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

Fukushima Now - from a radius of 30km

this spring, many of the evacuation orders brought about by the Tokyo Electric Power Company Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant were taken down. During this time the paper and television reported many of its stories on Tomioka-cho. It is 10km from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, and it is where the Fukushima Daini Nuclear Power Plant, the power plant that did not melt down, is situated.

There is a magnificent row of cherry blossom trees that can be found in the Tomioka-cho "Yoru no Mori" park and its surroundings. People in Tokyo rarely know this, but the cherry blossoms here are just as wonderful as any famous cherry blossom spot. These cherry blossoms have become a Merkmal of radiation level since the nuclear disaster.

The row of cherry blossom trees is 2km long. There is a barricade that is placed in between this row of trees. Past this barricade, is the "difficult-to-return zone", the area that has the highest radiation levels. The only way to enter this area is by first receiving permission from the town hall, and wearing a radiation protection suit. The government is trying to decontaminate the area to lower the radiation, and to get rid of this barricade, but even now they have not been able to accomplish this.

When we listen to the news, it seems that the evacuation orders have now mostly been lifted, and it seems as though most of its residents have returned to their homes. It is easy to assume that the nuclear disaster has come to an end. However in reality there are still many areas where the evacuation order still stands. Even in areas where the evacuation order has been lifted, there are still places where the radiation level is high. Most of its residents have not returned how, and most people have not regained their normal lifestyle.

At the time of the disaster, the government had told the people that they would not be able to true to the "difficult-to-return zones" for 5 years. The reason they said 5 years instead of 10 or 20 years is to keep the residents from losing hope. It was also a way for the government to belittle the gravity of the disaster.

The local people knew what the government was scheming, and from the beginning, many of its residents said that they would never be able to return. "We can't return and there is no one that would return. Yet they are using a large sum of money for decontamination. Why won't they use it to support us in rebuilding our new lives." This represents the sentiments that many of the residents have.

I feel that this sort of misunderstanding between the government and its people is further slowing down the recovery process.



Photo: Cherry blossoms of "yuru no mori" that bloom in the "difficult-to-return zone"



Book recommendation: Minako Sasako

Until the Apples Rot.

Reports from within the 30km radius of the Nuclear Power Plant -Reporters' notes- Kadokawa Shinsho publication. 863JPY (with tax)

"Ringo ga kusarumade. Gepatsu 30km ken kara no houkoku. Kishya note kara."

Reporting about the victims of the Tokyo Electric Power Company Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake, I noticed that the same things I had seen and heard from the 2004 Niigata Chuetsu earthquake was taking place.

Solitary deaths of the elderly, alcoholism, family breakdown, disharmony of the local residents brought about by discrimination and division, the dilemma of returning and not returning. A reporter that saw these things take place before her eyes, writes the reality that she witnessed from her Christian perspective.

2017 - Efforts to Prevent Health Issues after the Fukushima Daiichi Genpatsu Disaster

The Great East Japan Earthquake Committee (Nuclear Power Plant Column) will take the actions listed below to support the church members and families of the three churches in Fukushima.

1) Children's Evacuation and Recuperation Project - Financial support for the children and families of the Koriyama Kosumosu Dori Church and Fukushima Shu no Ashiato Church (former Fukushima Asahi-machi church) to carry out get-away programs to help maintain their health.

Currently we have carried out small vacation and recreation trips to areas with low radiation. We plan this in a way that works with the churches. We thank you for your support.

2) Tests for radiation exposure - Thyroid examinations for the children and parents of the Ayumi no Ie Church, Koriyama Kosumosu Dori Church, and Fukushima Shu no Ashiato Church. General health examination for adult church members. The thyroid examinations carried out once a year is made possible through outside support. Follow-up tests for cysts and lumps are needed. This is expected to be a process that will continue for a long time. We also encourage the church members to carry out health screenings along with cancer check-ups. Many of the church members are experiencing health issues brought about by the long drawn-out stressful environment.

3) Evacuation Preparation for a High-level Radiation Leak - Since the 3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake, we are continually in a state of fear that there will be another accident at the Tokyo Electric Power Company Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. We have been creating an evacuation plan in preparation for something like this. We were reminded of the need to carry this out with more urgency after experiencing the early morning M7.4 earthquake that struck the coast of Fukushima prefecture on November 22, 2016. The Koriyama Kosumosu Dori Church, through the instruction of the "Emergency Manual", is continuing to prepare for a time of emergency to capacitate people to evacuate 250km from the source of disaster. We have handed out dust-proof masks, radiation measuring devices, and iodine tablets. We are continuing to hand out needed equipment.

4) Radiation Measurements and "Decontamination" - Even now, the radiation levels at the church and its surroundings are not equally low to a point that people can live without fear. We will continue to monitor the radiation levels of the spaces in and around our church, and measure the radiation in the drinking water, and food that we consume. The radiation dosimeter is placed in the Tosu Christ church, and the church has been given the job to measure the radiation level. Below is the contact information and address if you would like to test your drinking water or foods. Please invoice the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster Area Support Committee with the postage fee needed to send the specimen to be tested.

841-0051 Tosu-shi, Motomachi, 1255-1 Japan Baptist Convention Tosu Christ Church Pastor Nonaka. 0942-82-4303.

2016 Donation Report

Goal 6,000,000JPY. (Domestic Donations: 5Mil JPY. International Donations: 1Mil JPY.)

Achievement 9,540,000JPY. (Domestic: 9.54Mil JPY, International 320,000 JPY)

From 265 Donations. Thank you!

Hino Shinemi, Fujimino Youth Group, Koga, Dougo, Hamamatsu, Morioka, Tosu, Shizuoka, Sakata Chiyomi, Yurigaoka, Nakano, Kokura, Kurume, Seinan Jyogakuin Shion-san Kindergarden, Seinan Jogakuin University - Junior College Department, Shion-san, Kansai District Women's Convention One Day Training Program, Kawagoe, Megumi, Senkawa, Kansai District Convention Office, Trinilai Bell Choir Yukiko Tanaka, National Minister Group Training Administration, Kogashima Omura, Yuko Kubo, Hirao, Fukuoka Arita, Osaka, Fukuoka District Convention Women's Group, Matsuyama-Nishi, Kokubu, Ageo, Imabari, Tokushima, Kiku, Hiroshima, Ota, Nakano, Chofu, Higashi-Osaka, Chofu-Minami, Torikai, Kobe, Seinan Gakuin Middle School, Seinan Gakuin High School, Keisen, Beppu Kokusai, Sasaguri, Megumi, Nara. Fukuoka Josei, Shimizu Eiko, Yokosuka, Nagasawa, Mejirogaoka, Kobe Shinsei, Houfu, Nakagawa, Ijuin, Kita-Osaka, Nishi-Kawaguchi, Hitachi, Toyohashi, Hachioji Mejirodai, Hofu, NTBC Hokusojin, Oi, Tsukuba, Tokyo-kita, Kasugabarau, Fukuoka-minami, Hanakoganei, Takasu, Higshi-yama, Koga, Fukuma, Kobeikawa, Yokodai, Keisen, Ome Akebono, Ichikawa Hachiman, Shigehara, Urawa, Okayama, Takasaki, Nogata, Yokohama Totsuka, Sagami-Chuo, Kurume, Sugawarasaki, Omiya, Itami, Naha-Shintoshin, Kurume Araki, Oita, Shion no Oka, Fujisawa, Oi Akebono Kindergarden PTA, Kogashima Omura, Shimura, Iizuka, Chikushino Futsukaichi, Ainoura Hikari