

**Charity Concert – Don't Forget 3.11**

**Seinan Gakuin University Volunteer Center**

**Yumiko Yamaguchi (Nokata Church)**

Seinan Gakuin University has, in the past 4 years, sent out 52 teams, consisting of 438 students and teachers to northeast Japan as northeast Japan disaster relief volunteers. Within this, 304 volunteers were sent out through the Baptist Convention's disaster relief aid. We are greatly thankful for those who continue to work for the Tohoku area, and their willingness to allow us to join their work each year.

The Reconstruction Support Charity Concert was held for the third time this year on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June. The student volunteer group "Ito" (string) was set up by students who, after their volunteer work, wanted to continue supporting the reconstruction work from Fukuoka. The students called for donations on the streets and spread information about the disaster areas. The idea to hold a Charity Concert was devised by graduates of the university who saw the efforts of the students who continued to work for the disaster area. This year there were 5 groups including choruses made up of graduates. In total there were 127 performers. Including the 45 staff of "Ito", there were 172 that were involved in bringing about the concert. There were approximately 400 people who came as audience. In the lobby we sold goods made at the temporary housings, and also held student organized events. This concert was unique in a sense that current students and graduates of Seinan Gakuin University came together as one to work for the reconstruction of Northeast Japan. It was a day where many of those connected to Seinan Gakuin University together sent their hopes to Northeast Japan.

We continue to say, "let each of our 'dots' connect to the next". Even though our individual efforts may be small, our "dots" will come together to form a "line", and this "line" will form a "surface" and spread. In 2015, 74 volunteers were sent to Northeast Japan. We hope that the reconstruction aid work continues to spread, connect, and bear fruit. We always have Tohoku in our hearts and our prayers.



**Nuclear Issues Column** Hiroki Nonaka (Tosu Church)

The other day my wife sent some seafood to her brother's family living in Brazil. This was a heart felt package, sent to my brother-in-law with the hopes to send his family a taste and scent of Japan and home. However, this package never reached my brother-in-law because the package was found to be emitting radiation at the quarantine in Brazil. We are currently having the package checked for radiation with the Baptist Convention's radiation detector. This same seafood product had passed Japanese radiation testing and is being sold and bought throughout Japan, unproblematically. I currently feel at risk. What is clear from this event is that 4.5 years after the disaster, we have started to forget about what happened. The disaster caused by the TEPCO Fukushima Dai Ichi Nuclear Power Plant has not ended. Radiation continues to leak out. This is why even now the Japanese government has not lifted the "Declaration of a Nuclear Power Emergency Situation" since 11 March 2011 when it was first declared. The Japanese government has started to ready the residents of the "zone in preparation for the lifting of the evacuation order" to return. Meanwhile the Nuclear Power Emergency Declaration has not been lifted because this allows the government to keep the internationally set exposure limit of 20mSv, because the 1mSv limit set by Japanese law cannot be met. In no way has the disaster ended, or has the radiation contamination stopped. It is not safe yet. We are still in a "state of emergency".

However despite this the Japanese government has pressed the button to start Unit 1 of the Sendai Nuclear Power Plant in Kagoshima on August 12. This is the first nuclear power plant to “pass” the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations, set after the “3.11” TEPCO Fukushima Dai Ichi Nuclear Power Plant incident. I believe this is a “historical violence”. A friend who moved to Saga with two children in the summer of 2011 said, “Despite causing such a disaster, they have restarted [the nuclear power plant] as though the disaster happened in some foreign country. I cannot think that they have human hearts”. Fukushima is not the only place where there are people that had their lives drastically altered because of the nuclear disaster. People throughout North East Japan have suffered in this way. I imagine that each one of these people have lived these past four and a half years, daily wondering what is the best thing to do. However I believe that the restarting of the nuclear power plant rejects and ignores the hardship of these people. “The world’s best regulation standard”, “the economy will not be able to withstand”, “electricity is needed”, “cheap electricity”... these are all lies. We cannot pretend that Fukushima did not happen. We should not. We cannot forget this.

