



A Minute with the Masons



Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society
A newsletter of Michael & Chris Mason

Oasis Church, Osaka, Japan
Issue 97 February 2023

Dear Praying Friends,

We know that we are a bit late, but since this is our first newsletter of 2023 we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. Here is what we have been up to.

OASIS CHURCH

With the easing of COVID restrictions, we have seen a growth in visitors to the church in the last few months. This was especially nice at Christmas time. For the first time in a couple of years we were able to hold our annual Christmas Eve event (complete with potluck!). About 30 people joined us, which is about twice our normal size. We also had a handful of unbelievers with us as we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus.



Christmas Eve at Oasis Church

At our January “Kodomo Shokudo” (Kid’s Cafeteria) we had a special guest, Yuri Nakano. Yuri is a missionary friend of ours from Canada, and she shared her wonderful ventriloquism skills with the kids. Her humorous, God-centered performance was a great hit, not only for the children, but the adults as well. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY** for the families who come to the Kid’s Cafeteria each month. More and more we are seeing an opening up of their hearts.



Yuri and her friend, “Duckie,” at Kid’s Cafeteria

NOT-SO-HAPPY NEW YEAR

Unfortunately, the New Year didn’t get off to a good start for us. On the morning of Jan. 1st, we received a phone call that a good friend of ours had just passed away. We had known John and his family for over 15 years, and he and Michael were good buddies. We knew the end was coming, but it was still a shock to hear of the death of a loved one. Michael was asked to officiate the ceremony and we had a beautiful memorial/celebration of life for John on January 6th with over 100 people in attendance.



With Sophia (L) and Mikako (R)

In Japan, funerals are often a great time to proclaim the Gospel. With this in mind, John's wife asked Michael for an evangelistic message, knowing that many of John's non-Christian neighbors and students would join the memorial. **PLEASE PRAY** for all those who heard the promise of eternal life for those who believe in Jesus. **PLEASE ALSO PRAY** for Mikako (John's wife) and Sophia (John's daughter who is at university in Southern California).

JEMS GATHERING

From March 29-31 we will have a JEMS Missionary retreat in Shizuoka. It has been about 5 years since we last gathered all of the missionaries together (about 40 adults and a ton of kids!), so we are really looking forward to seeing our JEMS co-workers who are serving in other parts of Japan. **PLEASE PRAY** for God's blessing on our time together. **PLEASE ALSO PRAY** for those who are organizing the event. Chris is helping to plan the childcare portion of the retreat.

PERSONAL

In early January, Luke flew back to California to begin his final semester at Westmont College in Santa Barbara. After not seeing him for two and a half years, it was such a blessing to have him home for Christmas and the New Year. It was also great to hear about his many adventures in Europe during his semester abroad at Oxford. **PLEASE PRAY** for Luke as he considers what to do after he is finished with school.



Family fun with Luke at Universal Studios in Osaka

SUMMER PLANS

We are planning a visit to the States this summer from May to July. Besides attending Luke's graduation, we are also excited to visit our supporting churches and see family and friends. **PLEASE PRAY** as we make plans for housing, travel, church visitations, doctor visits, family gatherings and vacation. Inflation has hit the travel industry hard, so we are trying our best to budget well and stretch every dollar in order to cover the things we need (and want!) to do.

Thanks again for all of your support and prayers.

Blessings in Jesus,

Michael & Chris

Michael & Chris Mason



Chris celebrating her 60th birthday

(In Japan, it is traditional to wear a red vest when turning 60 so a friend wove this vest for Chris)

Happy Birthday!



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)

----- cut here ----- ✂

* Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF) Authorization Form for gifts preferenced* for Michael & Chris Mason

Monthly Donation: [] \$250 [] \$100 [] \$50 [] \$25 [] \$ _____

Starting Month: _____. I would like to transfer on: ____ 1st or ____ 15th of the month.

I authorize my bank to pay JEMS the amount listed above on the 1st or 15th working day of every month. This authorization will remain in effect until I notify JEMS in writing that I wish to change or discontinue the contribution.

Name (please print) _____

Signature _____ Date _____
(required for EFT payments)

☐ I have enclosed my **voided blank check** from the bank account to be used for the EFT withdrawal.

Please place this **form** and your **voided check** in an envelope and mail to:
JEMS, 948 E. 2nd St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

** While a donor may express a preference for a gift, IRS regulations state that tax-deductible gifts must be under the complete discretion of the non-profit organization. Please contact JEMS if you have questions.*

----- cut here ----- ✂

* Send Support by Mail

- ☐ Here is my gift of \$_____ preferenced* for Michael & Chris Mason
- ☐ I want to receive a paper version of the Mason's prayer letter
- ☐ I want to save a tree! Please send me the Mason's prayer letter via e-mail
- ☐ Please remove me from the Mason's mailing list

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Please make **check payable to "JEMS"** and leave the **memo line blank**.
Your check, along with this form, can be mailed to: JEMS, 948 E. 2nd St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

** While a donor may express a preference for a gift, IRS regulations state that tax-deductible gifts must be under the complete discretion of the non-profit organization. Please contact JEMS if you have questions.*