



# A Minute with the Masons



Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society

A newsletter of Michael & Chris Mason

Oasis Church / Kansai Christian School, Japan

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Dear Praying Friends,

As we write this newsletter, we are a month away from celebrating 20 years of ministry in Japan. It is hard to believe that we have been here that long! A lot has happened during this time and we are thankful that God has allowed us to serve Him here for this long.

## OASIS CHURCH

Oasis Church started off 2017 with three young men getting baptized on New Years Day. In the past, we have only done baptisms outside when the weather was warm, but this time we used our new wadding pool to have our first-ever baptism *inside* the house. One of the young men, Shin, lives in Atlanta with his wife and kids, but wanted to be baptized at Oasis Church because this is where his father came to faith a couple of years ago. It was great to see him follow in his father's (and mother's) footsteps. The other boys, brothers Koki and Sora, have grown up in the church and have recently made a genuine decision to follow Jesus. **PLEASE PRAY** for Sora and Koki. May they grow in their faith, despite the pressures they feel from the non-Christian culture around them.



We want to ask that you **PLEASE ALSO PRAY** for Ken. After becoming a Christian while attending university in the States, Ken has recently returned to Japan and is now working for a Japanese company. He is struggling with reverse culture shock as he desires to follow Christ in a country where very few people know Jesus. On



*New Years Day 2017: Shin, Koki and Sora*

top of that, Ken is working 70+ hours a week at his new job. **PLEASE PRAY** for physical and spiritual strength for Ken. May we at Oasis Church be able to support him as he continues to re-adjust to his new life in Japan.

We have recently had another newcomer to the church named Keiko. She came to Oasis with a Christian friend and is very open to the Gospel. She works as a flight attendant, so is only able to join us when her schedule allows, but so far she has made friends with many of the women in the church and is eagerly exploring what it means to have faith in Christ. **PLEASE PRAY** for Keiko's salvation. May she come to genuine faith in Christ and make a clear decision to walk with Jesus.



*Oasis Church in early March (Keiko is on far right)*

Finally, as a church family we have recently begun studying the Gospel of Luke during our weekly gatherings. **PLEASE PRAY** for Michael as he prepares and leads this time. As we look at the life of Jesus, may we all grow to be more and more like Christ.

### KANSAI CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

In school news, the big Spring event for Chris is co-directing the annual school drama. This year they are performing a Christian musical called "Under God's Sea." A lot of work needs to be done between now and the April 28th performance, so **PLEASE PRAY** for the entire production process. May the kids not only learn their songs, lines and dance moves, but may the message of the drama also produce fruit in their hearts.

In February, Michael started a 4-part message series at KCS called "Honoring God with Your Body." **PLEASE PRAY** for him as he gives the message at the all-school chapels each month. May God use him to speak to the hearts of both the students and the staff.



*Chris w/ her students before the Christmas Program*

### FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

We typically don't like to talk about our financial situation in our prayer letter, but we would value your prayers for our current financial situation. Over the last few years, giving to the work we are doing in Japan has been slowly declining. At first, this was okay because we had a bit of buffer funds in our account at JEMS to cover the deficit when monthly giving did not cover our monthly stipend. However, those funds are slowly being used up, and unless something happens soon, we won't have enough funds to cover our monthly expenses. Can you **PLEASE PRAY** with us that the Lord would continue to supply all of our needs? He has

been faithful to meet our needs in the past, and we firmly believe that if He wants us to remain in Japan, then He will continue to do so in the future.

With this situation in mind, we are currently considering moving from Ikoma City to Heguri, the small town where the school is located. This would not only be more convenient for Chris and Luke (and require less train fare), but since we would be a bit further from the city center, we could potentially save a couple of hundred dollars in monthly rent. However, there are not many rental houses available in Heguri. To this end, **PLEASE PRAY** with us about the possibility of moving. If this is something that the Lord wants us to do, we need Him to open the door for us.

### SUMMER PLANS

This summer we are once again planning to be in the States for two months of home assignment. As always, the biggest need we have is finding affordable (free?) housing during our stay in Southern California. We ask that you **PLEASE PRAY** that the Lord would once again provide us with a place to stay. He has prepared so many wonderful places for us in the past, and so we trust that He will fulfill this need again.

Well, that is about it for now. We are so grateful for your interest in the work that we are doing here in Japan. It is humbling to know that so many people are lifting us up in faithful prayer. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you very much.

Blessings in Jesus,

*Michael & Chris*



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