



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

~DONATIONS~

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Fukushima Now ~ Report (5) from a 30KM radius of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant~ “Where is the contaminated water?”

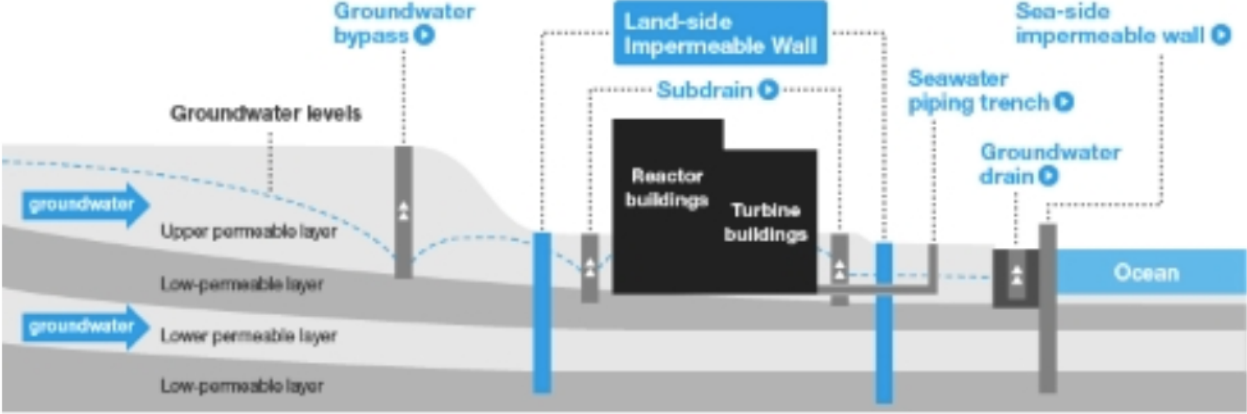
After the TEPCO Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident, various unfamiliar words could be heard on the news. “Contaminated water” was one of them. Contaminated water is “water that has been polluted with chemical substances”. However in recent dictionaries, this definition often also includes a sub-note.”After the nuclear accident, in many cases, this word points to wastewater and groundwater that has been contaminated with nuclear substances. Immediately after the accident news about polluted water leaking from the tank and flowing into the sea became a big issue, but recently we do not hear the topic come up. However, the problem has not been solved, but rather is getting worse.

The major source of contaminated water is groundwater. Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, located on the coast, contaminated groundwater every day, Approx 400tons of groundwater that came down from the mountainsides would be polluted with radioactive material. The project that was devised as a last resort is the “frozen wall” or the “Land-side Impermeable Wall”. The plan is to freeze the soil like a wall around the reactor building so that the groundwater does not enter. The government will invest approximately 35 billion yen. The total length of the wall is about 1500m. About 1500 frozen pipes are buried 30meters into the ground, placed at about 1m intervals. Freezing started in August, and the surrounding soil has now reached below minus 0degrees. However, recent investigations have found that no significant effect has been obtained. We estimated that the amount of contaminated water would be reduced to several tens of tons each day, but the average in October was over 300 tons.

If that is the case, we must continue containing the contaminated water in tanks. Currently, about 1million tons of contaminated water is being kept in 900 tanks. It will soon fill a third of the nuclear power plant compound. Radioactive substance removal equipment can reduce the concentration of the radioactive material to some extent, but even with this, there is no way to remove tritium. However, the government is considering the release of this contaminated water in the ocean despite it still containing tritium. According to the government, "The effect of tritium on the human body is much smaller than that of radioactive cesium, that is set as a standard for radioactive materials in foods, which is about 1 in 1000". Local fishermen oppose this move, and criticism from overseas is inevitable.

During the invitation race for the 2020 Olympics, contaminated water was flowing into the ocean. Japan received much criticism from the world. To this Prime-minister Abe declared, “I promise you. The (Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant) situation is under control”. Now that the frozen wall project has failed, Prime Minister Abe we should pay close attention to how his remark is followed up.

