

## 2011.3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake

### Local Aid Committee News Letter from Tohoku 16March 216 Issue #22

To all the churches throughout Japan, thank you for your daily support and encouragement. It has been 5 years since the Great East Japan Earthquake. However there are yet many things that have not been solved even after 5 years. We have held memorial services to mourn for the past and look back on our lives these 5 years. In this issue we would like to share with you about the memorial and prayer services held in the Northeast Japan churches, and update you on how the devastated areas are doing. We will also like to share about the aid work carried out in Nodamura.

One of the committee members, Pastor Chikayo Kaneko has found an illness. She will be receiving treatment for 6 months at Miyazaki. Please pray for Pastor Kaneko and the Koriyama Kosumosu Dori Church.

#### **Aid Work at Nodamura Temporary Housing Estate**

- It has been 4.5 years since we first visited Nodamura in the August of 2011. At that time there were 195 households in 5 areas. Now, in March, there are only 3 areas, (37 households in Nodamura, 7 in Izumisawa, and 8 in Monzen).
- The initial plan calls for the reconstructed houses to be completed by March, and for most people to be moved in to these houses within April, or May at the latest. Because of the decrease in residents of Nodachu and Izumisawa, it has been decided that the meeting halls for these two places will be closed.
- March 18 (Fri) will mark the 55<sup>th</sup> and last tea party held at the meeting hall. It is because of the grace of God, and because of the prayer and support of people throughout Japan, that we were given the chance to exchange with those in Nodamura.
- The snacks and gifts that you sent from through out Japan brought smiles to those living in the temporary housing estates, and gave them hope that they are not alone. Each time we handed out

the gifts, we would say, “Today this came from Hokkaido, Aomori, Hachinohe...” To this there would be comments like, “thank you for sending them from so far a way...you shouldn’t have”. We are moved every time we here these words.

September 20 2011, the first time a tea party was held in Nodamura Meeting Hall.



- The reason we have been able to continue this work until this day is thanks to the prayers of each person throughout Japan, and the strong bond that the churches had in working together and cooperating as a team. We have been given the task, “until the last person”. There are still those that have to wait for their homes to be completed. Please continue to pray for Nodamura.

(Sameh Baptist Church, Kenichi Hayashi)

### **The Grace of “cooperation” at Nodamura Temporary Housing Estate**

August 9, 2011 was the first time Hakodate Mihara Church visited the Nodamura Temporary Housing Estate. We made shaved ice deserts for the residents. This was the start of our visitations. If this had been an act of just one church in Hokkaido, it would have been impossible to continue. However, straight away, Pastor Kenichi Hayashi of Sameh church showed his support in continuing the aid work, and at the same time the Hokkaido Alliance Disaster Response Team also showed its support. The following December, a meeting was held at Hachinohe church about supporting Nodamura Temporary Housing Estate. Through this it was decided that we would regularly carry out aid work at Nodamura. This was a unique project where the Aomori Team, Iwate team, and Hokkaido Alliance worked together. Sameh church and Hachinohe church are the two central churches closest to Nodamura and took up a big role. Hokkaido church took part in planning events and sent participants. Of course churches in the nearby areas such as Aomori and Iwate always continued to send participants. That is not all. There were many support goods that were sent for this project from churches throughout Japan. When I look back at this project, I am strongly reminded of the word, “cooperation”. Although our visitations to the temporary housing estates will come to an end, it is my hope that this cooperation will continue for Nodamura in a new way.

I would like to send my deepest gratitude to all of you who supported this project.

(Hakodate Mihara Christ Church Masayasu Fukuda)

### **3.11 at churches and devastated areas in Northeast Japan In remembrance of the Disaster 5 years ago**



#### **Sendai Church**

3.11 Evening of mourning and silence

There was a testimony by 2 people.

A moment of silence was held while the piano and Marimba was played. There was also a poem recital.



#### **Koriyama Kosumosu Dori Church**

Evening to remember the East Japan Great Earthquake

There were testimonials and prayers in remembrance.



#### **Koriyama Kosumosu Dori Church**

Tulips were handed out at the March 12 Tea Party at the Midorigaoka 7 Temporary Housing Estate.



#### **Nankodai Church**

5 years after the Great Disaster Mourning and Prayer meeting. Prayers were held with those that evacuated to the church during the disaster



### **Chomeigaoka Church**

March 14, 5 years after the disaster, visitations were held to those that have moved out of the temporary housing, and there was a wonderful time of reunion.



Sweet Pea flowers and message cards handed out during the Oshika aid work.



### **Sendai Chomeigaoka Church**

March 11 gathering of mourning and silence. At 14:46, a 5 minute moment of silence was held.



### **Taitomi Church**

Prayer meeting in remembrance of 3.11  
Reflections for the past 5 years and a moment of silence was held at 14:46.

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