

The Year-End Report of 2011

“The Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” II Pet.3:9

We have written via e-mail many of the devastating, heart-breaking, encouraging, challenging, numbing, awakening details of the earthquake and tsunami and the radiation problem that ravaged the northern Pacific coast of Japan in March. Let us tell you some of the results and on-going efforts at this point. And with all these disastrous events, the Lord God seems to present us right before our eyes the precious truth about His love and our duty to proclaim that love in the Gospel, so that indeed people, both within and without the directly hit disaster areas, will come to know that their Creator is patiently waiting for them to turn their hearts to Christ in repentance!

After teams of OPC volunteers surveyed damage, cleaned houses and yards, fed hundreds of people and helped areas around Sendai in innumerable ways, our mission, in partnership with the Japanese church and three other missions was able to buy an inundated dental clinic. The dentist decided to re-locate to a different neighborhood. He and his wife were so pleased with the work (throwing out the ruined equipment, walls, floors) and the attitude of the volunteers, they said they wanted the Christians to have their place...for 10% of its value! The building itself was found to be in good shape. The vision is to repair the inside and use this large place as a Ministry/ Relief Center. Goods will be distributed, counseling provided, Bible classes taught and worship services held. After three years the hope is to turn the facility over to the Reformed Church in Japan. We are all very excited about this. Please keep this project in your prayers.

In Yamagata where we live, refugees from the Fukushima nuclear plant area came for shelter. One place provided was a sports center near our house. For a couple of months, thanks to your and other OPC members' generosity, we were able to visit and take hundreds of things such as shoes, diapers, underwear, Kleenex. Not only did Kaz become a familiar face at the shelter, he also made friends at the shoe outlet and discount stores! The staff at the shelter expressed appreciation that even after the community had stopped making contributions, the Christian church still kept coming! By June most of the refugees had been provided with hotel rooms or public housing (nothing like what we think of in America!) for one year. We decided to take a postponed and shortened home assignment in MS. We were able to

show DVDs of what had been going on along the coast, as well as our work in Yamagata. The interest and generosity of the folks we met was such a comfort and encouragement. Praise God for the "communion of saints!"

In October our little chapel held another one-day retreat at a spa! The adults were blessed listening to a taped lecture by a famous novelist. The children learned Bible verses about being thankful, then played "Scrabble Jr." in English! Everyone enjoyed a wonderful lunch and bath (Men and women separately, I need to clarify!)

On the 27th of November a friend of more than 20 years, Mayumi, was baptized along with her husband, Shinichi Inoue, and their little girl, Yuuka. Shinichi said he had been living on a "bed of nails" made of his guilty sins, until he learned that Jesus had died on the cross to pay for those sins, that He loves him, and delights in him! He has been changed from guilty to joyous! Mayumi said her coming to Christ took a long time, but she has finally committed her life to him. "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!"



Shinichi Inoue Giving Testimonies for himself and on Mayumi's behalf

On Dec.7th we held our annual WIC-sponsored Christmas ladies' Luncheon where 29 women gathered. Our speaker this year was Tsuruko Uomoto, an OPC missionary's wife. She brought a simple but a straightforward Christmas story challenging our non-Christian friends to hold Christ as their Savior! Finally our friends, students, neighbors are willing to listen to what we've been trying to tell them all year: "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." Please pray that they will understand that greatest event in all of history

Finally, please pray for Haruhiko & Miki Yarimizu, our "never-ending" seekers, so that they or one of them, at least, will come to conviction that they must make a profession of faith and start a new life in the Lord Jesus without hesitation or shyness sharing their faith publically. Mrs. Yarimizu had a hysterectomy just before Christmas. Please pray her pain will be lessened and through this ordeal she will realize the living presence and kind hand of her Savior.

One additional report: in the first week of November I got a call from the Wedding Chapel asking me if I would be willing to officiate for a Christian doctor's funeral. A member of the hospital board of trustees, where this doctor was working, happened to be a man whose daughter I had taught and performed a wedding ceremony for. When this doctor died, Mr. Watanabe thought immediately of me and contacted me through the Wedding Chapel which also has a funeral service department! To make a long story short, I officiated at the service and preached the hope of eternal life in Heaven and the resurrection. The 30 hospital staff attending were surprised to hear in a funeral service a strong note of hope for a different but a sure life, rather than just remembering the deceased and expressing condolences. The doctor was without family and the service was conducted as an official hospital funeral service. Praise the Lord for one more opportunity to share the love of Christ with our Japanese friends.

Kaz Yaegashi

Information

A. Number of letters to date this year: Supporters: 350

Newsletter: 2 / Email-Update News on Disaster Relief: 2

Number of "days off" taken this quarter: 8 (October ~ December)

Acknowledged by Mr. Mark T. Bube

General Secretary of the Foreign Missions Committee of the OPC