

From Kyubunhama, Oshika Peninsula

Out of the areas of Oshika Peninsula that we still continue aid work, Kyubunhama is one of the places where we started aid from an early stage. We first visited Kyubunhama in early April 2011. Kyubunhama had been completely devastated by the Tsunami. The houses that were able to survive the tsunami became shelters and there were homes where over 20 people lived at one time. The residents had pitched tents in the spaces between the homes to make an emergency head quarters for .

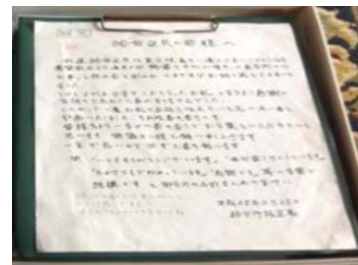
Churches in Sendai had also been affected by the disaster and at a month after the disaster, we were not in a state to send out aid to the coastal areas. The convention emergency headquarters sent out individuals such as Pastor Hiroaki Sakamaki (Atlanta Japanese Baptist Church), Pastor Satoshi Harima (Hiroshima Church), Ministry office head Pastor Tetsuya Noguchi, and many from churches in the North Kanto region. The churches in the Sendai area were then able to send out individuals to these places where the initial relationship building had taken place. The aid carried out at Kyubunhama started in this way, once a week on Saturdays. We carried out food handouts, "rubble" removals, and helped out in the cultivating of oysters. Once the temporary housings were completed in September 2011, the Miyagi team took over this project. In Oshika Peninsula there was a shortage of vegetables. The sending and handing out of vegetables started from September 2011 as well. When carrying out our aid work, we focus on supporting both those in temporary housings, and those in their own homes. We work on carrying out aid that connects the people of the area, and we work to testify God's love and hope through our actions. We have experienced both failures and frustrations. However through Jesus', interceding, his grace, and through the understanding and cooperation of the local people, we have been able to build precious relationships with the local people. We are now miraculously referred to as "Baptist-san", and we are very thankful for this relationship we have been given.



We received message boards from the people of Kyubunhama addressed to at the “Baptist-san”s through out Japan and the world.

In Kyubunhama, 5 years after the Great East Japan Earthquake, the residents have finally been able to move out of their temporary housings and are now in their new homes. The ward mayor called out for these message boards to be made, and each of the residents took time to fill out their message. We thank God for going before us to bring about these connections and exchanges. At the end we have added photos of the message boards. Below is a part of the greeting written by the ward mayor.

“Dear all, thank you very much for supporting us all this time. I remember receiving vegetables and flowers from you and with each vegetable and flower we received, I remember also receiving your warm hopes and thoughts for us. I was wondering how to show you our thanks, and my wife suggested we send you a message board. With the help of those living in our ward, I believe we were able to make a simple but wonderful message board. Please accept this as a message of gratitude from all the residents of Kyubunhama. Thank you very much for your long support all this time.” Kyubunhama Ward Mayor



Notice calling out to the residents to write a message on the message board.

