



A Minute with the Masons



Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society

A newsletter of Michael & Chris Mason

Oasis Church, Osaka, Japan

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*"For to this end we toil and strive,
because we have our **hope** set on the living God,
who is the Savior of all people,
especially of those who believe."*

1 Timothy 4:10

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings from Japan! As of October 1st, Japan is gradually easing restrictions and ending the state of emergency due to the corona virus. We are cautiously **hopeful** that ministry will be more open in the coming months. **PLEASE PRAY** for greater opportunities to build relationships with non-Christians, especially among our neighbors. Since moving to our new neighborhood 18 months ago, social distancing regulations have made it hard to really get to know those living around us.



OASIS CHURCH

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, Oasis Church has begun a Food Distribution Program to support local families in Izumiotsu city who are struggling due to the pandemic. Currently we only have 1-2 families come for

food support on Sunday afternoons. To try and find those who need this kind of support, the church has recently distributed 5,000 flyers into mailboxes across the city, and we have also been authorized to make announcements through the city's social media page. We are **hopeful** that more and more people will respond to our offer of assistance. However, many Japanese people feel a sense of embarrassment and shame in receiving such aid, so much prayer is needed. **PLEASE PRAY** that the families who are truly in need of food support would not hesitate to approach the church. **PRAY ALSO** that we may build relationships with those who stop by.



Oasis Church Family- September 2021

In addition to our Food Distribution Program, we continue to hold our monthly Kodomo Shokudo (Kids Cafeteria) gatherings at the church. We are not yet able to serve a hot meal to the children due to COVID, so instead we prepare "take out" meals for the children to enjoy at home. However, even though we don't have in-person meals, we still have a lot of fun together. Singing, Bible stories, English activities and games keep everyone having a good time. As COVID restrictions ease, we are **hopeful** for an increase in both children and

parents. **PLEASE PRAY** for two of the moms who really seem to enjoy hanging out with us each month. May the Lord open their hearts to Jesus and may the church people have the courage to share with them the Good News. **PLEASE ALSO PRAY** that we can resume in-person meals soon.



English game time at Kid's Cafeteria

MEMBER CARE

In recent months, God has provided many opportunities to provide member care to our fellow missionaries in Japan. In August, all of the JEMS missionaries from western Japan gathered in Osaka for a 3-day retreat. It was wonderful to see everyone again and enjoy a time of fellowship, teaching and mutual encouragement.

Chris continues to enjoy her new role as a Life Coach. God has lead 9 individuals to start meeting with her, and it has been both an encouragement and a confirmation from God that member care is the right move for her. Chris has also been leading an on-line women's prayer time for the JEMS missionaries once a month. This has been well attended and is a great encouragement for those who participate.

In the past year, both Michael and Chris have also been serving on the Member Care committee of JEMA (Japanese Evangelical

Missionary Association), an association of various mission organizations working in Japan. In this capacity, Chris has written two different articles on member care for JEMA's quarterly magazine, *Japan Harvest*. We were also recently asked to serve as small group leaders for a 3-part seminar called "Staying Resilient." This is a time to offer support and encouragement to missionaries who have been struggling with loss and grief during the pandemic. We meet via Zoom on Tuesday evenings in September and October. Depending on the response, we may repeat the seminar in the winter.

PLEASE PRAY for these various member care opportunities as we desire to serve the missionary community. The pandemic has truly taken a toll on many missionary's social, physical and mental health, and we are **hopeful** that our efforts will be both encouraging and supportive. May all of the missionaries and Christian workers in Japan not just survive during the pandemic, but actually emerge from it stronger than ever.

Well, that's about all the news for now. Again, thank you for your generous support through these many years. Your kindness and love to us is a great encouragement.

Michael & Chris

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Western Japan JEMS Missionaries