

2011.3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake
Local Aid Committee News Letter from Tohoku
20 January 2016
Issue 21

To all the churches throughout Japan, thank you for your daily support through prayer and donations. We were able to sell the hand made goods from the disaster areas during the Convention General Meeting, and were able to collect 33,400yen. Thank you! This year was the 5th New Year at the temporary housing. There are those that have moved out of the temporary housing and still face difficulties. We hope that for 2016, we can continue to walk along side those that experienced the disaster and encourage them through Christ. Please continue to support us. In this issue, we would like to share about what is happening in Fukushima and how Christmas was spent in the different disaster areas.

Fukushima Midorigaoka Temporary Housing - Lifestyle Support Office Time IL Aid Report

“East Midorigaoka 7” Temporary Housing Christmas Party

Saturday December 12 from 10am to 12 noon we held our 5th Christmas party at the “East Midorigoka 7” Temporary Housing. This year we were able to hold a warm and relaxed party. Each year Jiyugaoka church sends handmade cookies, and this year two members from the church’s men’s group came to help. One of them is the father of a church member here, and the other is a doctor. The doctor has visited many times and knows everyone’s faces. This time he brought a blood pressure measuring kit and opened a health-consulting booth in the corner of the consulting room. We also lead some muscle training and stretching exercises with the goal to “walk with our own two feet and one day walk healthily out of the temporary housing.” We worked up a good sweat for 40 minutes. After that we had our usual bingo tournament. Everyone was very serious. This year four members (of which two are church members) of the gospel team, that use the church as a practice space, performed a special Christmas worship song. After this the pastor spoke the Christmas message. Now people show no discomfort toward hearing the Bible message and talking about it. Everything feels natural and everyone listens intently. We also handed everyone the Christmas presents sent from churches all around, and shared peaceful time together. Under the warm sun many people continued to chat even after the tea party and it was almost difficult to conclude the Christmas party. Because it is difficult to tell the future of Fukushima, we desperately want to share about Jesus who brings light into darkness. That is the thought and prayer we have.

Meeting with the members of “Life Style Support Office Time IL”

We had time to share at the “Life Style Support Office Time IL”. This is a venue that is open for the many disabled individuals that had a hard time being placed into the temporary housings and evacuation centers after the Northeast Japan Earthquake. Since last December we have been able to hold a “listen to the pastor’s story”. This was made possible through God’s leading, and a connection made with a Christian volunteer from Saitama. Once a month we have been holding a time to make hand-made goods and a time to move our bodies through stretching, and also a time to talk about the Bible. At the end of this, we have coffee time. The participants open a café and make their own coffee. It is delicious! It is a place where I feel at home. For two years now we have connected online with a church in Hawaii and have participated in their candle light service from 1pm. We also took part in our own candle light service and heard a message from the Gospel of Matthew with the topic of Emmanuel, God with us. We would like to thank all those who, in the presence of God, greet us with smiles.

(Koriyama Kosumosu Dori Christ Church Tikayo Kaneko)



Midorigaoka Temporary Housing Christmas Party



Midorigaoka
Christmas Party Snacks



Participants from the Life Style Support Office Time IL



Nodamura Temporary Housing
Christmas Concert



Otsuchi Andoshomae Christmas Café
Stretching exercises



Candy Reese and Christmas Presents



Otsuchi Temporary House #4 and #7
Candy Reese making for Christmas



Higashi-hama Elementary School
(left of the hill)
High ground housing construction
(Right of hill) Under construction.



Maginohama Temporary Housing
Tea Party
Reconstruction is underway with the
rebuilding of the Oyster Processing Area



Miyamae Temporary Housing
Christmas presents sent from
Fukuoka Arita Church
and Oi Church



Motoura Yashiki Temporary Housing
Volunteers from Hawaii with their children



Kyubunhama Temporary Housing
Christmas cakes