

Nuclear Issues Column

When visiting Fukushima, I met a real estate appraisal that is involved with people from areas that have been made uninhabitable due to the nuclear power accident. He said, "When dealing with houses, we cannot look at it as one general problem. Each house has its memories. Some houses were built over many years. Some gardens are recorded as a plot of "farm land". There are many who attained their homes through many hardships. However, when providing "insurance" all of these things are generalized and calculated uniformly. When it comes to Tokyo Electric Power, though they were the cause of the accident, they mechanically use the word "insurance" without even coming to see the situation. First of all, they should not even be using the word "insurance". They should use the word "compensation". Otherwise, the ownership of responsibility becomes unclear. It is quite an aggravating situation. They mock us". The electric power company claims, "Because this was a national project, the state should take responsibility". The state claims, "The company should take responsibility". The local government claims, "The state and the company that declared it to be safe should take responsibility". In this state, no one will take responsibility. No one will be made responsible for the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident. No one will be judged. The "compensation" is being paid through our electricity fees and our taxes. The massive effects that the nuclear radiation is causing are being watered down. What is more, the "compensation" will most likely be cut in the near future. Even before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has called off the "declaration of a nuclear emergency" there are claims of "security" and "safety". It is as if the accident never happened. It is the left behind residents and nuclear power plant workers that must carry the burden for the coming decades. This is the cruel reality that the nuclear power plant accident has brought to this country.

In May we checked radiation levels in Koriyama city. We found that there were several areas that were "radiation controlled areas". We can see that radiation is not an issue limited to the Fukushima prefecture, but the whole of North Japan. Especially when thinking about saving our children's lives, it is important to remind ourselves of the important figures. If we follow Japan's laws the "radiation controlled areas" are areas that have a radiation higher than 0.6 μ Sv/h. In these areas, people are not to eat, drink, or inhabit. Underage individuals and pregnant women are not permitted to enter these areas without permission. Those that work in these areas are to take protective measures toward radiation. Moreover, according to the ICRP (International Commission on Radiological Protection) the permissible amount of radiation for the general public is 1mSv. This does not however mean that this figure assures safety. What we must especially look out for is "internal radiation" that can come about from respiration and consumption. We must raise our awareness and increase the "visibility" of radiation through proper measuring. Let us be attentive and keep our eyes on the cross of Jesus.

From the Local Aid Committee

Makoto Kanamaru Local Aid Committee Representative (Sendai Chyomeigaoka Church)

The Local Aid Committee, since its first committee meeting on the 30th of June 2011 has met almost every month. In order to make sure that we can know in detail the realities of the expansive devastated regions, we formed the Aomori Iwate team, the Miyagi team, and the Fukushima team. Together we share and listen to reports on the current situations and problems that each region faces. Together we listen to the word and discuss.

Although it is sometimes difficult to all gather from throughout the Tohoku area and talk once a month, through these meetings, we have been able to objectively read the Bible and have continued to be encouraged.

There were 17 members that gathered at the Local Aid Committee held on May 21. This time we even had Pastor Hiroki Nakano and Pastor Makito Suzuki from the Nuclear Power Issues Group to join us all the way from Fukuoka.

The damages caused by radiation are dire. Numbers of thyroid gland disorders found in children are increasing. Health related issues are not only found in children but are found in people of all ages. The psychological toll is great and the divide in the community is also a problem. We were reminded through the meeting that, although this suffering is difficult to see with the eye, there are people outside of the Tohoku area who turn their eyes to the suffering and are praying. We are so thankful. Please continue to pray and support us. Thank you once again.



Charity Concert – Don't Forget 3.11

Nishi Kawaguchi Christ Church Outreach Takamatsu Takayuki

It has been 4 years and 2 months since the Great East Japan Earthquake. Many that were caught up in the disaster have not been able to regain their life base, and their sense of loss and their heartaches have yet to be resolved. Despite this reality, the memory of the disaster is starting to fade from the minds of the general public. Nishi Kawaguchi Church, burdened by this, decided to host "Charity Concert – Don't Forget 3.11". We received much support from the Baptist convention's music sector in the missions department to create the program and organize performers. We had an audience of 130 people made up of the local residents, friends of church members, and members from other churches. We were able to host a wonderful concert.

There were four parts to the program. In the first and fourth section we sang hymns. For the second and third section we listened to classical music through opera and the reed organ. The music filled the halls along with the prayers of the performers and audience for the disaster victims. When we all sang "Furusato" together I felt as though the whole audience was singing with those that live in the temporary housing. It was a moving moment. It was also a time to be thankful that each person was able to think of the victims and act in support. I give thanks that the heartfelt donations will be used to support the devastated areas. Lastly, I would like to thank those that performed despite how busy they all are.



From the left:

Mikako Ehara (Soprano, head of Church Music division)

Kaori Ishibashi (Soprano, Sagami Chuo Church)

Kanade Toyohara (Tenor, Kurigasawa Church)

Michio Iizuka (Baritone, Aoba Church)

Mina Yamazaki (Far Left Piano, Nishi Kawaguchi Church)

Recommendation to host "Charity Concert – Don't Forget 3.11"

We are worried that people are starting to forget about the great disaster for 3.11. We encourage you to host a charity concert to remember the churches of the devastated areas and the victims of the disaster who still cannot see what lies in their future. For those that would consider hosting a concert, the East Japanese Committee is ready to support in any way it can.

Please contact: jbsaigai@bapren.jp

~DONATIONS~

Goal for 2015: 14mill yen (Domestic and International)

Current collected amount: 1mill 250thousand yen

Donators in April and May of 2015 (In order of donations sent)

We received 32 donations. We would like to send our heartfelt thanks.

Kanazawa, Isahaya, Itami, Kurume, Marugame Jyotouchu, Kochi Isesaki, Shimonoseki, Nakano, Chofu, Hitoyoshi, Hiroshima Nishi, Yuko Kubo, First Southern Baptist Japanese Church of Utah, South Kyushu District Convention Little-lambs Children Camp, Morioka, Goro and Fumiko Amano, Kagoshima, Youth Study Tour (T-shirt sales), Hitachi, Nara, Chofu, Kansai Reimei, Nishi Kawaguchi (Charity Concert), Minami Kokura, Nakano, Kobe Ikawa (Homeless Aid Net Hyogo), Osaka, Mitaka, Seinan Gakuin middle school and high school, Yahata, Hakodate Mihara.

~DONATIONS(Bank Transfer)~

- PAYING BANK : MIZUHO BANK,LTD.
- A/C WITH BRANCH : URAWA BRANCH
- ADDR : 1-4-9 Nakamachi Urawa-ku. Saitama City,336-0062 JAPAN
- SWIFT CODE : MHCBJPJT
- A/C NUMBER : 541-1243429
- PAYEE NAME : JAPAN BAPTIST CONVENTION
- ADDR : 1-2-4 Minami Urawa. Minami-ku. Saitama City,336-0017 JAPAN