

Japan Disaster Relief Review & Update

A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF PROJECTS SUPPORTED THROUGH ASIAN ACCESS RELIEF

Fall 2013

On behalf of the Japanese people, we want to thank you for giving toward Disaster Relief in Japan. Your gift was invested in the following projects:

IMMEDIATE DISASTER RELIEF

Helped deliver over 30 tons of relief supplies—food, diapers, hygiene products, soap, toilet paper, bicycles, clothing, blankets, water and bedding—in cooperation with major international Christian aid organizations;

Facilitated several advance teams totaling over 100 volunteers mobilized into the disaster areas doing assessment, delivering supplies, shoveling mud out of homes, performing light demolition work, engaging in emotional care, praying with exhausted pastors, and countless other acts of simple kindness;

Helped coordinate more than 300 volunteers involved either part-time or full-time at CRASH Japan headquarters answering phones, receiving and shipping relief supplies, preparing counseling resources, establishing communications channels for remote teams, developing media resources to mobilize Christians worldwide, cooking meals for workers.

Partners: Samaritan's Purse, Food for the Hungry, CRASH Japan, Be One Network, Hope Miyagi

SUMMER RELIEF TEAMS

A2 deployed teams in the relief areas that came alongside partner churches in doing cleanup work and delivering aid. Ishinomaki has become a focal area where we have had a sustained presence in partnership with the Be One Network (house churches) and have developed strong relationships with members of the community.

MISSIONARY DEPLOYMENT INTO THE DISASTER ZONE

Asian Access is committed to a long-term presence of missionaries in the region. Five missionary families and two singles are now living and serving with partners in the disaster area: Adairs (Shiogama); Boehmes (Sendai); Browns (Rifu); Muhlings (Sendai); Takamotos (Ishinomaki); Raymund To (Yamamoto-cho); Garrett Inouye (Iwakiri). Our commitment highlights the strategy of supporting local churches as a key delivery system for providing initial relief to victims and the ongoing rebuilding of lives and communities.

OASIS PASTORS' RETREATS

Asian Access coordinated several Oasis retreats for pastors and their wives physically and emotionally drained from their work in tsunami relief. Pastor Adrian De Visser of A2/Sri Lanka, who helped coordinate a massive church ministry of tsunami relief in Sri Lanka (in 2004 & continuing today) encouraged pastors at one such retreat. Another time, a Haitian pastor came to share from his experience, which brought hope to Japanese leaders still in the early stages of response.

Partners: Churches Helping Churches, World Venture, CRASH Japan

PASTORS' TOUR TO SRI LANKA

Sent Japanese pastors to tour Sri Lanka in May 2012 with Adrian De Visser in order to personally see how the Church there coordinated and implemented tsunami relief efforts resulting from the 2004 South Asian tsunami. This provided innovative vision for their ongoing efforts and hope for the future in Japan.

SENNAN CHAPEL, KEISEN CHRIST CHURCH NETWORK

Expanded church facility to make a volunteer center and a gathering space for the new church plant, increasing capacity to serve survivors from washed away towns. Volunteer workers can stay and minister to evacuees in temporary housing in order to rebuild the community. Outreach includes a mobile café and English classes.

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EXODUS CHURCH REPORTS

In October 2011, Pastor Akira Sato (pastor of Fukushima First Bible Baptist Church evacuated from the nuclear zone) challenged churches in Southern California and Chicago with his “Exodus Church” reflections. This was a time to speak of God’s sovereign protection of churches and to garner prayer support for the ongoing work in Japan



FUKUSHIMA FIRST BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

A2 provided disaster funds to Pastor Akira Sato (see above) for the purpose of building apartments for the elderly in Iwaki City where Exodus Church relocated in March 2013.



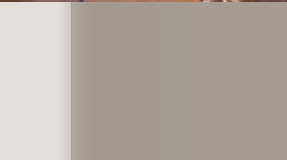
MIYAGI MISSION NETWORK (MMN)

We supported the birth of the Miyagi Mission Network, an encouraging multi-denominational movement toward planting churches throughout Miyagi Prefecture following the disaster.



IWATE 3.11 NETWORK

Enabled Morioka Bible Baptist Church to purchase a building and property near the church to be used for volunteer and community training, plus outreach. This facility is currently providing relief, as well as lodging, orientation, and debriefing for volunteers through the Iwate 3.11 Network.



GOSPEL TOWN

Purchased passenger and delivery vans for Gospel Town in Miyagi, as well as goods for personal jobs creation and winter survival, which increased the capacity to bring volunteers and relief goods to the various sites.



SHIOGAMA BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH (SENDAI)

Helped Shiogama Bible Baptist Church to build a volunteer center on land they secured next door to the church property. The church moved all its volunteer housing and relief goods into the new facility, allowing the church to train volunteers and provide short-term stay for children evacuated from the nuclear threat in Fukushima.



RIFU CHRIST CHURCH/OASIS LIFE

Helped to establish a non-profit organizational status for the church enabling them to engage in various community development projects in disaster-affected areas. This includes a leather craft project and also helping local fisherman recover and redevelop their scallop and sea squirt businesses.



OCHAKKO HOUSE

This creative church plant utilizes a tea-house ministry to provide a place for local victims to meet in community. In an effort to boost the local businesses, Ochakko House provides promotion and distribution of products outside the disaster zone. It also serves as a place for relief volunteers to stay while ministering to the community.

THE ROCK

Helped the launch of The Rock, a center for victims of the disaster, providing a place for youth to play and find community. It offers the community activities such as rock climbing, mountain biking, and various events for youth to regain the spirit of hope.

INDIVIDUAL PARTNERS RELIEF

Assisted pastors who were impacted personally by the disaster, who have historically been partners with Asian Access. We have come alongside these hard-working partners to encourage and bless them with much needed personal aid.



ISHINOMAKI HOUSES

Built two houses in target area of Ishinomaki to facilitate house church movement in partnership with Be One. One house is a missionary residence and meeting place for the house church, providing an ongoing, incarnational presence in the community. The second home is available for community building and currently houses the Nozomi Project, a social enterprise, which employs local women affected by the disaster to design, produce, and sell jewelry using shards of pottery broken in the disaster. This ministry continues to bring hope and healing to an area hit hard by the tsunami.