



Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings from Southern California. We are currently in the States taking care of some very important family business as our son is getting ready to begin his college career. But, we are getting ahead of ourselves. Let's back up about 6 weeks.

GRADUATION

In early June, Luke graduated from Kansai Christian School. As class valedictorian, Luke gave the graduate address, speaking with both passion and wit as he reflected on the 12 years he spent at the school. After the ceremony, a number of people mentioned to us that this was the "best graduation speech they have ever heard," and as proud parents, we whole-heartedly agree! We are grateful to God for the many things that Luke has experienced at KCS, for the things that he has accomplished over the years, and for the young man of God that he has become.



The Mason Family (KCS Graduation 2019)

June also marked the end of Michael & Chris' many years of service at the school. In the Spring, Chris co-directed her last drama production, called "Danny & the Shacks." Based on the stories in the book of Daniel, the kids sang and danced about God's never-ending faithfulness to us. As always, it is such a joy to see the students proclaiming the truths of God's Word to their families, friends and neighbors in the audience. Chris is going to miss the time she spent with her 1st & 2nd graders each day; watching them learn, grow and discover more about the God who created them.

Michael finished off his stint as all-school chaplain with a final challenge to live a life of drawing near to Jesus. His great desire over the past 11 years has been to simply point the students to Jesus and invite them to live in authentic relationship with Him. His prayer is that the Lord would use the things he has talked about to produce much fruit in the lives of the kids.



Michael's last chapel at KCS

So the Mason family's involvement at KCS has officially come to an end. It is sad that we are leaving this wonderful community, but we are also thankful for the many opportunities for Christian service during these last 12 years. May the Lord continue to bless Kansai Christian School in the years to come.

TIME OF TRANSITION

Now that we are finished with our service at KCS, we are currently in America for three months of sabbatical. Our goals for this time is three-fold.

FIRST, we need to get Luke settled into college. Luke has chosen to attend Westmont College, a Christian university in Santa Barbara, CA, and is currently considering majoring in Economics, Business or Civil-Engineering. Even though Luke is a U.S citizen, he was born in Japan and has never actually attended school in the United States, so this will be a whole new experience for him. Orientation begins on Aug 20th, and classes start

on Aug 26th. **PLEASE PRAY** for Luke as he starts this new chapter of his life. May he make friends quickly and adjust easily to life in university and life in America. **PLEASE ALSO PRAY** for mom & dad as we adjust to our new lives as empty nesters.

SECOND, we need to get a bit of rest. After dropping off Luke in Santa Barbara, we will start driving North, where we plan to visit Michael's family in California, Oregon and Washington. Along the way, we will spend some time along the coast; walking on the beaches and hiking in the Redwoods. After a crazy end to the school year, we need this time to rest, relax and de-stress a bit. **PLEASE PRAY** for us during our getaway. We plan to be on the road Aug 22-Sept 23.

THIRD, we want to start looking ahead to the next season of ministry. As we mentioned in our last newsletter, now that Chris is finished at KCS she wants to start transitioning into doing member care among the 40+ JEMS missionaries that are currently serving in Japan. How or what this will look like is still uncertain, but we hope that the Lord will begin to give us wisdom and direction as we begin walking in this new direction. We are currently planning to attend a member care training program in North Carolina in early October. **PLEASE PRAY** that the Lord would use this training time to not only equip Chris (and Michael too) with new member care tools, but that He would also guide us to our first steps in this new area of ministry.



JEMS Missionaries in Japan (Nagoya 2019)

OASIS CHURCH

Finally, we want to give you a quick update on Oasis Church. In preparation for our three-month sabbatical, Michael spent the month of June training the entire church in how to prepare & lead small group Bible study. Our hope is that each member of the church will lead one simple Bible study on Sunday morning during the time we are away. Although this will be a new experience for most of the people, everyone seemed quite eager to give it a try. Therefore, we ask that you **PLEASE PRAY** for the members of Oasis Church as they take on the challenge of leading Bible study for the first time. May it be a wonderful growing experience for each person as they prepare the study, and may they receive much joy in bringing the Word of God to the church family.

Well, that is about it for now. Thank you for your prayers and support for us during this time of transition. Your partnership with us is greatly appreciated.

In Jesus,

Michael & Chris

Michael & Chris Mason



Important Announcement

For the last 22 years, each of our newsletters have been mailed out to over 400 people. However, we are now in the process of switching over to sending our newsletter via **e-mail**. Therefore, if you would like to continue receiving our newsletters, we ask that you **please let us know**. You can either:

- 1) Send us an email at themasons@masonsinjapan.com, OR
- 2) Send in the bottom portion of the response sheet included with this newsletter.

If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you no longer wish to be on our mailing list.

THANK YOU!



3 Ways to Support the Masons



* On-Line Giving

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)

www.masonsinjapan.com (the donate button is on the bottom of the page)

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* Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF) Authorization Form for gifts preferenced* for Michael & Chris Mason

Monthly Donation: [] \$250 [] \$100 [] \$50 [] \$25 [] \$ _____

Starting Month: _____. I would like to transfer on: ___ 1st or ___ 15th of the month.

I authorize my bank to pay JEMS the amount listed above on the 1st or 15th working day of every month. This authorization will remain in effect until I notify JEMS in writing that I wish to change or discontinue the contribution.

Name (please print) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

(required for EFT payments)

I have enclosed my **voided blank check** from the bank account to be used for the EFT withdrawal.

Please place this **form** and your **voided check** in the envelope provided and mail to: JEMS, 948 E. 2nd St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

* While a donor may express a preference for a gift, IRS regulations state that tax-deductible gifts must be under the complete discretion of the non-profit organization. Please contact JEMS if you have questions.

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* Send Support by Mail

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

I want to save a tree! Please send me the Mason's prayer letter via e-mail

Please remove me from the Mason's mailing list

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Please make **check payable to "JEMS"** and leave the **memo line blank**.
Your check, along with this form, can be mailed to the JEMS office in the provided envelope.

* While a donor may express a preference for a gift, IRS regulations state that tax-deductible gifts must be under the complete discretion of the non-profit organization. Please contact JEMS if you have questions.