



A Minute with the Masons



Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society
A newsletter of Michael & Chris Mason

Oasis Church, Osaka, Japan
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Dear Praying Friends,

*"May the God of **hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with **hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Romans 15:13

Since the beginning of the COVID pandemic in 2020, hope has been in short supply for many Japanese people. Far worse than the pandemic itself, this sense of hopelessness is causing many people to suffer from feelings of anxiety, depression and alienation. Add to this the assassination of former Prime Minister Abe, the regular firing of North Korean test missiles over Japan, the war in Ukraine and the daily struggles of rising inflation, it is easy to see why the mood for many in 2022 was dark and gloomy.

This situation provides a unique opportunity for the church in Japan. Through the strength of God we can be the light of Jesus in this time of much darkness, and share the **hope** that can only be found in Christ.

At Oasis Church, we desire to use our limited resources to be that light to our surrounding community.



This was a bench we found at a bus stop!

KID'S CAFETERIA & FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Oasis Church continues to hold Children's Cafeteria once a month on a Sunday afternoon. The attendance has been small (but consistent), and the families that join seem to enjoy our monthly activities (Bible story, songs, crafts, English activities, games) and are gradually opening their hearts to the church family.

The Food Distribution program (similar to a food bank ministry) continues to meet the needs of a small group of the people in the community. The church gives out food and household supplies to families suffering from food insecurity. People are able to pick-up items on Sunday afternoons.

Recently, we were contacted by FamilyMart (a Japanese convenience store chain) about our Food Distribution program. They have begun a nationwide campaign across Japan to collect food donations from customers in their stores and then distribute them to people in need. We currently have four FamilyMart stores near the church that collect donations for Oasis Church which we can then distribute to the people we have contact with. It has been a huge encouragement to the church to be able to partner with such a well-know business in order to better serve our neighborhood.



FamilyMart collection box



We are thankful that God has been using the Kid's Cafeteria and Food Distribution to share **hope** with our community in southern Osaka.

MIKAN PICKING & BBQ

In November, we had our annual Mikan (orange) picking and BBQ day. We had a wonderful day with good weather and a lot of new faces joined us for this

outreach event. One non-christian even commented that “there is something different about those christians.” We **hope** they are seeing the light of Jesus in all of us at Oasis Church.



Group photo in front of the mikan trees

MINI CONCERT

On December 4th, we had a mini outreach concert with Skip Tanaka, a Japanese-American worship leader from Tennessee. Skip joined us for an afternoon of music including Japanese worship songs as well as some American pop oldies (EVERYONE knows the Beatles!) Skip also shared the powerful story of how he became a Christian, a testimony full of humor, encouragement and **hope**. A number of first-time visitors joined us that day as well.



Skip Tanaka sharing his musical talents at Oasis Church

PRAYER REQUESTS

* **PLEASE PRAY** for Oasis Church as we share hope with the Japanese people through our Kid's Cafeteria and Food Distribution programs. **PRAY** that God would continue to direct those who need such assistance to these various ministries.

* **PLEASE PRAY** for Oasis Church as we plan a special Christmas Eve Service (with potluck!) on December 24th.

* **PLEASE PRAY** for Luke as he travels from England to Japan on December 12th (tomorrow!) This will be our first Christmas together since 2018 so we are very excited to have him home. In early January he will return to Westmont College for the final semester of his senior year. He will graduate in May 2023.

* **PLEASE PRAY** for the Mason family as we begin preparing for home ministry in the States next summer (May-July). **PRAY** especially that God may provide housing and transportation (a car) during our stay. We also need to start scheduling church visitations, doctor's appointments, family times, and vacation.

Thank you for your continued support through giving, praying and encouraging us throughout 2022. We are so grateful and blessed by your love and generosity.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Blessings in Jesus,

Michael & Chris

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