

What we will be able to do at the time of the tragic situation
caused by the East of Japan great earthquake.

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The great earthquake caused by the huge slip of the fault under the east sea of Japan struck the North East part of Japan. Numerous houses and buildings collapsed. The lifeline is torn to pieces by this seismic disaster.

Within 30 minutes after the earthquake, a nearly 20 meter high wave (Tsunami) attacked to the east coasts, crossing over a 10 meter's breakwater, pushing warehouses, factories, houses and cars, and smashing them to atoms. Those who could not escape from the Tsunami were sucked under the wave. More than ten and half thousand people were missing at the moment by the Tsunami.

The effects of the great earthquake and the Tsunami were that motors for pumping water into the nuclear reactors were knocked out of use. Fuel rods in the reactors are appearing on the surface of the water at Fukushima No 1 nuclear power station and there is some radiation leaking from the reactors.

Caused incidentally by the awful situation of the station, other accidents are occurring from one minute to the next.

In order to recover the normal condition, those who are responsible for the station are working without resting.

I would like to report about the damage to Anglican churches, The Cathedral Church of Tohoku Diocese in Sendai is seriously damaged. The tower of the parish church of St Steven's in Mito city collapsed, the wall behind the altar collapsed. Walls and ceilings of the Anglican church in Shimodate were damaged. St. John's in Isoyama, located 500 meters from the coast must have suffered great damage. However we have received no information, including about more than 10 members of the church. Also the safety of St Peter and St. John in Koriyama has not been reported.

Clergy of Anglican and Protestant churches are safe except a Canadian Catholic priest who was killed.

The survivors from the earthquake and the Tsunami and those who have not been affected by them are trying to confirm of the survival of their relatives and friends. But the shredding of the communication and transportation network is interfering with their attempts. At the moment, the shortage of professional staff who can manage the acceptance of volunteers, who are wishing to look after victims of this disaster, makes it difficult to establish the organization of the relief agencies.

The following is a survey of the suffering of the earthquake on 19th March.

6,911 persons killed.

More than 19,370 persons are still missing.

The number of the refugees is 403,975

25% of 4,702 dead bodies who have been found have completed their identification.

But about 1,900 bodies have not been identified.

18,544 houses are completely or half collapsed. However houses washed out by the tsunami are not countable.

Last night, a deacon of my diocese has gone to the afflicted area by car which is more than one thousand kilometers from Kobe, to inspect the current situation of victims, almost all of them are now staying at schools, gymnasiums, community halls, being as shelters.

In this terrible situation, all we can do is to pray for the victims of the earthquake and for the recovery of the atomic power station, for those who are struggling with it, concentrating the wisdom of their knowledge and skill to find the resolution to recover.

At the time of the Great Hanshin earthquake 16 year ago, from outside of Kobe area we received encourage, enhancement and hope for the future from people's prayer and emergency assistance. Thanks to their prayer and support, the city of Kobe and our churches rapidly recovered.

All churches and chapels will pray for the East Japan great earthquake in the Sunday service on 20th.

I would like you to join the link of prayer for it.