmates—and yes, I will also be assigning homework. 😊

Furthermore, I can imagine offering these teaching sessions in the future as a foundational course within the church or making them available online in an adapted format.

This is a first visionary thought that could help me further pursue my vision of “equipping Christians and churches in Japan.”





As a small personal project, I have started [a new Instagram channel](#) where, whenever time allows, I share short weekly reflections and occasional glimpses into my everyday life here in Japan through short-form videos.

Through this, I want to give people an insight into life as a missionary in Japan, show how things are developing here on site, and at the same time reach and inspire people in their everyday lives.

Looking back on the past few weeks, I can see how many small steps have already been taken—even though many things are still in the process of being built and continue to require clarity.

For me, this is a season of learning, settling in, and trusting God for guidance & provision.

I am excited to see what will develop over the coming months—in the café, in the church, and in the relationships with the people here in Japan.

Thank you to each and every one of you who is walking this journey with me—through prayer, encouragement, or financial support.

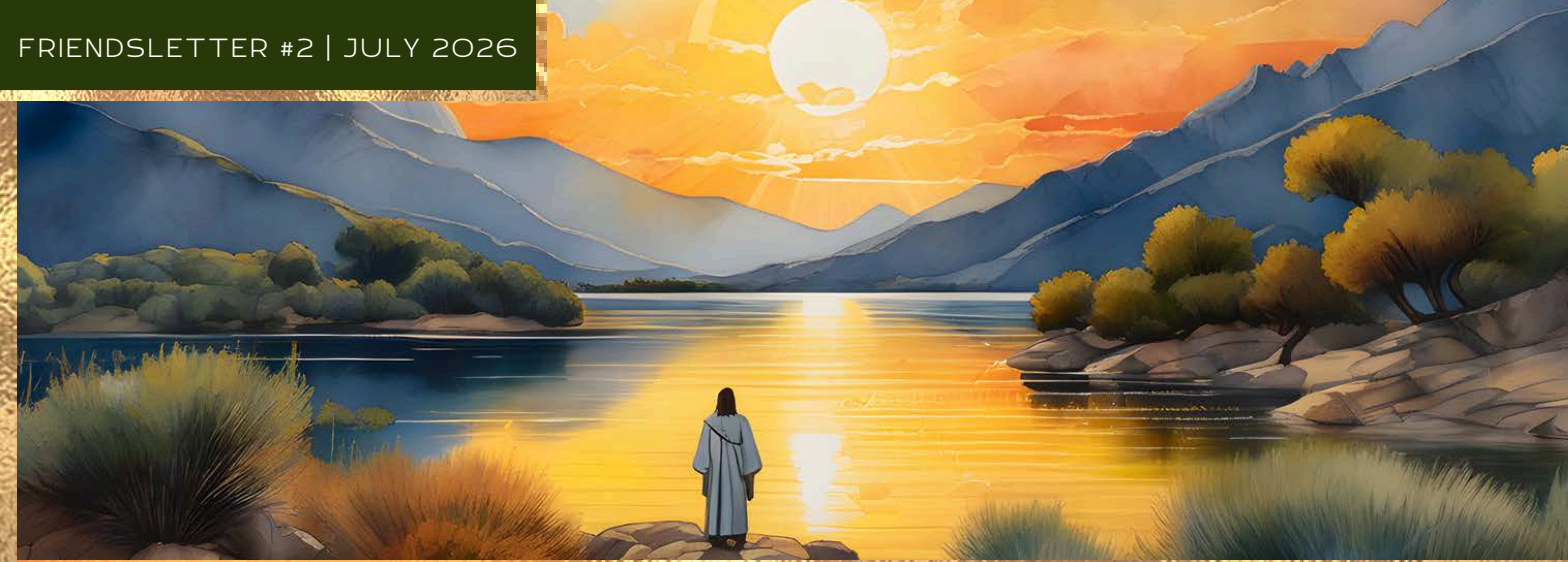
Prayer requests

- Wisdom for the development & optimization of the café, as well as for the preparation of the teaching sessions
- Clear prophetic insights in everyday life for the church, staff members, students, and the nation
- Continued motivation and grace to learn the Japanese language
- Revelation from the Word of God that produces relevant and deep teachings.

If you received this Friendsletter through someone else and would like to continue following the developments of my work here in Japan, please sign up through [my profile page](#) to receive future newsletters, as I will not be publishing every newsletter on the website.

If you would like to send me any questions, thoughts, or words of encouragement, you are also very welcome to contact me through [my profile page](#).





*one tills the ground, one sows the seeds,
one waters the plants, one reaps
and we will all Feast in His Glory together*

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Johannes S.

