



A Minute with the Masons



Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society

A newsletter of Michael & Chris Mason

Oasis Church / Kansai Christian School, Japan

Issue 80 August 2017

Dear Praying Family and Friends,

Greetings from hot and humid Japan. We hope this letter finds you enjoying your summer and the extra opportunities it provides to spend time with family and friends.

CHANGE IN PLANS

In our last newsletter we mentioned our plan to return to the States this summer to make the rounds and visit our supporting churches. Well...that never happened. Our plan was to move in the Spring, and while we found a couple of good places to live, we were twice rejected because the owners didn't want to rent to foreigners. Because of this, it took us a little longer than we had thought to find a new house.

Eventually, God lead us to a wonderful little place and in late June we were able to make the move. However, with all of the busy-ness of moving, it was not possible for us to make the trip home as well. We apologize for unintentionally misleading you about our summer plans.

We are happy in our new house. It is smaller than our last place, but we are saving quite a bit on rent. It is also closer to school so Chris and Luke will save on train fare as well. We are truly thankful for God's provision for us in this way. Now that we are finally settled in, our big prayer request is for our neighbors. **PLEASE PRAY** that we might have good relationships with those around us. It would be nice to develop friendships with at least a couple of the families on our street.

Also, please don't forget to take note of our new address at the bottom of the page. Thanks.

A TIME TO CELEBRATE

In the Spring, we celebrated our 20th anniversary of serving in Japan. To mark the special occasion, the Oasis Church family organized a celebratory luncheon at a Japanese restaurant near Kishiwada Castle. Besides sharing a wonderful lunch together (including the traditional sea bream that Japanese use to celebrate special occasions), many people expressed words of appreciation for our ministry over the last 20 years. Honestly, it was a bit awkward to be the center of attention like

that, but it was a huge encouragement to us to hear that people have been blessed by our time of service here in Japan.



20th Anniversary Lunch near Kishiwada Castle

In large part, this was made possible by many of you, who through your prayers and financial support have made it possible for us to be here for so long. From the bottom of our hearts, we want to say "thank you." We just wish that you could have been here so that we could have shared our sea bream with you!



Excited about our celebratory sea bream!

As we look ahead to the future, **PLEASE PRAY** that God would continue to lead and guide how He

wants us to serve in Japan. We're not sure if we have *another* 20 years in us, but we are confident that He still has plans for us here. May we be faithful to follow whatever He wants us to do.

KANSAI CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The annual KCS spring drama (which Chris helped to co-direct) was another huge success. The kids performed the Christian musical "Under God's Sea," a story about trusting God and obeying His Word. Everyone worked very hard, and it was a great blessing to all those who were in attendance.



The finale of "Under God's Sea"

Now in these lazy days of summer, Chris is busy gearing up for yet another school year of teaching 1st-2nd grade. By KCS standards, her class will be quite large this year and will include many new kids from non-Christian families. **PLEASE PRAY** for Chris as she prepares for the new year. May she have renewed strength and energy to not only teach the academic subjects but also to introduce her students to the person of Jesus.

In the Fall, Michael will also renew his responsibilities as all-school chaplain. This year he will lead the school in discovering "Hidden Treasure" in the parables of Jesus. **PLEASE PRAY** for Michael as he prepares. May he have fresh and creative ideas as he presents these Bible stories in ways that will produce much fruit in the hearts of both students and staff.

Also in September, Luke will be starting the 11th grade. More and more people are asking him about his plans for college. **PLEASE PRAY** that as the year progresses, the Lord would give Luke a clearer picture of what his future might entail. Thank you.

OASIS CHURCH

Last Spring one of the women in the church felt led to open a *Kodomo Shokudo* (lit. Kid's Cafeteria) at Oasis Church. Kodomo Shokudo is a nationwide program where civic, private and religious

groups provide free meals to children. This might not seem like much of a problem in a wealthy nation like Japan, but with a growing number of single mothers, more and more children are being left to find their own meals while their moms are at work. At Oasis Church, we have started providing this service to children once a month. Since June, church members have been passing out flyers at the local elementary school inviting the kids (and their parents) to come and join us. After a home-cooked meal, various church people organize songs, games and English activities for those in attendance. As a church, we hope that this will be a great way to not only serve a need in our community but also to build relationships with families who live near-by. So far, attendance has been low, but once word begins to spread and school starts up again in the Fall, we are expecting an increase in visitors. Our goal would be to feed 15-20 kids/parents each month. The best thing about this new ministry is seeing the church people get so excited about sharing the love of Jesus with the people in the neighborhood. **PLEASE PRAY** for Kodomo Shokudo. May God lead many people to join us, that they may receive not only physical food for their bodies, but spiritual food for their hearts as well.

Finally, in our last letter we asked you to pray for two new people at Oasis Church; Ken and Keiko. The good news is that Keiko made a decision to follow Jesus (yeah!). We thank God for that and we ask that you **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY** for growth in her new-found faith. The sad news is that in the last few months, both Ken and Keiko have moved to different prefectures. We are unsure how much we will continue to see them, but we trust them into God's care. **OUR PRAYER** for both is that they would find a wonderful church family in their new cities, where they can learn, grow and continue to walk with Jesus.

Thanks again for all of your prayers and support.
May the Lord bless you all!

Michael & Chris

Michael & Chris Mason



**** New Address ****

**863-22 Tsubai Heguri-cho
Ikoma-gun, Nara 636-0911 JAPAN**

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

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____CITY_____STATE____ZIP_____

PHONE:_____EMAIL:_____HOME

CHURCH:_____

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 **1st or 15th** 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.

1. **Monthly Donation:** [] \$200 [] \$100 [] \$50 [] \$_____
[] Until further notice
[] For _____ months
2. Start Month: _____ on the [] 1st or [] 15th (mark)
3. I hereby authorize my bank to pay JEMS the amount listed above on the 1st or 15th of each month as specified above.

Signature (required for EFT payments) date
4. Please return this form in the enclosed envelope along with a "voided" check from the bank account to be used for EFT withdrawal

SAVE A TREE GROUP

Please send to JEMS in the enclosed envelope

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

Name(s):_____

Address:_____

Email Address: (please print)_____

Date: _____

