

## 2011.3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake

### Local Aid Committee New Letter from Tohoku

26<sup>th</sup> March 2015

#### Issue #15

To all the churches through out Japan, thank you for your daily support through prayer and offerings. It has been 4 years since the disaster and there are many different stories to be told here. Some people are in hopes of starting a new life. Some are faced with hurdles as they build their new lives. There are also those that are in sorrow as they mark the anniversary of what occurred in March 11. Despite the fact that it has been a long 4 years, there are still those that have no choice but to live in the temporary housing for years to come. The contamination due to radiation is also dire. We are starting our 5<sup>th</sup> year working with the local churches. This year of we will continue to do our best in listening to and answering the needs of the people here. Please continue to pray for us. In this issue, we will report about the activities that took place on March 11 at the churches and disaster areas in Tohoku.

### March 11: Churches and The Disaster Areas of Tohoku

#### March 11 Prayer Meetings

On March 11 (Wed) there was a moment of prayer at 14:46 at each of the churches. There were also services held in the evening for mourning and prayer. We helped by handing out prayer cards that the Local Aid Committee made, listening to the testimony of those that were affected by the disaster, by inviting the local community to the services, and by discussing about what occurred during the disaster with the people that attended.



Koriyama Kosumosu Dori Church



Nankodai Church



Sendai Choumeigaoka Church

## Hoping for the Independence of the Disaster Victims Sendai Assembly

The night of March 11, 4 years from the disaster, there was an assembly titled “March 11 Evening of Mourning and Meditation” at Japan Baptist Sendai Christian Church in Sendai city, Aoba ward.

An executive committee made up of pastors and schoolteachers hosted the assembly. About 70 people from the community participated.

Two citizens of Ishinomaki city that were victims of the disaster spoke of the current situation in the disaster stricken areas



and the hurdles it must face for reconstruction. The manager of a whale specialist store in Ayukawahama Ishinomaki city, Miss Izumi Ichiko (64), who’s home was swept away by the tsunami, expressed her hopes that the hearts of those that were devastated could recover as soon as possible, and gain its independence.

20 candles were lit along with a performance of the marimba, as the participants held a moment of silence and prayer for the victims.

Pastor Ogawa Yoshinobu (59), the executive director said, “Even 4 years after the disaster, there are still those that continue to be disadvantaged by the disaster. They are unable to plan their future. True reconstruction is impossible without turning our hearts to people like this.”

(An article on “March 11 Evening of Mourning and Meditation” held in Sendai church)

(Kahoku Shinpou News Paper March 14)

March 11 at the Different Places we Support



Heartfelt  
worship  
at  
Miyamae  
temporary  
housing



Otsuchi  
Chou  
Ando ward  
Silent  
prayer



Exercising at  
Koriyama  
city  
Midorigaoka  
housing



Tea time at  
Kyubun-hama  
Oshika  
Peninsula



Making  
sakura  
rice  
cakes



Flowers we sent



Teatime at Nodamura

# The Current Situation in the Devastated Areas



Current situation in Nodamura

“Northeast Japan is doing well, but that does not mean that it can be discarded.” These were words from the “3.11 special edition” collaborate broadcasting by Fukushima Private Broadcasting, Kahoku Broadcasting, and Iwate Daily Broadcasting. The rate of reconstruction is varied but there are still those that are living in desperate conditions, cities with declining populations, cities that have been divided, land that is yet to be decontaminated. These sorts of realities still exist in Tohoku. There are even areas where the residential development is said to take up another 2 years.



Current situation in Otsuchi Chou



Nodamura new high group construction  
Reconstruction road construction



Current situation of Oshika Peninsula Kyubun Hama Residential development



Contaminated soil that is still kept at Itate Fukushima



Areas with 5.29μsv/h radiation level



Tokiwa Road #6 reopened



Oshika Tulinoura – construction of residents



Restarting of Oshika Peninsula Oyster  
Factory



Completion of public housing construction at Watari

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Japanese Baptist Convention Great East Japan Earthquake Local Aid Committee

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