



A Minute with the Masons



Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society
A newsletter of Michael & Chris Mason

Oasis Church, Osaka, Japan
Issue 86 November 2019

Dear Praying Friends,

The calendar on the wall of our office says that Thanksgiving is just one week away. With the year-end holiday season now in full swing, let us take a few minutes to share some of the things God is up to in our lives.

SUMMER REVIEW

In October, we returned to Japan after a 3-month sabbatical in America. We knew that this was going to be a season of transition for us, but little did we know how things were going to unfold.

Soon after we arrived in the States, Chris' father went to be with the Lord on July 28th. We had the chance to visit with him a couple of time since and he seemed to be in good health. However, he was found unconscious one morning and passed away the next day. While we are sad for his passing, the Lord's timing was perfect. Since the whole family was in the country at the time, it made it much easier for us to plan and attend a simple memorial service that celebrated his 97 years of life.

About three weeks later, Luke started his freshman year at Westmont College, a Christian school in Santa Barbara, CA. So far, Luke seems to be doing well, adjusting to his new life in America. He is making friends, working part-time, attending Bible study and enjoying all that campus life has to offer. **PLEASE PRAY** for Luke during his time at Westmont. May these four years be filled with academic learning, spiritual growth and many lasting friendships.



Luke's first day at Westmont

After dropping off Luke at school, the two of us

headed North for what we called our "Empty Nest Tour." We drove up to Oregon and Washington to visit family and friends, and then spent about 10 days leisurely exploring the Oregon/California coast. After all of the stress of the previous months, we thank the Lord for this wonderful opportunity to take some much needed R & R.



Basking in a sunset on our Empty Nest Tour

In early October, we attended the Pastoral Training in Member Care (PTM) Conference in North Carolina. Through listening to conference speakers, attending workshops, and networking with seasoned member care specialists, this was an excellent introduction to the whole area of member care. We came home with a ton of resources that will help us to get started in caring for our fellow JEMS missionaries in Japan.

Overall, our time in America this summer was just what we needed. Although it was sad to return to Japan without Luke, we are thankful for this extended time of rest and renewal.

OASIS CHURCH

Oasis Church seemed to do well in our absence. The various people in the church took turns leading the Bible study each week, some of them doing this for the very first time. This was a growing experience for many of them and created a desire

to grow in this area. One of Michael's main goals over the next year or two will be to develop, nurture and train those who have a desire to learn how to teach the Word of God to others. **PLEASE PRAY** that the Lord would give Michael wisdom in how to do this and that he would be able to identify those who have teaching/leadership potential.



Bible Study time at Oasis Church

FIRST STEPS IN MEMBER CARE

Now that we are back in Japan, we are starting to go through the various resources we gathered this summer as we look ahead to providing member care for our fellow missionaries. From our 22 years of experience in Japan, we know that life here is not easy. Relational, emotional, and spiritual difficulties are common, and culture stress, language learning and feelings of loneliness take their toll on just about everyone. **PLEASE PRAY** that the Lord would begin to give us a strategy on how to help our co-workers. May the Lord use us to offer support that will result in resilient, healthy missionaries that will be better equipped to labor in the Lord's harvest field.

FINDING A NEW HOME

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, in early 2020 we are planning to move away from our current semi-rural location (which was near the school) and back into the city (which will be closer

the church). This will mean a sizable increase in our living expenses, but we believe that such a move will allow for more ministry opportunities. With this in mind, we ask that you **PLEASE PRAY** for the Lord to lead us to the right situation. May He provide the right **kind of housing** (we prefer a rental house over an apartment so that we can hold meetings without bothering our neighbors), at the right **size** (with an extra room so we can house guests), at the right **price** (around \$800 a month would be ideal) and in the right **location** (near a train line).

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Finally, we would like to ask you to **PLEASE PRAY** for our various Christmas activities at Oasis Church. Many Japanese have still not heard about Jesus, and Christmas in Japan is one of the best times to proclaim this Good News.

* **Dec 8th: Kid's Cafeteria.** Besides a meal and games, we will also tell the Christmas story to the 10+ non-Christians who come each month.

* **Dec 20th: Christmas Caroling.** We take the kids from the church on a walk through the neighborhood, singing Christmas songs and handing out *manga* (comic books) that tell the story of Jesus.

* **Dec 22nd: Christmas Celebration.** Worship service followed by potluck dinner. Our hope is that many of the church member's non-Christian family and friends will attend.

Thanks again for all of your prayers and support. May the Lord bless you during this Thanksgiving and Christmas season.

In Jesus,

Michael & Chris

Michael & Chris Mason



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Starting in 2020, we will be sending out our newsletter via e-mail. Therefore, if you would like to keep receiving updates from us and have not already sent us your e-mail address, please write to us at: themasons@masonsinjapan.com

If you do not have e-mail and would like to continue receiving this paper edition, we will gladly make that available for about 25 people. In that case, please send in the bottom portion of the response sheet included with this newsletter.

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.

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(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 an envelope 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 receive a paper version of the Mason's prayer letter

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: JEMS, 948 E. 2nd St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

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