

Third Quarter Report September, 2011

“Turn to Me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God and there is no other.” (Isa. 45:22)

Since March 11th we daily pray for the nation of Japan that every Japanese learns from the Great Disaster that there is none other but the Lord God of the Bible Who can save them from eternal ruin, which will be no comparison to the ruin of the tsunami and radiation disasters. So we continue sowing the seed of the Gospel at every opportunity as we meet people, giving out special tracts about the disasters and inviting them to come to worship and hear the Word of God.

We held our annual VBS at the end of July and we had about 15 children attend altogether for three days. The theme this year was “The Light of the World.” It was particularly meaningful as the children knew lots of people have lost “light” for their daily life due to the disaster. The children, who know Jesus is the True Light, were encouraged to shine as the light of the world praying for and helping those who are saddened by the loss of their loved ones and their homes. Because attendance in SS has greatly diminished among the churches in Japan, we are grateful for the opportunity the Lord keeps opening for children to come to our church!

Mrs. Nakamura, who reunited with her husband this June, continues attending Sunday worship and other women’s fellowship groups. However, she has a big burden because her husband has cancer. Please pray that Mr. Nakamura might turn his heart to Christ through this hardship. Pray that Mrs. Nakamura’s seed of faith also grows so as to acknowledge Jesus as her Savior and Lord before too long.

Shinichi and Mayumi Inoue faithfully continue their preparation class for baptism. They will be ready in November for double examinations, one for their own faith, and another for claiming their 8-year-old Yuka as a child of the covenant. In their busy daily schedule they now hold a special family time of devotions on Thursday evenings. I mentioned in my last report that I had suggested that they do that on “their rather free evening.”

Please remember them in your prayers as they are coming close to the day of professing Christ before God and His church.

It has been our heart-burdened concern that Haruhiko and Miki Yarimizu have been postponing their baptism. Mr. Yarimizu all of a sudden seems to have lost his interest in following Christ, though his reason is that since April he was transferred to a different department in the prefectural office. He has not been coming to church with his family since July. Please pray that he will come back.

Twice a month after the Sunday service I teach adult SS. We just began studying God's love from Tim Keller's "Prodigal God." We are looking forward to learning God's generous giving of Himself in the story of two sons, especially how His loving concern toward the older brother might affect us in changing our lives as it did with the younger brother. I am hoping that the Lord will use this Bible study time for our Christian brothers and sisters to open their eyes to the recklessly spendthrift love God has stored for us so that we may all respond to it in our daily walk with God and with each other.

We are planning two big events in October: one is our "one-day family retreat," in the 2nd week, which we had for the first time last year. We liked it so much we decided to do it again; another is the annual evangelistic service on the 4th Sunday. I will report on these two activities in my year-end report in January!

My health issue continues in that I am not gaining weight and that pain has not gone yet. Fortunately the most recent tests I had this summer showed no sign of metastasis. However, the camera examination showed some inflammation in the stomach. My digestive internal medicine doctors warn that stomach cancer patients with inflammation after the operation may become cancerous more readily than normal persons, while my digestive surgeon says, "Stomach cancer patients often have inflammation problems after the operation due to excessive acid. It shouldn't present any serious problem at this point." So I just continue as long as the Lord gives strength.

One very important piece of news concerning the disaster: The OPC Japan Mission in cooperation with the Christian Reformed Church of North America Japan Mission and Koshin (Korean) Presbyterian Church Japan Mission has established a Relief Ministry Center in the town of Yamamoto Cho, a town largely damaged by the tsunami. The purpose of this relief center is to provide relief ministry to express the love of Christ in word and deed to victims of the March 11, 2011 Tohoku (Northeastern) Earthquake and Tsunami. The center will also provide a meeting room for regular weekly worship services to be held in accord with the directory of worship of the RCJ. The constituent parties of the Relief Center hope that in the medium or long run, a new RCJ congregation may emerge as fruit from this ministry.

Please do pray for this relief outreach effort as three major Reformed and Presbyterian missions have gotten together to proclaim the gospel of our Lord in both word and deed, indeed! Again I would like to encourage and invite my fellow presbyters in the MV Presbytery to contact the Diaconal Committee of the OPC, either as a congregation or as individuals, if you are interested in supporting even financially such a relief project in the Name of Christ conducted by Reformed-Presbyterian missions in Japan. The following is the contact information:

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Information

A. Number of letters to date this year: Supporters: 250

Newsletter: 1

Email-Update News on Disaster Relief: 2

Number of “days off” taken this quarter: 10 (July ~ September)

Acknowledged by Mr. Mark T. Bube

General Secretary of the Foreign Missions Committee of the OPC