Image of groundwater blockade by frozen wall below. (Source: TEPCO)



**2017 Disaster Fundraising Report
Target: 6 Million Japanese Yen.
Accumulated total as of Nov:
19Mill 10Thousand Japanese Yen.**

Donations during October and November in order of donations. 18 donations. Thank you for your donations.

Kawagoe, Chofu, Ota, Sendai Baptist Ministry
Council, Yuko Kubo,
Morioka, Tokiwadai,
Chofu, Kochi Isesaki,
Nakano, Akinori Tanaka,
Higashi Osaka, Hitachi,
Miyazaki, West Kanto
Women's Convention
One Day Training
Bazaar, Koga, Fukuma,
Hachiman, Book Sales.
We ask for your
continued support.



Local aid Committee (Local Aid Committee Makoto Kanamaru of Sendai Chomeigaoka Church)

This will be the 7th Christmas since the Great East Japanese Earthquake disaster. We will deliver Christmas gifts we received from all over the country to the affected areas. Although this is a small act, I pray that the hope that Jesus Christ was born in midst this world will reach all those that are devastated. Thank you for your continuous prayer and support.
Below is a list of the aid work carried out in December:

Dec 9 (Sat)

- Midorioka Temporary Housing (Fukushima): Koriyama Kosumosu Dori Church Gospel Choir visit.
- Oshika Peninsula Makihamma Temporary Housing, Ogihamma, and Ayukawahama (Miyagi) visitation by members of Sendai Church, Otomichi Church, Nankokudai Church, Chomeigaoka Church and Yurikaoka Church.

Dec 11 (Mon)

- Wataricho (Miyagi) visitations by Chomeigaoka Church.

Dec 14 (Thur)

- Otsuchicho Ando (Iwata) 4th and 7th Housing visitations by Morioka Church and Yamagata Church.

In addition, Pastor Kaneko Chikayo (Koriyama Kosumosu Dori Church) is in Miyazaki fighting an illness. Please continue to pray for her treatment.

Aid Work Carried out by the Great East Japan Earthquake Support Team

At the 62nd Meeting of the Convention General Meeting (Amagi Sanso) held on November 14th - 17th, the disaster area support activity plan for 2018 was approved. This work cherishes the “bonds” that were cultivated with the people of the devastated areas since the Great East Japan Earthquake. We worked to stand beside those who were in suffering and in sorrow. We worked to share comfort. While the prolonging of the reconstruction of the afflicted areas is inevitable, the environment of the affected people is gradually changing. With this, we must come up with new countermeasures based on each new situation. In order to keep the bonds that we have tied as long as possible, we have presented two new focuses in our work as seen below. We also would like to continue publishing the “Bonds of Prayer” and “Local Aid Committee News Letter from Tohoku” and our “Local Aid Committee Gratitude Bulletin” to share about the ongoings and realities of the devastated areas.

- Support activities by the local aid committee: We will continue our support for victims centered around Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima. We are gradually moving away from supporting the temporary housings. We will continue to stay with the last of the residents who are left behind in the temporary housing and are in a state of frustration. Concerning the evacuees of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident, It has been raised that many elderly people will be left behind in temporary housing, unable return home. We would like to consider how to help this situation in a long-term way.
- Support activities for victims of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident: For churches in Fukushima prefecture, we will focus on promoting future health through activities such as the child recreation project and radiation checkup. Among them, in particular, thyroid examination and continuation of comprehensive medical examination including cancer checkup for people who are in a state of long-term stress. These are judged to be important. We hope to carry these out as long-term activities.

In the fiscal year or 2018, we will use the 6mill yen in donations, along with the remaining funds from the prior year. We will have 21mill yen as our resource. 3mill 250thousand yen for aid carried out by churches within the devastated areas. 4mill 450thousand yen for aid carried out to the victims of the Fukushima Daichi Nuclear Power Plant. 1mill 960thousand yen for general expenditures including public relations, and promotion of aid work. In total, we have budgeted 9mill 660thousand yen. (Secretariat)