



Dear Praying Friends,

Christmas in Japan has changed quite a bit since we arrived here over 25 years ago. As you prepare to remember the birth of Jesus, here are some of the ways the people of Japan celebrate the holiday season.

The 12 Ways of Christmas

(Japanese version)

12. Christmas lights: Called “illumination” in Japanese, public displays of Christmas lights has become very popular. The most famous one in our area is in the city of Kobe and commemorates the 1995 Great Hanshin Earthquake.

11. Date Night: For young people, Christmas Eve is the most popular date night of the year. Dinner is usually followed by a stroll looking at Christmas lights.

10. Work: Christmas is not a holiday in Japan, so most people have to work on December 25th.



9. Santa Claus: Most people know about Santa,

but few know that Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus. For this reason, the holiday provides a natural opportunity for Christians to talk about their faith in Christ. **PLEASE PRAY** for Christians all over Japan to be bold in declaring the birth of the Savior.

8. Christmas Music: Secular Christmas songs are more common than religious ones, but some of the hymns are becoming more and more familiar. **PLEASE PRAY** that Christians would use this as an opportunity to talk about the true meaning of



Christmas.

7. Kid's Cafeteria at Oasis Church: On December 10th, we will hold our monthly Kid's Cafeteria. **PLEASE PRAY** for the kids (and mothers!) who will attend. May their hearts be open to hearing the Good News of Jesus.

6. Tracts: In recent years, Japanese Christians have published some wonderful manga that tell the Christmas story and God's plan of salvation. **PLEASE PRAY** for the wide distribution of these materials this Christmas season.

5. Christmas Cake: Most Japanese eat Christmas cake on Christmas day. They often order these cakes months in advance, and sometimes spend as much as \$50 for a rather small desert.

4. Evangelism: Christmas is one of the best times of the year for churches and missionaries to host outreach events. **PLEASE PRAY** for the many non-believers who will be invited to Christmas parties and concerts this month.

of Jesus.

Well, this is how we celebrate Christmas in Japan. However YOU celebrate this year, our prayer is that you will experience the renewed wonder of the gift of God's son.

Thank you for your prayers and support in 2023. May you have a very, Merry Christmas.



3. Christmas Trees: While giant Christmas trees are quite common in shopping malls and department stores, very few people have a tree in their homes. If they do, it is often very small, and (of course) artificial.

2. KFC: So many people eat chicken on Christmas that KFC is usually closed to walk-in customers on December 24th and 25th. These days are reserved for people who are picking up their orders that were placed weeks in advance.

1. Christmas Eve Service at Oasis Church:

PLEASE PRAY for Oasis Church as we gather on the 24th for a time of singing, candle-lighting, dinner and fellowship. May many of our non-christian family and friends join the festivities as we re-tell the Christmas story and celebrate the birth

Blessings in Jesus,

Michael & Chris

Michael & Chris Mason





3 Ways to Support the Masons



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You can make one-time, monthly, quarterly or annual donations with your credit card via the JEMS' Network For Good donation site. Links to the site can be found here:

www.jems.org/missionaries (click on the donate link under the Mason's bio)

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- ☐ Here is my gift of \$_____ preferenced* for Michael & Chris Mason
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