

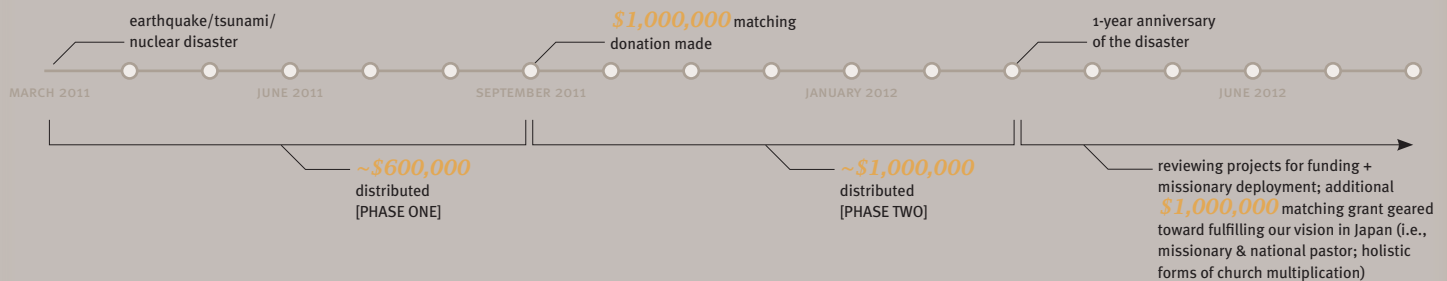
Japan Disaster Relief Review & Update

AN UPDATE ON A2's JAPAN TSUNAMI RELIEF EFFORTS

Summer 2012

Within days of the earthquake/tsunami, Asian Access' relief plan was in motion. Within weeks, half of the Asian Access staff had made at least one trip into the area, both to help and to assess needs.

The A2 Japan Tsunami Relief Fund was quickly established and promoted. A generous foundation established a \$1M matching gift challenge, and this was achieved in September 2011. By the first anniversary, Asian Access has raised approximately \$2.3M for Japan tsunami/earthquake/nuclear relief.



PHILOSOPHY

1

Relationships are key.

Our Vision

To see a vibrant community of servant leaders with vision, character and competence leading the church across Asia.

2

Our Mission & Vision provide focus.

Our Mission

To identify, develop and release emerging kingdom leaders to unite the church, multiply leaders and congregations, and extend the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

3

The Local Church is God's primary vehicle for delivering ministry.

FUNDS USAGE:

- initial relief goods
- support the needs of our teams serving on the ground
- invest in our partners and their unique visions to reach the people of Tohoku
- partial funds for building relief centers
- emotional care
- church planting efforts
- other outreach focused ministries

PHILOSOPHY OF ENGAGING RELIEF:

Asian Access decided to provide resources for our church partners in line with our vision/mission. Therefore, we have given priority to our partners' vision, efforts and projects, especially those that fit within our mission/vision of accelerating church planting and holistic ministry. One of our core values is "people are important," reminding us that these funding options are not simply projects; at the same time, we aimed to be strategic and wise stewards.



Churches Helping Churches



ORGANIZATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS:

Asian Access has been working closely with our primary partner JCGI Network, and supplemented that relationship with CRASH/Japan (with A2 staff/missionaries) and with Churches Helping Churches (CHC) for pastors' Oasis retreats and Pastor Sato's U.S. tour. Other partnerships (e.g., World Venture) highlight the tremendous move of collaboration following the triple disaster.

Disaster Projects A2 Has Supported

Oasis Pastors' Retreats & Adrian De Visser

There have been several Oasis retreats for pastors and their wives who are either victims or involved in tsunami relief. These retreats have brought in leaders from Haiti and Sri Lanka who have shared how they lived and even grew through similar disasters. Pastor Adrian De Visser, who helped coordinate a massive church ministry of tsunami relief in Sri Lanka (in 2004 & continuing today) shared at one such retreat in early December.

Exodus Church Presentations



Pastor Akira Sato's church, Fukushima First Bible Baptist, was forced to evacuate from the nuclear zone. Seventy members traveled together and found sanctuary in Tokyo for one year. In early October 2011, Pastor Sato shared his "Exodus Church" presentation in five southern California churches, Fuller Seminary and in four churches in Chicago. Pastor Sato's trip was a joint project with A2, Churches helping Churches, Saddleback's PEACE project, and World Venture. His book, "Exodus Church" (or "Wandering Church") has been published in several languages. An English language version is in development. The

sequel was published in Japanese at the first anniversary of the disaster, which was also his 57th birthday.

