



reading duration - about 6 minutes

SEPTEMBER IN TOKYO

And once again, another busy month has come to an end.

Although, for me, September felt more like a period of three months.

I think this is probably because, as mentioned in my last newsletter, we opened the café in Shibuya at the beginning of September.

As a result, there were a lot of administrative tasks to take care of, as well as plenty of work to do in the café.

Thankfully, two new employees started working at the café at the beginning of October.

This means I can gradually step back from the day-to-day operations and focus more on administrative tasks as well as other ministry tasks outside the Café work.

My main responsibility in the café is to make sure that it continues to develop positively and become more stable step by step — from its structures and processes to the team itself.

Thankfully, I have some strong people working alongside me who are solution-oriented and detail-focused, take responsibility, and follow tasks through to completion.

Alongside these responsibilities, I am also preparing my weekly teaching sessions for the Bible school. Sometimes, that can be quite a stretch.

At the same time, I am continually reminded of how much knowledge God has placed in me over the past few years and that I now have the opportunity to invest that knowledge here and pass it on to others.

After each teaching session, I feel a joy knowing that I have been able to pass something on. I simply enjoy talking about Jesus.

One thing I especially enjoy is taking the students through the different aspects of who Jesus is, step by step, using stories from the Old Testament and the various prophecies concerning Him.

Together, we continue to discover how God's story runs throughout the entire Bible and grow in our understanding of His glory.





SUNDAY IN AWAKENING CHURCH

Our Sunday services now take place at two different locations: in Ueno and in Shibuya.

A typical Sunday looks something like this:

In Ueno, the service starts at 11:00 AM, while in Shibuya, it starts at 2:00 PM.

One hour before the service begins, our team gathers together with the staff and church members who are already there for a time of prayer.

After that, we start the service, which usually lasts around 1.5 hours.

We are not tied to a fixed program, but instead leave room for what the Holy Spirit wants to do.

After the service, there is an opportunity to spend time together and connect with one another.

In Ueno, we set up tables in the church room so that we can have lunch together.

At the moment, we don't yet have the capacity to provide food from our own kitchen.

However, this isn't a major problem, as there are several shops and restaurants nearby where people can get something to eat.

After the service, we also offer a “Belong Course” for new believers.

During this course, we introduce the DNA of our church as well as foundational biblical topics.

After lunch and our time of connecting with one another, we head out onto the streets together to evangelize.

In Shibuya, the service follows a similar pattern.

We also meet one hour beforehand for prayer and then begin the service at 2:00 PM.

After the service, we open our café for drinks and take some time to fellowship and connect with one another.

Afterwards, we head out onto the streets together for around two hours to reach people and share the Gospel.

And this is a perfect place to share a little testimony from last Sunday. It showed me once again the wonderful and caring heart of our Father.





THE ENCOUNTER IN THE RAMEN BAR

Over the past few weeks, I have gotten into the habit of not eating breakfast and instead waiting until around lunchtime to eat when I actually get hungry.

So last Sunday, I hadn't eaten anything before the service, but I also wasn't hungry during the lunch we had together after the service.

However, while we were having lunch, I kept thinking about a particular ramen restaurant that is about a 30-minute walk from the church.

There were actually several reasons not to go there.

I wasn't hungry, my legs were a little sore that day because I have been walking and standing a lot recently, and I had originally planned to have a quiet afternoon at home to recover a little from the previous busy week.

A few minutes before we were about to leave as a church to go street evangelizing, I decided not to go with the group but instead follow this prompting.

From a natural perspective, it might seem a little strange: "Wait, you're not going evangelizing with everyone?"

Those who know me know that I'm not necessarily the biggest fan of rigid schedules.

I enjoy following the spontaneous leading of the Holy Spirit and seeing what comes out of it — even when that sometimes means stepping away from established plans and structures.

So I made my way to the ramen restaurant.

When I arrived, I placed my order at the vending machine outside the entrance and was then seated at the ramen counter by one of the waitresses.

A few minutes later, an American man in his late 30s was seated next to me, and we started talking...





It turned out that he had only recently moved to Tokyo to study here.

He is also a Christian and had visited a church in Tokyo that day because he is currently looking for a church and community to connect with.

After our conversation, we exchanged contact information so that we could meet up sometime in the future.

Isn't it amazing how God leads us and prepares things for His children?

What a wonderful Father God is — connecting the right people at the right time and providing, through other people, exactly what we need in that moment.

AWAKENING NIGHT IN SHIBUYA

On October 1st, we hosted our first Awakening Night.

Our goal is to bring people together from different churches, worship together, and then head out onto the streets to share the Gospel.

It was amazing to see how many people from different churches came together that evening. I estimate that almost 80 people attended — a strong number for a church event in Tokyo, especially considering that the focus of the evening was evangelism.

The street evangelism afterwards was also a powerful time.

We preached with a small speaker at the famous Shibuya Crossing and also approached people on the street to share the gospel with them individually.

Surprisingly, we didn't receive any warning or request to leave from the police that evening.

We were able to exchange contact information with several people, and there were also people who chose to put their trust in Jesus right there on the street.

I'm excited to see what God will continue to do through these encounters and through Awakening Night.

The plan is to continue hosting Awakening Night once a month from now on.

Looking back at September, I am reminded once again that God is in the details.

Whether it was opening the café, teaching at the Bible school, meeting someone at a ramen restaurant, or simply having conversations with people on the streets, He continues to open doors and connect people in ways I could never plan myself.

I'm excited for what is ahead and want to keep learning to follow His leading, one step at a time.





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.

Prayer requests

- Health
- Wisdom for building and improving the café, as well as preparing the teaching sessions.
- Clarity and discernment regarding the things I am called to do in Japan, so that I don't get off track by filling needs that I am not meant to fill.
- Clear prophetic impressions in everyday life for the church, staff, and students.

Donation Information

Tax-deductible donations are available in countries within the [Globe Mission Network](#), including Germany, Switzerland, the USA, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands...

For donations from outside Germany, please contact me so that I can share with you the steps to take in order to make a donation towards my missionary account.

For donations designated for me, please include the following note with your transfer:

Johannes Schmid- Projekt 231 – Globe Mission Germany

Important:

To receive your tax deduction summary, please make sure to include your name and address with your first donation.

If you have any questions regarding donations or would like to send me a message, please contact me through [my profile page](#) on the Globe Mission website.

Johannes S.

