



A Minute with the Masons



Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society

A newsletter of Michael & Chris Mason

Oasis Church, Osaka, Japan

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"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Ephesians 3:20-21

Dear Praying Friends,

The New Years began in Japan with a major earthquake in Ishikawa prefecture on January 1st. This was followed on the 2nd by a fiery plane accident at Haneda Airport in Tokyo. On top of this, the economy in Japan has been struggling for quite a while. The cost of living continues to go up here but the average wages do not, and recent news reports showed Japan slipping from 3rd to 4th place among the global economies (behind the USA, China and Germany). Needless to say, dread and anxiety are on the rise in Japan.

On a more personal level, various issues over the last few months have made life and ministry more difficult than usual.

And yet, as we enter the New Year, the word for 2024 that God gave to me (Chris) was HOPE. Through the verses above from Ephesians 3, God reminded me that He can do far more abundantly than anything we ask or think. What a great promise to the churches, the believers and the missionaries in Japan. HOPE is what Japan needs in order to move forward in 2024. **PLEASE PRAY** for Japan and the people of this nation as they push through this season of hopelessness and uncertainty. **PRAY** that many will find the hope that can only be found in Jesus.

MEMBER CARE

Michael and Chris continue to serve on the Member Care Committees of both JEMS and JEMA (Japanese Evangelical Missionary Association- an interdenominational ministry in Japan to support missionaries). Under JEMS, we serve along side Rick Chuman, Darryl Wong, Paul and Rie Mizuki, and Yumiko Wu. Roy Toma serves as an affiliate.



The JEMS Member Care Team (missing Darryl and Roy)

Last year the Member Care Committee instituted an annual Care Review for all the JEMS missionaries. In February a questionnaire was sent to each missionary where they were able to self evaluate for different areas of health (Physical,

Emotional, Spiritual and Relational). Once these questionnaires are turned in, someone from the Member Care Committee will meet with each missionary to discuss how they are doing in the various areas. The purpose of these follow-up appointments is to offer support and encouragement to the missionaries so that they can thrive in the ministry God has given to them. These follow-up sessions will begin in mid-March.

PLEASE PRAY for the JEMS Member Care Committee as we meet (online), pray with and encourage the JEMS missionaries across Japan.

OASIS CHURCH

Our Kid's Cafeteria ministry has been going well, with our March meeting being especially encouraging. As we are leading up to telling the story of the resurrection of Jesus in April, in March we told the story of Jesus' death on the cross. Some of the older kids were especially attentive to the story and were enthusiastically interacting with the person telling the story. We also had 3 new moms and 4 new kids join us. One of the new mothers was surprised when we sung "Lord I Lift Your Name On High" (in Japanese of course). She said that she didn't expect Christian songs to sound so fun. After watching the short animated video of Jesus on the cross, she told us that she had never heard that story before. **PLEASE PRAY** for the moms and kids who attend Kid's Cafeteria. God is at work in their hearts. **PLEASE ESPECIALLY PRAY** for our Easter-themed meeting on April 14th.



Bible story time at Kid's Cafeteria

Speaking of Easter, we ask that you also **PLEASE PRAY** for our Easter Sunday gathering at Oasis Church on March 31. We know of at least two Kid's Cafeteria families that are planning to join us on that day (one of whom has never been to church before). **PLEASE PRAY** for Michael as he prepares the message and everyone else who is helping with the service on that day. May both the Oasis Church family, as well as the many visitors, experience the presence of Jesus as we celebrate His glorious resurrection.

!! ATTENTION ONLINE DONORS !!

JEMS is currently in the process of updating their online donation system. Starting May 1st, you will no longer be able to make a donation through our Network For Good portal. This will especially effect those who are signed up for automatic monthly giving. As of now, no action needs to be taken on your side. However, in mid-April we will send out a link to our new donation page. Watch this space for more details.

Thanks again for all of your prayers and support on our behalf. We appreciate each and every one of you.

Blessings in Jesus,

Michael & Chris

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