Birthing of Miyagi Mission Network (MMN)

We have supported the development of the Miyagi Mission Network with the vision to plant 1,000 house churches throughout Miyagi Prefecture in the next 8-10 years. This is one example of an encouraging movement toward church planting in Tohoku on the part of many churches, denominations and groups.

Summer Relief Teams

Asian Access deployed four j-Teams in the relief areas in the summer of 2011. These teams came alongside partner churches in doing cleanup work and delivering aid. Ishinomaki has become a focus area where we have had a sustained presence in partnership with the Be One Network (house church) and have developed strong relationships with members of the community. Asian Access has committed to a long-term presence of missionaries in the region.

Missionary Deployment

Four missionary families and one single have been assigned to the disaster area and three units have already moved in. Future missionaries will be placed in the region, as well.

- **Adairs** – near Sendai (*Shiogama Bible Baptist Church with Pastor Otomo*)
- **Boehmes** – Sendai (*Izumi Assembly of God Church with Ito Sensei*)

- **Muhlings** – Sendai (*Church Planting with Pastor Kimura and the Presbyterian Church in Japan*)
- **Takamotos** – Ishinomaki (*Be One House Church Network*)
- **Raymund To** – Yamamoto-cho (*Holistic ministry and church planting with the Keisen Church Group*)

In addition to missionary involvement, Asian Access also highlighted the strategy of supporting the church as a key delivery system for providing initial relief to victims and the ongoing rebuilding of lives and communities. This is where a high percentage of the tsunami relief funds are being directed.

Relief Projects

In keeping with our value of partnering with others, Asian Access is not funding 100% of any of these projects; we are only funding a portion of each. Please note that this is a snapshot as of the time of this report. There will be ongoing funding to some of these projects, and to others not yet on this list.



Fukushima First Baptist Church

Pastor Sato, Exodus Church
<http://f1church.com/>

A2 provided disaster funds to Pastor Sato of Fukushima

First Baptist Church for the purpose of building apartments for the elderly in Iwaki City near the property where the new church will be built. The apartments were completed in time for the March relocation of the Exodus Church. The funds covered the majority of the apartment costs.



Rev. Sato has raised the additional funds needed for the church building. Churches Helping Churches has also provided some funds for the church building.



Iwate 3.11 Network/ Morioka Bible Baptist

Pastor Yoshiya Kondo

<http://311.ichurch.jp/?lang=en>

Funds were allocated to help purchase a building and property near Morioka Bible Baptist Church to be used for volunteer and community training and outreach property. This Church is currently providing the majority of relief and volunteers to Iwate through the Iwate 3.11 Network, and this center will be the new base for this.



A property opened up that is well suited to meet the needs for the volunteer center. A2 disaster funds covered the purchase price and helped with a few of the necessary refurbishments. Church donations will cover the remaining costs. The volunteers that had been living in the church along with all the stored relief goods were moved into the new center. Since then, more teams have been trained and sent out and new churches have already begun in the Iwate disaster area.



Shiogama Bible Baptist Church (Sendai)

Pastor Yukikazu Otomo

<http://sbcc.jugem.jp/>

<http://www.hopemiyagi.org/HopeMiyagi/Welcome.html>

A2 allocated disaster funds for Shiogama Bible Baptist Church in order to build

a volunteer center on land they secured next door to the church property. This enabled the church to move all its volunteer housing and relief goods into the new facility and allow the church to function again as a church. In addition to providing volunteer housing and storage, the new facility has been used to provide weekends of refuge for groups of children who still live in the nuclear fallout area in neighboring Fukushima.



Food for the Hungry has covered the funds for the foundation of the building. A2 disaster funds covered the majority of the building costs and the church is raising the rest of the funds from among themselves. This project is also being done in cooperation with Churches Helping Churches.



Rifu Christ Church/Oasis Life

<http://en.oasislifecare.org/>

Pastor Makito Matsuda, Senior Pastor and Director of Oasis Life Care; Miyagi Mission Network, Regional coordinator

In line with Rifu Christ Church's original vision to be an agent of transformation for the surrounding community, they immediately began aiding those in the community most affected by the disaster. This included loaning the safe parts of their earthquake damaged camp to volunteer groups immediately after the disaster and continuing now. After initial relief efforts, the church has been focusing on helping rebuild local industries and developing new job opportunities for those who lost their homes, jobs, and their communities.

