



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,

Autumn Greetings from Osaka, Japan!



After a prolonged hot summer season that extended late into September, a new phenomenon in Japan called *akibate* has emerged. Literally meaning "Autumn fatigue," *akibate* refers to the disruption of the body's autonomic nervous system caused by changes in the weather. Even though the weather has cooled off considerably in the last month, people are still experiencing a physical tiredness caused by the longer-than-usual summer heat. Welcome to Autumn fatigue.



Despite this new phenomenon, Autumn is a busy season in Japan. Annual activities include:

- * Harvest moon viewing in September

- * *Undo-kai* (Sports Day) in the schools

- * Culture Day in October

- * *Shichi-Go-San* (Seven-Five-Three), a ceremony in November where people bring their children (aged 7, 5 & 3) to be dedicated at the local shrine.

OASIS CHURCH

At Oasis Church, we have our own annual Fall activity. Every November we visit an orchard for mikan-gari (Japanese mandarin orange picking). Besides all-you-can-eat oranges, we also enjoyed BBQ, singing, games and a testimony from a church member. About 30 people attended this year's outing, including a number of people from our Kid's Cafeteria ministry. We are thankful for this time of fun and fellowship while enjoying the beauty of God's creation.



Can you see the oranges on the trees behind us?

Life at Oasis Church has been going well.

- * In October, Skip Tanaka, a Japanese-American friend of ours from Tennessee, visited Oasis for a Sunday afternoon of music,

testimony and lots of laughter. The people always enjoy when Skip stops by.



Skip sharing his music with us

* We are nearing the end of our Sunday morning teaching series on the Fruit of the Spirit. Each week we have been challenged to cooperate with the Holy Spirit so that he can produce these wonderful characteristics in our lives.

* At our monthly Kid's Cafeteria gatherings, we thank God for the number of new families from the neighborhood that have recently started joining us each month. Both the kids and the parents seem to enjoy the worship songs, have fun with the English activities, and listen carefully to the 5-Minute Bible Time.

RENOWN CONFERENCE

In mid-November we joined a nationwide missions conference in Shizuoka prefecture called Renown (formerly CPI). The conference is held semi-annually and gathers missionaries and Japanese Christian workers from across Japan. This year over 800 people attended the event. It was a great chance to connect with other missionaries and see many of our JEMS co-workers from other parts of Japan who we rarely see in-person.

PRAYER REQUESTS

With the Christmas season fast approaching, please pray for our Christmas outreach events.

* On December 8th we will have our **Christmas Kid's Cafeteria**. Our special guest will be a Japanese puppeteer who will share

the Christmas story with the children and their parents. **PLEASE PRAY** that many people will join this event and that God would speak to their hearts as they hear the news of the birth of our Savior.

* On December 22nd we will hold our **Christmas worship service**. Instead of meeting on Sunday morning, we will gather in the evening (it makes the candle service way cooler when it is dark outside!) This is a great time to bring family and friends to hear about the true meaning of Christmas. We will have potluck dinner after the service. **PLEASE PRAY** that the Lord would draw many people to this wonderful service.

Thanks again for all of your prayers and support on our behalf. We appreciate each and every one of you. May the Lord bless you and your family as you celebrate this Christmas season.

Michael & Chris

Michael & Chris Mason



The main session at the Renown Conference



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)

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

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** 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.*

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☐ 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

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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.

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