

News Letter No. 4

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Let Us Walk Together Project

NSKK Support for Victims of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake



Cleaning photographs in the Hongo district



Helping with the move to Izumi Tamatsuyu Temporary Housing

This Issue Features: **Kamaishi Base and Onahama**



Distributing handmade cushions at Kaminakajima Temporary Housing



Outdoor tea and coffee shop at Izumi Tamatsuyu Temporary Housing



Kamaishi Base – the look of the 1st floor “Salon”



Helping out at Izumi Tamatsuyu Temporary Housing

The Kamaishi Base is up and running



Some two months have passed since the setting up of the NSKK Let Us Walk Together! Project — Kamaishi Center for Aid to Victims (the Kamaishi Base). Two volunteer coordinators, Mr. Yuji Ebihara and one clergyperson, are in residence there.

Activities in Kamaishi started with the dispatch of Fr. Iino Masayuki on April 7. Fr. Iino took relief supplies to the various evacuation centers. He made a point of visiting such small fishing villages as Hongo, Kerobe, and Oishi, laying the basis for our present activities there. A great deal was accomplished with the full-out cooperation of the Kamaishi Shin'ai (Divine Love) Church and Preschool.

Describing current activities: As part of aid in the small fishing villages, we are cleaning photographs that washed up on the beach at Hongo, which is a little ways from the center of Kamaishi City. Next is the "cushions project," which is an element in visits to temporary housing. Concerned women at St. Paul's church in Odate together with others from the Hokkaido Diocese take in orders from the temporary housing areas and distribute handmade cushions. Since there is no insulation beneath the floor in temporary housing units, one gets cold sitting there, so the residents are very happy with our efforts. We hope to deepen our relationships with the recipients of this aid and get just that close to the heart of the refugees. We will also be giving a priority to support for "housing treated as

temporary housing." Local administrations have decided to regard some of municipal and other housing units as a form of temporary housing, and they will pay the rent for such housing for no more than two years. Unlike normal temporary housing, these housing units have not received material aid, and support from volunteer and other groups has not reached them. We want to give careful attention to these areas and provide continued support for them.

Future plans include setting up a tea parlor for the temporary housing units. This support will be given in conjunction with the Council for Public Welfare, so that, having chosen a day of the week when meetings will be held, a place can be provided in the temporary meeting hall where people can gather to talk, drink tea, and pursue their interests in handicrafts and the like. We are also considering shopping trips for those facilities that do not have good access to regular shopping.

Kamaishi Base is suffering from a lack of personnel, and so even scheduled distribution of material aid is not going forward smoothly. So, we are seeking more volunteers to work at Kamaishi. We can accommodate about ten persons in our local quarters. We ask for your favor toward this work.

Deacon Samuel Yoshino Akio (Hokkaido Diocese)

Resident from Sept. 5 through 28.

Onahama Base Report



Living quarters for volunteers

Immediately after the earthquake, aid activities were launched by parishioners, care-givers for kindergarteners and volunteers, under the direction of Fr. Kenzo Koshiyama of St. Timothy's Church, Onahama. Learning of this, clergy and laity of the Kobe Diocese launched activities of their own, helping provide a firm foundation for the Onahama Base. The reopening of the kindergarten in Onahama at the start of April brought this phase of activities to a close, but in order to continue aiding the area, the Kobe Diocese searched for a base for operations, and with the cooperation of the Kita Kanto Diocese chose St. Andrew's Church, Hitachi as a new center. Simultaneously, it was determined that the three dioceses of Kyoto, Osaka, and Kobe would add their capacities so that this work could continue. On April 19 a service was held in St. Andrew's, Hitachi, marking the beginning of the Kyoto, Osaka, and Kobe Diocese Hitachi Volunteer Center. Over one hundred volunteers came to the center, allowing for a wide range of activities. Starting the day with morning prayer, volunteer activities took place, with meals taken in common, and the sharing of reports on work. Activities at Hitachi came to an end at the end of June, but our base of operations was shifted to the Onahama St. Timothy Volunteer Center, and on August 23rd we had an opening service of worship.

With the cooperation of the church and kindergarten, accommodations were set up within the church grounds, and local coordinators from the Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe dioceses plus a steering committee member from the Kita Kanto Diocese and many volunteers have been working together there. At present there are three foci: 1) service to Izumi Gyokuro temporary housing; 2) cooperative activities with Onahama St. Timothy's church and its kindergarten; 3) aid activities for the NSKK churches within Fukushima Prefecture. Volunteers from Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe and the Kanto area are all actively involved.

Fukushima Prefecture in particular has to deal with the great problem of



Temporary toilet and shower facilities

radiation.

We can only do small things in response, but we want to do anything we can to deepen our ties to the people of the area, including those who have become refugees, and be serving them in such a way that each may have a real sense of God's love.

Onahama St. Timothy's Volunteer Center
(Onahama Base)

Administrative Head

Fr. Fujiwara Takehisa (Kyoto Diocese)

From the Project Office

September activities (Sendai area base)

■ Shinchi-machi Program

Once a month “tea times” will be starting at the meeting hall of Hirohata temporary housing. Bazaars to support recovery efforts will take place in the meeting hall, with sales proceeds being donated to the residents’ association. Our activities are proceeding in cooperation with this association, in such forms as setting up notice boards.

■ Hakozukasakura housing Complex Natori City

Continuing the every Thursday shopping bus. Recently, we have set up a stand for fire extinguishers.

■ Support going to home-dwellers still needing basic assistance in Ishinomaki City

Continuing the provision of aid to home-dwellers seeking basic assistance in the area of the former (smaller) Ishinomaki City. Also, together with the Lutheran Church aid (“Tonaribito”) and the NPO PARCIC, we are trying to develop plans for future aid toward the fishermen of the Jusanhama area of the former Kitagami-machi who suffered in the earthquake.

■ Readjustments to material aid

We are now starting in on getting a grasp of needs for the upcoming winter. Even though we will basically rely on local purchasing, when there are high-volume

needs, we may possibly request some supply of materials.

■ Support for foreigners

The class for reading and writing Japanese in Shizugawa in Minamisanriku-cho is going along smoothly. From October, we will begin studies to gain second-level qualifications as home helpers. They are aiming to get their qualifications by March of next year.

Notices

■ Generally speaking, we are raising volunteers for the various operation bases through the webpage. We are raising members for Kamaishi Base and Onahama Base on a continuing basis, but there have been changes in the conditions that apply, so please apply after checking on these changes on the webpage. We would be appreciative if you can share the material we put on the website with those around you.

【URL : <http://www.nskk.org/walk/index.html>】

- As one of our programs to aid the handicapped, we have begun distributing Kesennuma “Himawari” cookies. Materials regarding this are being distributed by the NSKK Women’s Group. Purchase of cookies is not a requirement in this distribution. The primary aim is to raise our awareness of those handicapped that live in the affected areas. The amount of cookies that can be produced is limited, so in requesting cookies, please act in line with the information given regarding possible date of receipt.



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