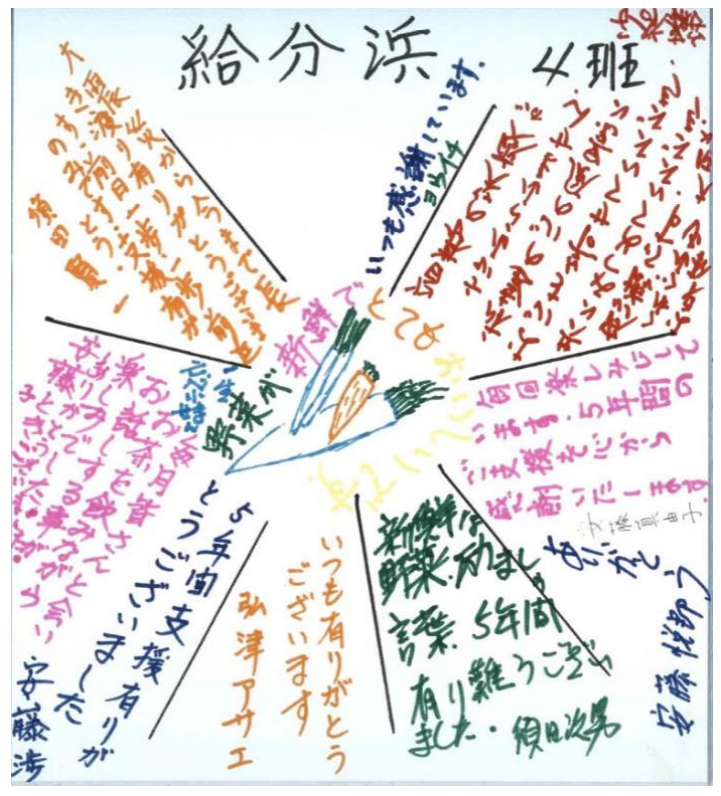
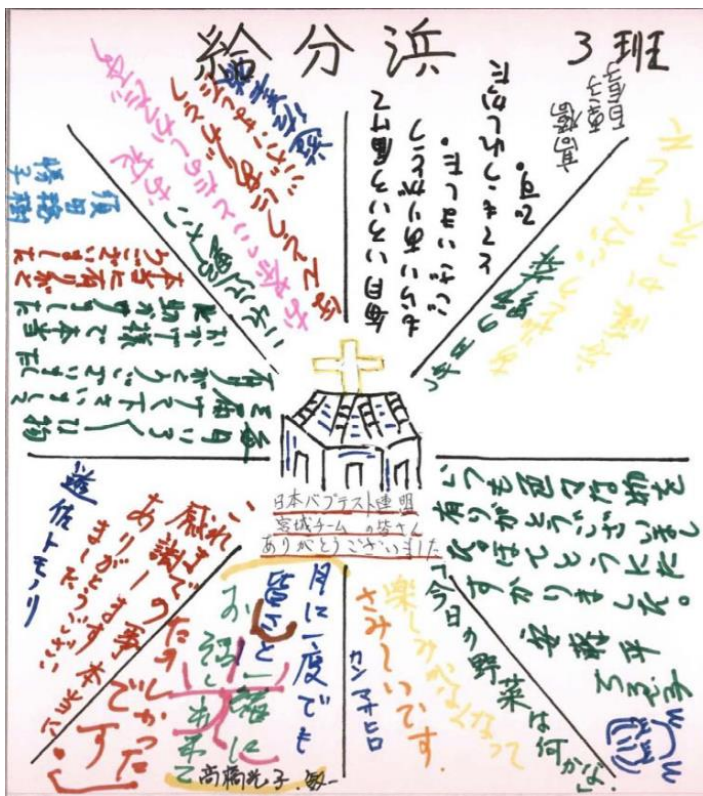
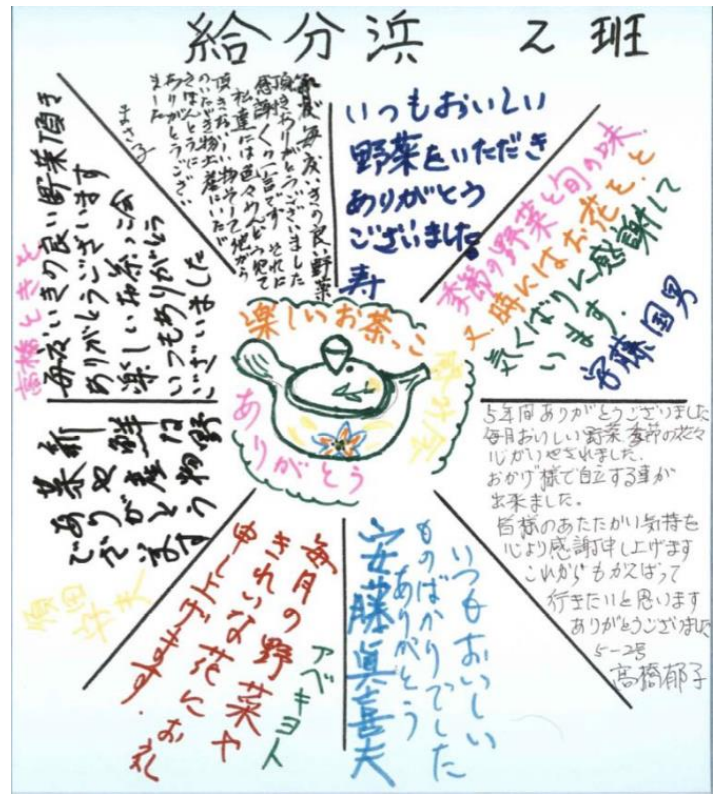
With the completion of the high ground housing construction in April and May, all residents of Kyubunhama, apart from 3 sections, have been able to move into their new homes. The residents have finally been able to move homes after waiting two years from the initial date set for their moving. At the end of September the community halls and temporary housings will be closed and the land will be returned to the land owners. With this, in June we ended the vegetable deliveries, and from July we will only carry out the tea parties at the community halls. Until the community halls close, we would like to carry out our aid, concentrating on the elderly residents who will have to move into a completely new environment, and also on the children who still have to live in the temporary housings. (Taitomi church Pastor Mamoru Oda)

