



Bond of Prayer Issue #34 October 21, 2015

~DONATIONS~

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Religious Institution Japan Baptist Convention General Affairs Division

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

When in Fukushima – Nuclear Issues Column

Ayumi no Ie Christ Church – Masatomo Watanabe

When in Fukushima, people from other prefectures ask insensitive questions and I feel like laughing. “Are there health hazards in Fukushima?” What an insensitive question. When I hear these questions, though sometimes I laugh, I do not feel uncomfortable. However this does not mean that others will not feel discomfort just because I do not. When talking with citizens of Fukushima, it is necessary to be sensitive.

If I attempt to answer these insensitive direct questions with a direct answer, all I can think to answer is a vague, “Yes there probably are.” When you become ill, are you able to explain how you became ill? You could probably only answer vaguely with an answer like, “It is probably because of this reason”. I believe that low level radiation is something similar to this. At this point in time, when people living in radiation contaminated areas get sick, it is close to impossible to decipher if it is due to exposure or other reasons. I cannot help but think that this is the reason why people living in radiation-contaminated areas are in such turmoil.

The radiation-contamination issue is not only Fukushima’s problem. I would like to introduce to you a civilian organization in Hiroshima to help you regulate your health. This organization sent soybean paste, pickled plums, and Houttuynia medical herbs to the people living in areas contaminated by the Chernobyl and Fukushima nuclear power plant. It is said that fermented foods like soybean paste and pickled plums higher your immunity. It is difficult to medically prove this. But it is possible that these foods will lower the effects of radioactive substances. If this can be of any help to you, it would be wonderful. It is important to learn from the wisdom of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. There are worries that come with living in a contaminated area. However we are able to learn from the knowledge and experience of those living in Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Chernobyl.

From the Local Aid Committee

Local Aid Committee President Makoto Kanamaru (Sendai Chomeigaoka Church)

The speed of recovery of the disaster areas is different in each place, and this is starting to be an issue. The nuclear disaster has not been solved. There are areas where livelihoods are being destroyed due to radiation. There are areas where the completion of residential construction is said to be years ahead. There are areas where the temporary housings will soon be taken down.

At Miyamae temporary housing in Watari Miyazaki prefecture, there are now 9 households. Now fewer residents are attending the tea parties. But at a recent tea party, there was a lady that came to our gathering. “The cat I took care of died. I was quite down so I am happy that you Baptists are here.” She has already left the temporary housing and has started a new life, but she read about our tea party in a poster and came to the gathering hall on her bicycle. It seems that leaving the temporary housings brings about a whole new loneliness and new worries. There are people that come to the temporary housing tea parties; people that miss the community that they used to have. At the tea parties there are snacks and presents sent from churches throughout Japan. “Even four and a half years after the disaster, people throughout Japan are supporting us”. They receive hope, and return to their daily lives. This is all it is, but we believe that this is what allows people to continue their daily livelihoods. Northeast Japan is yet in the midst of recovering. Please continue to pray and support us. We thank you all.

~DONATIONS~

Goal for 2015: 14mill yen (Domestic and International)

Current collected amount 2015 Sept: 3mill 3670thousand yen (1mill770thousand less than last year this month)

Donors for August and September 2015 – 28 donations were made. We thank you from our hearts.

Nara, Fukuoka Seibu, Seinan Gakuin High School Student Committee, Nakano, Omiya, Tsukuba, Chofu, Katae, Yuko Kubo, Fukuma, Yokodai, Sengawa, Kagoshima, Hiroshima Nishi, Takasaki, Koga, Chofu, Nakano, Higashi Osaka, Texas Japanese Baptist Church, Northeast District Convention Executive Committee, Kawagoe, Northeast District Convention Women’s Committee, Ainoura Hikari, Kagoshima, Kasumigaoka, Koga, Akatsuka.

Donations from 2015 are being used in the following ways.

Disaster victim Support Expenditure		9mill	
	Disaster Victim Visitations	(8mill500thousand)	Visitation support by Local Aid Commity for victims in temporary housing or to individual housholds.
	Volunteer Travel Expenses	(500thousand)	Travel support for volunteers from throughout Japan
Expenditures Related to Nuclear Issues		4mill800thousand	
	Children's Recreational Project	(2mill)	Fukushima ...Church, Koriyama Kosumosu Dori Church project support.
	Health Inspections for Radiation Exposure	(1mill)	Health inspections for radiation expoure sicknesses such as Thyroid cancer.
	Evacuation Plan in Preparation for a Massive Radiation Leak	(100thousand)	Water, medicine, communication tools, transportiom for evacuation preparation.
	Radiation Level Monitoring and "Decontamination"	(500thousand)	Radiation measurement. Creation of measurets to minimize radiation exposure.
	Resettlement Support for Radiation Evacuation	(600thousand)	Resettlement support to low radiation areas. Low radiation district.
	Others (Management, Travel, etc.)	(600tousand)	Travel and management expenses for the committee (three times a year)
Committee Expenditure, and others		3mill190thousand	Committee meeting expenditure, Advertiesment fee, Human Resource fee, management fee, extra.