



# A Minute with the Masons



Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society

A newsletter of Michael & Chris Mason

Oasis Church, Osaka, Japan

Issue 105 April 2025



250-year period of Christian persecution and martyrdom (as portrayed in Shusaku Endo's novel/movie "Silence"), there has always been a Christian remnant of 1%. Instead of complaining and focusing on the negatives, it is better to change my perspective and to praise God for His faithfulness to Japan. **PLEASE PRAY** with us for God to increase the percentage of Christians in Japan to double digit Christianity. Until then, may we continue to praise God for His unswerving faithfulness to Japan.

***"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised in faithful."***

*Hebrews 10:23*

Dear Praying Friends,

The beginning of April brings warmer weather and an explosion of cherry blossoms that turn the whole nation pink and white. It truly is one of the best seasons to be in Japan. Thank you for your prayers and support through the many years. We are blessed and encouraged by your faithfulness.

In May, we will reach our 28th anniversary of arriving in Japan as missionaries. We have seen many highs and lows in the news, in the culture and in the ministry and yet, through it all, God has been faithful to us.

***"So too at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace."***

*Romans 11:5*

Throughout our time here, many people have reminded us that Japan is known as the "missionary graveyard" and, despite the many years of missionary presence in the nation, the percentage of Christians in Japan remains at below 1%. It is easy to be discouraged and want to give up. But recently God has been convicting me (Chris) to stop thinking along these negative lines. God is always faithful. And throughout the long history of Christianity in Japan, there has always been a Christian presence of 1%. Even during the



Memorial to the 26 Christians martyred in Nagasaki in 1597

## MEMBER CARE

We both continue to serve on the JEMS Member Care Team with 5 others: Rick Chuman, Paul and Rie Mizuki, Yumiko Wu and Julie Nitao. It has been an honor to serve the JEMS missionary community in Japan with this team. One of our responsibilities is to be part of an annual care review where each JEMS missionary meets with a member of the team. Following a time of self-evaluation, each missionary has a one-on-one Zoom session to discuss and debrief their physical, emotional, relational and spiritual health over the past year. Through this process, the Member Care Team is

able to offer pastor care, encouragement and support to each of JEMS' 40+ missionaries. This is now the third year that we have been a part of this process and it is a privilege to serve the JEMS missionary community in this way. **PLEASE PRAY** for JEMS Member Care Team. May the Lord use us to bless and build up our co-workers so that they can thrive in their various efforts to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus in Japan.



*Some of the JEMS missionaries serving in Japan*

### **EASTER AT OASIS CHURCH**

Last Sunday we held the Easter edition of our monthly Kid's Cafeteria. We were encouraged to have three new families (representing 4 adults and 7 children) join us this year. Through songs, games, videos, a short message and an Easter egg hunt (held indoors due to the rain!), many of them heard about the wonderful resurrection of our Lord Jesus for the first time.

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY** for the non-Christians who join us each month. May their hearts be open to the Word of God and may the Holy Spirit be stirring up a desire to know more about Jesus. Also, if you read this before Saturday evening (U.S. time), **PLEASE ALSO PRAY** for the Sunday Easter Service at Oasis Church. May the Good News of the risen Jesus touch the hearts of everyone who attends.



*Easter Kid's Cafeteria*

Thanks again for all of your prayers and support on our behalf. Happy Easter to you and your family!

Blessings in Jesus,

*Michael & Chris*

Michael & Chris Mason

