



A Minute with the Masons



Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society

A newsletter of Michael & Chris Mason

Oasis Church, Osaka, Japan

Issue 88 June 2020

Dear Praying Friends,

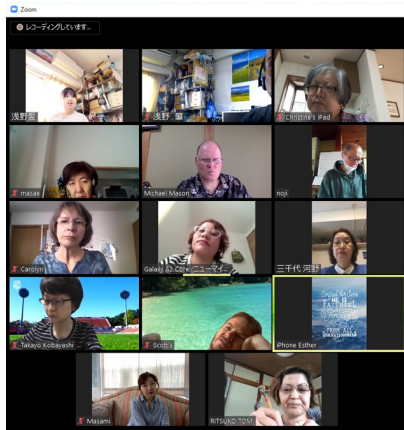
Greetings from Japan! We pray that you are doing well as we all continue to endure the ongoing COVID-19 situation. May the God of all comfort be your comfort during this season, that you may remain strong and be a comfort to others (1 Cor 1:3-4).

In Japan, the corona situation seems to be a little better than what we see happening in the States. Although Prime Minister Abe declared a nationwide state of emergency in early April, many businesses remained open and people were not forced into strict lock down. Of course, social distancing was encouraged, and since Japan is already a mask-wearing culture, people were more than willing to follow that protocol. Because of these simple measures, the state of emergency was lifted in late May and life is slowly returning to normal.

OASIS CHURCH

At Oasis Church, we stopped meeting in person in late March and opted to hold our Sunday gatherings via Zoom instead. While this format is not the best for corporate singing or group discussions, it was really nice to be able to connect with the church family each week. In fact, because it is so easy to log in to our meetings, we actually saw an increase in people joining our worship service. Even old friends from Malaysia and America were able to join us! We thank the Lord for this wonderful blessing.

However, now that the state of emergency has been lifted, we are planning to start gathering



Oasis Zoom Worship Service



Picking Luke up at the airport in March

together again on June 7th. Initially, we will shorten the length of our worship service and take special precautions to remain socially distant from one another, but we are all very excited to finally be able to see each other face to face (even though those faces will be covered by masks!) **PLEASE PRAY** that the Lord would lead and guide us as we resume our Sunday gatherings.

Another blessing of the last few months has been the addition of a Wednesday evening prayer meeting. This is something that we have been trying to get started for the last year or two, but it has always proven difficult to gather people together in the evening. However, with the success of using Zoom for our Sunday service, we also decided to give it a try for a mid-week prayer meeting, and the results have been great. Some weeks we have had 3/4 of the church members joining us for prayer! In fact, people seem to like this so much that we are planning to continue these on-line prayer meetings, even after we resume meeting in person on Sunday. **PLEASE PRAY** that God would use these weekly prayer times to stir up a hunger and passion for prayer at Oasis Church.

LUKE IS HOME

In mid-March Luke's school closed the dorms and went to on-line classes for the remainder of the school year. Fortunately, Luke was able to get a flight back to Japan just 2 days before Japan

issued strict flight restrictions and quarantine procedures. Praise God!

Obviously, we were very happy to have our son home again, but we felt sorry for him having to finish his freshman year from Japan. Attending school on-line meant that Luke was having to stay up all night, with classes going from 1am to 5:30am! Needless to say, we didn't see much of Luke for the first 6 weeks as he was sleeping during the day. By God's grace, however, he made it through and he is now enjoying his summer vacation.

The big question for us now is what will happen with Luke's schooling in the Fall. The current plan is for Westmont College to have all of the students return to campus for Fall semester in mid-August. That would be the best case scenario. However, if the school chooses to go to on-line classes in the Fall, then we might consider trying to find a homestay situation for Luke (preferably in California) so that he can have a regular sleeping schedule and attend classes during the day. **PLEASE PRAY** for Luke as he looks ahead to his sophomore year. If we need to find a homestay for Luke in the States, we trust that the Lord will provide the right place for him.

BACK IN OSAKA

After 13 years of living in Nara Prefecture, we are finally back in Sakai, Osaka. In early March we hired a moving company and asked them to move us on April 6th. As it turned out, the very next day is when the government declared the state of emergency! As always, God's timing is perfect! Thank you for your prayers during this whole moving process.



Our new home in Sakai, Osaka

Now that we are slowly getting settled in, we ask that you **PLEASE PRAY** for us to get to know our new neighbors. We have introduced ourselves to most of them, but contact has been limited due to the need for social distancing. The people in the neighborhood seem very friendly, so we are optimistic about building some good relationships here. Also, now that we are closer to Oasis Church, we hope to have more gatherings (Bible studies, prayer meetings, etc...) at our home once the COVID situation gets better. **PLEASE PRAY** that God would give us wisdom about when it might be safe to start up these new group meetings.

THANK YOU

That's about all the news we have for now. As always, thank you for your generous support and prayers, especially during these uncertain economic times. Your partnership means the world to us. May you continue to experience the love, grace and mercy of our Lord, each and every day.

In Jesus,

Michael & Chris

Michael & Chris Mason

**** IMPORTANT ****

Here's our new address!

Michael & Chris Mason
1-5-6 Kamotani-dai, Minami-ku
Sakai, Osaka 590-0138
JAPAN





3 Ways to Support the Masons



* On-Line Giving

You can make one-time, monthly, quarterly or annual donations with your credit card via the JEMS' Network For Good donation site. Links to the site can be found here:

www.jems.org/missionaries (click on the donate link under the Mason's bio)

www.masonsinjapan.com (the donate button is on the bottom of the page)

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* Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

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