Asian Access funds have enabled them to register as a general incorporated foundation, which allows them greater access into the community and expands their influence. Funds have also allowed them to create jobs, develop leaders and rebuild communities. Specifically, they are helping rebuild the scallops and sea squirt farming industry in Ishinomaki and they began a leathercraft business for survivors from Minami Sanriku.

A2 funds were also used to purchase a much-needed van to aid in visiting these areas and transporting supplies and people. They are also used to provide transportation for children in temporary housing to receive tutoring.

When the volunteers are done with the camp they plan to repair the damage and turn some of the space into a sports ministry and cafe for children and their moms.



Gospel Town, Miyagi Prefecture

Pastor Nobuyoshi Nagai,

Tohoku Central Church Senior Pastor

Dean, Kakudai Institute for Missions

Miyagi Mission Network Regional Coordinator

Secretary for Franklin Graham Disaster Anniversary Outreach Events

Gospel Town also sustained earthquake damage but immediately began disaster relief efforts and opened their facility to volunteer groups who still use this as a base of operations. A2 disaster funds have been used to purchase passenger and delivery vans as well as goods to aid in recovery. Delivery vans bring people and goods such as sewing machines, bicycles and other items that help those affected to become productive and independent once again. In addition, when the vision for "on-the-mission-training" of young non-Japanese Christians paired with young Japanese Christians is realized, these vans will be used to commute them to ministry target areas. Pastor Nagai and his team are strategically and holistically thinking of evangelism through relationship and service. They are training people and planting churches in the ministry target areas (rather than bring people out of their communities).



Individual Partners Relief



Pastor Akira Mori, Taira, Fukushima Prefecture
<http://akiranorge.web.infoseek.co.jp/about/index.html>



Pastor Nobuyoshi Nagai, Gospel Town, Miyagi Prefecture

A2 disaster funds have been allocated to assist two pastors who were impacted personally by the disaster—Pastor Nagai and Pastor Akira Mori—and

who have historically been partners with Asian Access. Our aim is to directly help our partner victim pastors (who have not received any aid from others) by specifically dedicating funds to them personally with no strings attached. There are two reasons for this. First, it is customary in Japan to provide “sympathy aid” when are partner, employee, good friend or family member has experienced a very difficult event. Second, pastors who have been victims of the disaster themselves have been financially impacted. They are channeling relief to others without taking any for themselves because others’ needs are so great. Since our money is specifically designated for their personal use, they have been able to use it for the needs of their families and themselves.

More Projects Coming Soon...

There is another tier of projects that is in the approval process, so we will provide further updates as these funds are disbursed. From the 2.3M raised, the balance that has not yet been allocated to projects is roughly \$1M.

Vision for Church Planting

The Miyagi Mission Network was born out of the disaster and has a goal of planting 1,000 churches, including house churches, in Miyagi Prefecture over the next 8-10 years. A2 will serve alongside them in ways that seem most helpful in making disciples and starting and strengthening these churches. Our goal is to not only rebuild physical and social community but spiritual eternal communities as well.

Pastor’s Tour to Sri Lanka (May 2012)

Japanese pastors were invited by Adrian De Visser to tour Sri Lanka in May 2012 in order to personally see how the Church in this country has coordinated and implemented tsunami relief efforts resulting from the 2004 tsunami. This provided innovative vision for their ongoing efforts in Japan.

New \$1M Matching Gift for Japan

Now, there is another \$1M matching gift for Japan. The challenge period for this second matching gift runs through November 2012. Many further projects are envisioned, so raising additional funds is vital.

Conclusion

The first twelve months following the Japan disaster were arduous. It was difficult to anticipate and keep up with the changing needs. Asian Access’ limited prior experience in relief work presented both challenges and blessings. Culturally, it has sometimes been difficult to know how best to help our partners since the Tohoku region in particular does not value speaking openly about needs. This has required patience and an ongoing commitment to active listening and cultural sensitivity.

As a result of the toil, though, it is our conviction that the important groundwork has now been established to deliver ministry for years to come through the Japanese Church. This ministry is holistic and life-transformative, resulting in individuals coming to Christ, and churches planted, to His ultimate glory.

More Info

1. <http://www.asianaccess.org/tsunami-posts>
2. <http://www.asianaccess.org/reflection>
3. For all Asian Access information:
<http://www.asianaccess.org>