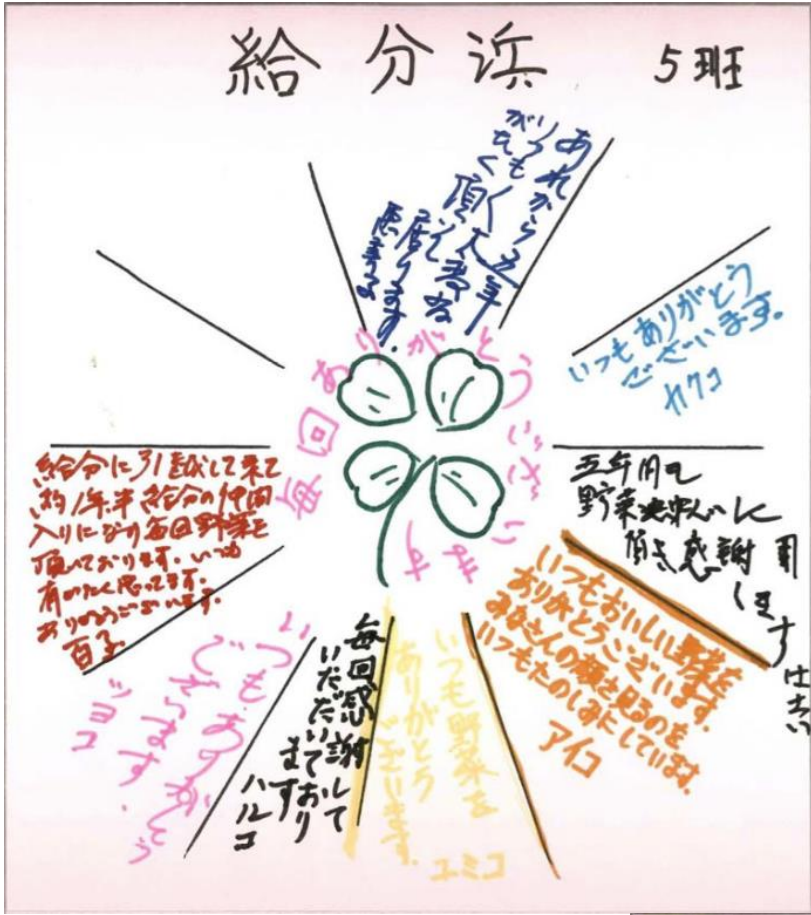
New houses built on high ground
Aroma Bug Spray making



Local Aid Committee New Letter Issue #24 Published 20 July 2016
Japan Baptist Convention Great East Japan Earthquake Aid Committee
President Makoto Kanamaru (Chomeigaoka Church)

Message boards from the residents of Kyubunhama





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