



A Minute with the Masons

Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society
A newsletter of Michael & Chris Mason

Sakai International Bible Church, Japan
Issue 58 September 2010



Dear Praying Family and Friends,

With September finally here, the summer is now behind us and we are gearing up for a busy fall. Let us take a few minutes to update you on what is happening in our ministry.

NEW LIFE

Our summer began with a baptism celebration for newlyweds, Mukeaki & Kayo Murata. It was a great blessing to see them begin their journey with Christ together as a couple. To make the occasion even more joyful, two days before being baptized, Kayo found out that she was pregnant with their first child! We thank God for the abundance of new life in the Murata family.

Please PRAY for Muneaki and Kayo as they learn how to walk in friendship with Jesus. **Also PRAY** especially for Muneaki as his current work situation prevents him from coming to church with his wife on Sundays. He is now looking for a different job.



Muneaki (R) and Kayo (L) celebrate their baptism

HOME MINISTRY

In late June we arrived in the States for eight weeks of home ministry. We started in Los Angeles, and immediately headed out on a 4,000 mile driving tour. Our first stop was JEMS' Mount Hermon Family camp. As always, this was a great chance to see old friends and make new ones. We also had the opportunity to share about Japan, and Chris led a seminar on how to pray for missionaries.



Enjoying our time at Monument Valley, AZ

After this we drove north to spend time with Michael's family in Portland and Spokane. We also visited First Presbyterian Church, one of our long-time supporting churches in Spokane. Our trip back to Los Angeles included a quick detour through the Southwest. We created some nice memories as we visited Grand Canyon, Arches and Mesa Verde national parks.

Once back in L.A., we had four Sundays to visit churches. Besides sharing about what God is doing at SIBC, Michael was also able to share about a topic that has been near to his heart these last 12 months: being a friend of Jesus.



Our support team in L.A. (minus Anna, Brian and Paul)

As always, we had many opportunities for wonderful fellowship. We were so blessed by the many meals, conversations and prayers that we were able to share with our dear friends and supporters. We just wish we would have had more time in our schedule, as there were still so many people that we were not able to see!

All in all, it was a fruitful time at home and we are thankful for the opportunity to visit.

SAKAI INTERNATIONAL BIBLE CHURCH

Now that we are back in Japan, we have our sights set on a new season of ministry at SIBC. Here is what is happening:

Kingdom Culture- There has been a growing hunger in our hearts to know God more and to encounter His presence each time we gather on Sundays. With this in our hearts, we have launched a 6-month message series called "Kingdom Culture." As a church family, our prayer is that the Lord would create a new culture at SIBC, a culture that reflects His heart, His will and His purposes for us. In the end, we hope that this will allow us to better connect with Jesus, better connect with one another and better connect with the world around us. For many months we have sensed that God has wanted to do something new and exciting in the church, and now seems to be the time when He is leading us forward. **Please PRAY** for the entire church family during these next few months. May we keep our eyes on Jesus and be open to the work that our Shepherd wants to do in us.

Chris' changing role- For the last eight years, Chris' main area of service at SIBC has been in the children's ministry. However, from September Chris has stepped down from working with the children in order to pursue some other things that have been on her heart. She would like to do more teaching to the adults and has a desire to help disciple some of the women in the church. She would also like to start up a weekly prayer ministry on Sunday mornings. **Please PRAY** for Chris as she explores these new areas of ministry.

Financial pinch- Everyone seems to be feeling the pinch of the worldwide economic crisis, and SIBC is no exception. Although the church's budget is actually quite small, for the last few years SIBC has struggled to make ends meet. With this in mind,

Chris and I sense that the Lord is leading us to surrender our monthly support from the church. Currently, we receive about \$1,200 a month from SIBC, and forgoing this amount would greatly ease the financial burden on the church. However, a decrease in support from SIBC means that we now need to raise an additional \$1,200 a month through JEMS. As we sense the Lord leading us in this way, we have no doubt that He will provide for us. However, we do ask that you **please PRAY** for more individuals and churches who would like to partner with us. Thank you.

This and that- We have two more quick prayer requests. First, please pray for the Franklin Graham Festival on Oct 22-24. Hundreds of churches in the Osaka area are working hard towards this massive evangelistic effort. **Please PRAY** that thousands of people would hear the Gospel message. Second, in early October, Michael will resume serving as chaplain at Kansai Christian School. This year he will have five opportunities to share with the students. **Please PRAY** that the Lord would speak through Michael and touch the hearts of the kids.

Well, that is about it for this time. As always, we greatly appreciate your prayers and support. May the Lord bless each of you as you continue to walk with Him.

In Christ,

Michael & Chris

Michael & Chris Mason



Picnic with friends from Cerritos Baptist Church