



Dear Praying Friends,

As I look out the window it appears to be snowing. But since the calendar next to the computer tells me it is April, that can only mean one thing: the cherry blossom pedals' short lives have come to an end and they have embarked on their final journey to the ground. This is God's beautiful way of announcing that Spring has arrived in Japan.

OASIS CHURCH

In our last newsletter, we shared the wonderful testimony of Mr. Kawano and his journey to faith in Christ. His baptism last October was easily the highlights of the short history of Oasis Church. We also asked you to please pray for him as he battled the cancer that was attacking his body.



Visiting Mr. Kawano in early February

Unfortunately, Kawano-san went home to be with the Lord in mid-February. At Oasis Church we are deeply saddened by the loss of our dear friend and church family member. His warmth, sense of humor, hunger for God and desire for spiritual growth was an inspiration to us all. He will be greatly missed.

But our sadness is lessened by the wonderful truth that he is now cancer free! People often talk about "losing the battle to cancer", but as Christians, we know that death does not mean defeat...it is victory. Kawano has won! And his new, glorified, pain-free body is the proof. Thank you, Lord!

During his final days, Kawano's biggest regret is that he was not able to do more for God by telling people about Jesus.

However, what Kawano was unable to do in life, he was able to do in death. Over 150 people attended his two funeral services, most of whom were not Christians. At both services, Michael was able to share of Kawano's own journey of faith in Christ, followed by a simple explanation of the hope, peace and eternal life that God offers to those who believe in Jesus. We ended the services by singing Kawano's favorite song, "Friend of God." What a joy it was to see hundreds of people singing about a God who wants to walk in friendship with us.



Singing "Friend of God" at the memorial service

PLEASE PRAY for all of those who attended the funerals. Many of them were probably hearing the Gospel message for the very first time, and we trust that many seeds were planted. Please pray that these seeds will grow

and produce fruit that will last.

PLEASE ALSO PRAY for Kawano's wife, Michiyo. For the last year or so, Kawano was more than just her husband; he had also become her brother in Christ. Their time together as fellow believers was way too short, and makes the loss that much more painful. She seems to be doing well, but we know she needs the daily comfort of her loving heavenly Father.

KANSAI CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

The ministry at KCS continues to go well. In January, Chris' status changed from part-time teacher to full-time staff member. Her additional responsibilities now also include spending a couple of hours each day helping out in the office. Although this is now the third different hat that Chris is wearing at the school, she is thankful for the opportunity to serve the students and families of KCS. As Chris looks ahead to next school year, there will certainly be changes in store. How big those changes might be has yet to be determined, so we ask that you **PLEASE PRAY** that God would lead and guide those who are making staffing decisions for the 2015-16 school year. May the Lord place Chris in the exact situation where she can have the greatest impact on the lives of the people around her.



Chris with some of her "minion" co-workers

In May, Michael will be finishing up his year as KCS chaplain. His message series for the last 9 months has been called "Holding on to the Promises of God." **PLEASE PRAY** for Michael as

he speaks to the students on May 1st & 29th. May the Lord use his words to speak to the hearts of the students, that they may grow as genuine followers of Jesus.

HOME FOR THE SUMMER

It has already been two years since our last home assignment, which means that it is time once again to make our bi-annual trip to the States. We will plan to be in America for two months, from mid-June to mid-August, and most of our time will be spent in Southern California, with quick trips to JEMS' Mount Hermon Family Camp and Spokane, WA.

In the past, the main purpose of our time in the States has always been to visit our supporting churches. While this is something that we are still looking forward to doing, this time we are also feeling the need for some much-needed rest, refreshment and refilling. To this end, we ask that you **PLEASE PRAY** for our time of visiting churches. May the Lord use us to be a blessing and encouragement to others as we share about the ministry in Japan. But may we also be able to receive the blessing and encouragement that we need as we look ahead to our next term.

Thank you once again for your prayers and support for us. We deeply appreciate and value your partnership with us, as together we serve the Kingdom of God in Japan.

In Jesus,

Michael & Chris

Michael & Chris Mason

**"Your love
has given me
great joy and
encouragement,
because YOU have
refreshed the hearts
of the saints."**

Philemon 7



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 **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: _____

