



# A Minute with the Masons

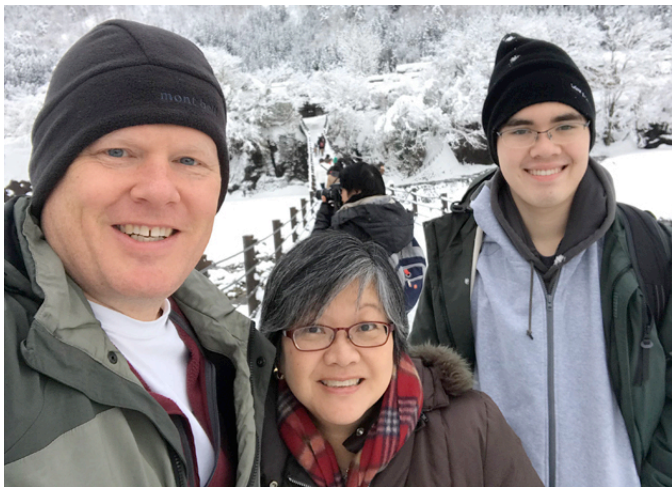


Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society  
A newsletter of Michael & Chris Mason

Oasis Church / Kansai Christian School, Japan  
Issue 81 March 2018

Dear Praying Friends,

As we write this newsletter, the cold days of Winter are finally giving way to the warmer days of Spring. This means only one thing in Japan... cherry blossoms! The pink beauties will be making their brief appearance soon, ushering in the most wonderful time of the year in Japan.



*Celebrating Chris' birthday in the snow*

It's been a while since we've given you an update on our life and ministry. Here a brief recap of what is happening.

## OASIS CHURCH

Things at the church are going well. Among the church family members we are seeing an increased willingness to learn, grow and serve. In recent months we have had a number of people step out in ministry for the very first time. Whether it is teaching Sunday School, playing the guitar or leading Bible study, there is a growing desire for people to use their gifts, talents and skills to build up the rest of the church family. This is a huge source of encouragement to us, as we are finally beginning to see the "priesthood of all believers" in action.

In our last newsletter we mentioned a new outreach at the church called *Kodomo Shokudo* (Kid's Cafeteria). Now that we are in our 10<sup>th</sup>

month, it is absolutely amazing how things are going. The people in the church are totally excited about this monthly gathering. From making the flyers and passing them out in front of the local elementary school to planning the meal menu and the English activities, nearly everyone is involved in this endeavor. But even more exciting is the number of people who attend. Each month we have about 15 non-Christians from our neighborhood coming through our doors for food and fun. While most of these guests are children, we also have 3-4 parents each month as well.

**PLEASE PRAY** for Kodomo Shokudo. May we continue to build relationships with those who come each month. **PLEASE ALSO PRAY** for our April 1<sup>st</sup> gathering. Being that it is Easter Sunday, we are planning to share the *real* meaning of Easter (along with an Easter egg hunt, of course!) May the Lord speak to the hearts of those who attend as they hear the Good News of the risen Jesus.



*Game time at Kodomo Shokudo*

## KANSAI CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The year at KCS has been a wild one for Chris. Her class of twelve 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders is not only very active this year, but is also the largest class ever in the 40-year history of the school. Needless to say they are keeping Chris on her toes.

Chris' big responsibility for the Spring is to co-direct the annual drama production. This year they are doing a musical called "Star Quest," a story about a futuristic society that has become so dependant on digital Bibles that they have neglected the practice of scripture memory. With so much of the dialogue in the play actually being Bible verses, **PLEASE PRAY** for the students as they memorize their parts. While they plant their lines in their heads, may the Lord also plant His Word in their hearts. **PLEASE ALSO PRAY** for Chris and her co-director, Ikumi, as they lead and guide the kids to the April 27<sup>th</sup> performance.



*Chris' students singing Christmas songs at the nursing home*

Once again, Michael is serving as all-school chaplain. This year he is doing a message series on the Parables of Jesus. Topics for the remainder of the school year will include: prayer, forgiveness and the love of our heavenly Father. **PLEASE PRAY** for his prep time. May he hear clearly from the Lord as he brings the word of God to the students and staff of the school.

## SAD NEWS

We are sad to report that Chris' mother went to be with Jesus on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Although she had suffered had Alzheimers for many years, the end came quite suddenly and Chris was unable to make it home before she passed. She was 87 years old. In early April, our whole family will go back to the States for a week to see Chris' father and attend the memorial service. **PLEASE PRAY** for Chris as she needs to make funeral & burial arrangements from Japan. This is not an easy task under the best of circumstances, but with the

time-zone difference and a full-time job, communicating with the necessary parties in the States has been a challenge. **PLEASE ALSO PRAY** for Christ' father. Although he too is suffering from early stages of dementia, he is in shock of her passing. May Jesus be a great source of comfort and strength in the days ahead. He will continue living at the retirement care facility where they have been residing the last 4 years.



*Chris with her mother in 2014*

## SUMMER PLANS

Finally, we want to announce that we are planning to be in the States this summer for a time of home ministry and church visitations. As usual, we will not be able to visit all of our supporting churches during our short stay so we ask that you would **PLEASE PRAY** that the Lord would lead and guide us as we begin to make plans and set our schedule.

Thank you so much for your faithful prayer and support of our ministry in Japan. We are deeply grateful for all that you do for us.

Many blessings in Jesus,

*Michael & Chris*

Michael & Chris Mason





## My Personal Response for Michael and Chris Mason Japan Career Missionaries

- ☐ Please consider me as your regular prayer partner
- ☐ I would like to make a gift preferenced\* for Michael and Chris Mason by a monthly offering of \$\_\_\_\_\_, starting \_\_\_\_\_(month) \_\_\_\_\_(year)  
(Please see **the choice below** if you prefer **Electronic Transfer**)
- ☐ This is a one-time gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ preferenced\* for Michael and Chris Mason's support needs
- ☐ No thanks, please remove me from your mailing list

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Please make check payable to "JEMS", 948 E. 2nd St., Los Angeles, CA 90012 (please leave the memo line blank). \*While a donor may express a preference for a gift, IRS regulations state that tax-deductible gifts must be under control of the non-profit organization. Please contact JEMS if you have questions.

JEMS will mail you written confirmation upon completion of your EFT application.

### Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) Authorization Form

Please return the provided form with a voided blank check from your checking account. Your donation will be withdrawn on the **1<sup>st</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>** of each month. JEMS will mail an "Annual Tax Deductible Statement" at the beginning of each year. JEMS will continue to withdraw your donation electronically for the specified number of months or until you give **written notification** that you wish to change or cancel your EFT enrollment. Written notification two months prior to closing your checking account or changing banks is requested to avoid any unnecessary confusion and charges from our bank.

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## SAVE A TREE GROUP

**Please send to JEMS in the enclosed envelope**

**Please send me the Mason's prayer letter through email.**

**Name(s):**\_\_\_\_\_

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