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- PAYEE NAME : JAPAN BAPTIST CONVENTION
- ADDR : 1-2-4 Minami Urawa. Minami-ku. Saitama City,336-0017 JAPAN

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

November 22, 2016, 17:59pm, there was a 7.4 Magnitude earthquake. It's epicentre was the coast of Fukushima prefecture. It was an aftershock of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

In the 41st issue, we shared what took place at Koriyama Kosumosu-dori Christ Church through the column, "On that Day in Fukushima". When the people of Fukushima experienced the large aftershock, they remembered the horror and worry of March 2011. This experience we were able to see what instructions are needed in real times of crisis, and it has lead Koriyama Kosumosu-dori Christ Church to improve the evacuation manual for mass radiation leakage. We were also able to share this information with its church members. In Fukushima, many people are worried about how radiation will affect their health. However, 6 years from the disaster, the information provided by the medical institutions has been lacking, and people live in a state of powerlessness. People are constantly having to worry about their health. Below we would like to share articles that share the worries that residents continue to have. (Great East Japan Earthquake Support Team)

Evacuation Preparedness Plan

Koriyama Kosumosu-dori Christ Church Chikayo Kaneko

Since the explosion of the Fukushima Daiichi Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant on 12 March 2011, and since the of the declaration of a "state of nuclear emergency", our church members living in Fukushima have been forced to live our lives, "expecting" to evacuate. We thought of how we could keep our children safe. We thought of how our church members could live in a sense of comfort. With this, we created our Evacuation Preparedness Plan in 2012. However, 6 years since the disaster, we are in need of renewing this plan. This is in light of the breakdown of the used fuel rod's cooling system that took place in November 22, 2016. The cooling system failed due to damages caused to the cooling system's purification pump that was damaged by an earthquake.

The basic revision that were made

From "all of us together" to "each household".

In the beginning, our plan was for everyone to gather at the church and to break up into separate vehicles and "all go together." However we have decided that it is better for each household to evacuate separately, in a "Tendenko" style. "Tendenko" means, each own, or separately. "Tsunami Tendenko" was coined as a phrase to raise awareness for Tsunami evacuation.

A. Preparation

1. Revising the emergency contact network

We decided to renew the network every time there is a change. We also decided to carry out checks every half year.

2. Creating a evacuation plan proposal

We encourage people to plan for a crisis. What will you do? Will you evacuate or retreat at home? In order to know who does what and where, we ask households to ready an evacuation plan. (There are three copies. One for the pastor, one for the church, and one for the household to keep.) The evacuation plan asks households to decide whether they would evacuate or stay at home. It asks about who they would evacuate with. Furthermore, it asks for two contact numbers. It also has information such as the side effects of iodine tablets

3. Creation of a Crisis Management Team

We created a Crisis Management Team with the central members of the church

4. Presentation of the Evacuation Preparation Plan

We presented the "Crisis Manual" to our church members. We explained the responsibilities that the pastor, the church committee, the Crisis Management Team, and the Nuclear Power Issues Team holds. We presented what church members needed to do for preparation. For example, church members should always having their gas tanks filled. We also presented about the flow of action and the communication system that needed to be set, the evacuation kit they needed, and also about what people had to do if they were going to retreat in their homes instead of evacuating to a centre. We handed out the "Crisis Reaction Manual", "Emergency contacts list", the "Evacuation Plan", and we also included the emergency contact information of the cities that church members would evacuate too.

B. At Crisis ~ Evacuation or home retreat"

When an emergency takes place the Nuclear Power Issues Committee and the Crisis Management team will contact the emergency contact numbers to let them know if they should evacuate and which way they should evacuate, or whether they should stay at home. Until now, we made it the first rule to get everyone out of a 250Km radius from the power plant if a great radiation leakage occurred. However, at a time of crisis, public transport would halt, and transportation will be chaotic. Therefore we decided that if it were raining or snowing, if it were night time, it would be better to wait at home until things settled down. In order to make this possible, we shared that people needed to store 10 days worth of water and food, and told them how to make their windows more airtight and cover their air conditioners and air valves with a plastic bag to avoid radiation entering the house. We also shared about what they needed to prepare to avoid radiation exposure when they were evacuating. We also shared about the side effects of Iodine tablets. We were reminded of how important the preparation plan was, and how we needed to keep renewing this information. Meanwhile we pray that the need for preparation will come to an end.

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(Domestic and International) 5,720,000Yen Collected so far (January)

Donations made in December and January: in order of donation made. Our deepest gratitude to all who donated

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