



Japanese Baptist Convention Great East Japan Earthquake Support Team: <http://www.bapren.jp/>

Nuclear Issues Column

The night of April 14, and early April 16, there were magnitude 7 earthquakes that school the Kumamoto area. Furthermore, the after quakes moved down the mid-tectonic line in to Oita prefecture and southern Kumamoto prefecture. Two months have passed since the earthquakes ad there are still people who are forced to live in temporary housing. It is unprecedented to have two earthquakes of magnitude 7 in the same place. On the 16th of April, the Meteorological Agency's Earthquake Prediction Information Centre head, Tetsuo Hashimoto noted this by saying that this event was off the charts from former experiences. However unbelievably, despite it being an unprecedented state of emergency, it was reported not 30 minutes from the after quake on the 14th and earthquake on the 16th that the Sendai nuclear power plants were running per usual. I contacted the Kyushu Electric power company for comments and they stated that on the night of the earthquakes there were about 10 people on duty who checked the safety of the power plant from them central control room. When suggested that they should have halted the running of the power plant because of the many people who were worried, they stated that there was no need. My mouth dropped in disbelief. Documents approved by the Geographical Survey Institute, show that the very south of the mid-tectonic line runs right under the Sendai nuclear power plant. Despite this, the electric company will not put into consideration the danger that a big earthquake could occur under the Sendai Nuclear power plant. What is more worrying is that both the bullet trains and the highways were shut down, causing a freeze in transportation. If there had been an incident at the Sendai nuclear power plant, the residents would have had no means of evacuation. The decision taken by the electric power company to continue the usual operations of the power plant clearly brought to light that the financial well-being of the company was put before the lives of people. Did they learn anything from "Fukushima"? I can only fathom that they have no will to learn. In March this year when I visited Fukushima one woman spoke to me saying, "To raise your voice to call for the stopping of all power plants in Japan is the greatest support you can give to Fukushima." I believe that we must now take these words to heart and make it our prayer.

Aerial image of Sendai Nuclear Power Plant (google search)



From the Local Aid Committee - On our Current Aid Work (Local Aid Committee President Makoto Kanamaru)

We are now well into the 2016 fiscal year. It has been 5 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake, and we can see many changes occurring in the different areas affected by the disaster. Below are the projects that are still on going, For details of each project, please contact the churches responsible for overseeing the projects.

- Otsuchi-cho Iwate Prefecture (Ando / Kozuchi) aid: Tea parties and visitation at temporary housing estates (once every 2 months). Churches responsible: Morioka Church (contact church). Yamagata Church. Koriyama Church.
- Miyazaki Prefecture Ishinomaki City Oshika Peninsula aid: Tea parties and music therapy at temporary housing estates. Delivering vegetables (once a month). Churches responsible: Sendai Church (contact church), Nankodai Church, Taitomi Church, Sendai Chomeigaoka Church. At Kyubunhama, Oshika Peninsula, most residents of the temporary housings have moved out. Therefore vegetable delivery ended in June. Tea parties will be held until the temporary housing estate is closed.
- Miyazaki Prefecture, Watari-cho aid: All the residents of Miyamae temporary housing have been housed elsewhere and now the demolition of the estate has started. Our aid work will now move on to supporting the people who have moved out of the temporary housing estates. Visitations will be held at the homes of the elderly who live alone (once a month). Churches responsible: Sendai Chomeigaoka Church
- Fukushima Prefecture, Koriyama City, Midorigaoka temporary housing estate aid: Tea parties at the Midorigaoka temporary housing estates (Once every two months). Churches responsible: Koriyama Church.



Kyubunhama restoration housing. Left (private home) Right (built by city)

Do Not Forget 3.11 – Request for a Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster Aid Charity Concert Host

It has been 5 years since the disaster and we can see changes taking place in the different affected areas. However there are also places where things are no different from how they were. With the building of the new restoration housings, especially in the areas that were affected by the tsunami, there are many who now have moved out of the temporary housings. With this move, there are several meeting places that have been shut down.

Within those that have moved into their new homes, there are still many that carry problems, and for these people, the "bond" that we the Baptist church have been cherishing allowed a place of rest and comfort. As churches placed in the disaster areas, it is our mission to stay with the residents until the last person moves into their new home. However, it is now also important to think about how to continue the relationships that we have built even after each person moves into their new homes. (For information about our current work please refer to "From the Local Aid Committee" above.

On the other hand in areas such as Fukushima there are still many that are left in a state of anxiety and not knowing what the future holds. The decontamination process is slowly taking place and there are areas where the evacuation order has been lifted. The reality is that the infrastructure needed for daily life such as hospitals are still very lacking, the radiation level surrounding the residential areas are still very high. People are still inevitability left trapped inside the house due to uncertainty about their well being. Furthermore, concerning health concerns, people will have to continuously monitor their health and well being. In this reality, we call on churches to host a charity concert so as to not forget what took place on March 11 and to raise funds. It would be wonderful if through this work you could be a a part of encouraging the local churches. What is more, if you are interested in hosting this concert, please also not that the Local Aid Committee will support in funding parts of the event.



Please Support by Donating for the Great East Japan Earthquake Donations

Goal for 2016 Donations: 6,000,000Yen (Domestic and International)

850,000Yen Collected so far (by May)

Donations made in April and May 2016: in order of donation made. Our deepest gratitude to all who donated

Shion Yama, Wakamatsu, Kanazawa, Isahaya, Kansai Reimei, Kikuchi Shion, Hitachi, Nakano, Nara, Nogata, Matsuyama Nishi, Chofu, Fukuoka Josai, Yamagata, Imabari, Kubo Yuko, Seinangakuin High School, Koga, Kagoshima, Yokohama Joy, Nakano, Shion no Oka, Marugame Jotomachi, Nishi Kawaguchi, Chofu, Same, Takasu, Fukuma, Kagoshima, Ainoura Hikari, Omura Kogashima, Koga, Omiya.