**Local Aid Committee – Aid Work Report (May to August)** Local Aid Committee President Makoto Kanamaru (Sendai Chomeigaoka Church)

May 11 (Mon) 75<sup>th</sup> visitation to Miyamae Temporary Housing Estate (Chomeigaoka Church)

May 15 (Fri) 45<sup>th</sup> visitation to Nodamura Temporary Housing Estate (Same Church, Tosu Church, Hachinohe Church, Misawa Church, Sapporo Church, Sapporo New Life Church, Obihiro Church)

May 16 (Sat) Oshika Peninsula Aid (Sendai Church, Taitomi Church, Nankodai Church, Chomeigaoka Church, Keisen Church)

May 23 (Sat) Visitations to Midorigaoka Temporary Housing Estate (Koriyama Church)

June 7 (Sun) ~ 13 (Sat) Received 13 volunteers from Hawaii Waialae Baptist Church (Taitomi Church)

June 12 (Fri) Visitations to Kozuchi Number 4 Temporary Housing Estate and Number 7 Temporary Housing Estate (Morioka Church, Koriyama Church, Miyazaki Maruyama-cho Church, Yamagata Church, Meinohama Church, Texas Japanese Church)

June 13 (Sat) Ando Café (Morioka Church, Yamagata Church, Meinohama Church, Urawa Church)

June 19 (Fri) 46<sup>th</sup> visitation to Nodamura Temporary Housing (Same Church, Tomakomai Church, Hachinohe Bible Church)

June 20 (Sat) Visitations to Midorigaoka Temporary Church (Koriyama Church, Omiya Church)

Oshika Peninsula Church Aid (Sendai Church, Taitomi Church, Nankoudai Church, Chomeigaoka Church)

June 22 (Thu) 76<sup>th</sup> visitation to Miyamae Temporary Housing Estate (Chomeigaoka Church, Yurigaoka Church)

June 27 (Sat) Watari Strawberry Farm Aid (Chomeigaoka Church, Miyagi Gakuin High School)

July 2 (Thu) ~5 (Sun) Received 11 Hawaii, Pearl City First Baptist Church volunteers (Taitomi Church)

July 17 (Fri) 47<sup>th</sup> visitation to Nodamura Temporary Housing (Same Church, Aomori Church, Misawa Church, Asahikawa Toko Church)

July 18 (Sat) Visitations to Midorigaoka Temporary Housing Estate (Koriyama Church, Keisen Church, AiAi Project)

Oshika Peninsula Aid (Sendai Church, Taitomi Church, Nankodai Church)

July 28 (Tue) 77<sup>th</sup> Miyamae Temporary Housing Estate (Chomeigaoka Church, Tohoku Gakuin Middle School)

Aug 3 (Mon) Oshika Peninsula and Watari Aid (Chomeigaoka Church, Kansai Gakuin Highschool)

Aug 4 (Tue) Ando Café (Morioka Church), Kozuchi Number 4 Temporary Housing Estate (Tokyo Women’s Christian University Concert)

Aug 4 (Tue) ~ 5 (Wed) Shizukawa Aid (Chomeigaoka Church, Miyagi Gakuin Middle School)

Aug 10 (Mon) (78<sup>th</sup> visitation to Miyamae Temporary Housing (Chomeigaoka Church, Oi Church)

~DONATIONS~

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

Current collected amount: 2mill 360thousand yen

We received 45 donations. We would like to send our heartfelt thanks. Donators in June and July of 2015 (In order of donations sent)

Kagoshima, Takamatsu Tokiwa-cho, Omura Kogashima, Takamatsu Tokiwa-cho, Koga, Fuchu, Kyoto, Ainoura Hikari, Tukuba, Osaka Block Women’s Convention, Yuzo Asami, Fukuma, Megumi, Nakagawa, Sasebo, Higashi Osaka, Nakano, Fuchu, Fujimino, Yuko Kubo, Shinagawa, Koga, Oita, Kagoshima, Kita Kyushu Christ Church and Nishino Guitar Class, Prayer Project - Yoshifumi Imamura, Kansai Reimei, Youth Committee, Rintabi Staff T-shirts, Takasu, Chofu, Nakano, Ichikawa Yawata, Omura Kogashima, Hitachi, Himeji Josai, Koga, Kagoshima, Ainoura Hikari, Marugame Joto-cho, Tsukuba, Osaka, Baptist Theological Seminary Takahashi Akira Ministry Booklet Revenue, Oi, Mejirogaoka, Ijyuin.

~DONATIONS (Bank Transfer)~

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- A/C WITH BRANCH : URAWA BRANCH

- ADDR : 1-4-9 Nakamachi Urawa-ku. Saitama City, 336-0062 JAPAN

- SWIFT CODE : MHCBJPT