

News Letter No. 5

Issued December 1, 2011

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**Let Us Walk Together
Project**

NSKK Support for Victims of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake



Fukushima No. 1 Nuclear Plant, Unit 3
(photo from Tokyo Electric Power Co.)



Bi-daily decontamination of classroom buildings
(St. Paul Kindergarten)

In the Midst of Radiological Contamination

On March 11, 2011, the earthquake and tsunami which assaulted eastern Japan destroyed the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant and caused the type of accident which had been most feared, as radioactivity scattered with the winds. Eight months have now passed, and radioactive materials are creating a grave impact, producing grave fears for our daily lives. Radioactivity has a grave impact on the human body. What can we do now to protect the health and livelihood of people? How can we protect the lives of the children? We believe that God is together with those who find themselves in distress and fear. We desire to walk together with them, praying that the day will come when smiles can return to this afflicted area.



Bi-daily measurement of
radioactivity



Kindergarteners with devices to
measure individual accumulated
dose



Looking in on study group dealing with
"Radiological Contamination and our Daily Lives"

**St. Paul's Kindergarten (Kouriyama City)
Principal, Atsuko Kikuchi**

March 11 – the sudden onslaught of the earthquake and the nuclear reactor melt-down. Due to this unprecedented massive earthquake, even now, seven months later, we spend our days anxiously, in terror of radiation that cannot be directly seen. Engaged as we are in the education of young children, we teachers are busy at decontamination activities so we can do every little bit possible to lower the radiation levels, so that the children can feel safe about coming to school. However, it is a fact that in some families, only the father is remaining in Kouriyama, while mother and children have fled outside the prefecture, so that families have been broken up – an unfortunate situation. Whatever the situation may be, we have steeled our hearts, telling ourselves that it is vitally important for children that their families can all be together. As educators, we will also be acting for the benefit of those who have decided to stay in Kouriyama, cooperating with these people who are in the same position as us, since we share in the same pain. We earnestly hope that, just as soon as possible, we can hear the happy voices of the children here.

Sts. Peter and Paul's Church, Koriyama and St. Paul's Kindergarten - Our Struggle to Decontaminate
St. Martin's Church, Tokyo parishioner Takeo Okazumi

As we carry out decontamination activities at the kindergarten in the morning, the pupils wave to us with cheerful smiles. Ever since the disaster, the children, who cannot play outside at this point, have watched the water spurting from the high-pressure pump I use for decontamination with strange looks on their faces. Radiation is an incredibly terrifying thing – invisible, colorless, odorless.

Through the kindness of the parish priest, I have been staying at the rectory of the church, and each day, morning and evening, I work hard to decontaminate the kindergarten and church building. The parish priest and his wife have been so full of loving kindness that my overflowing joy in being allowed to live and do this work overwhelms any fears of radiation.

For me this decontamination work in Kouriyama is truly a prayer. An evil force that has no visible shape and casts no shadow is trying to injure all living things. "Please protect the children," I pray as the water spurts forth. My days are filled with prayer as I put every effort into decontamination.

**Misono Kindergarten (Fukushima City)
Principal, Minoru Hosoya**

Because March 11 was the anniversary of the founding of our school and a holiday, our pupils were spared the terror of experiencing this disaster at the kindergarten itself. The 37-year old building still stood firm on Misono's soil. I firmly believe that the children and the kindergarten were protected by God, and given a new lease on life. For that reason, we can now face up to our current trials. The new school year began under a great cloud of anxiety, but we were able somehow to carry out most of the activities planned for the first and second semesters, accompanied by the smiling faces of our pupils. Every morning we monitor seven spots inside and outside the kindergarten, praying that the amount of radiation will have fallen, even if only slightly, from the previous day. Our intent is to carry out decontamination measures slowly but surely both inside and outside the kindergarten, in cooperation with the parents and guardians of the children, in the hope that one day soon this daily burden can be brought to an end. And we will continue working hard to carry out our mission of "early childhood education", with the sense that this kindergarten has been given its life by our God.

Member of St. Stephen's Church, Fukushima Kazuto Okada

The citizens of Fukushima Prefecture are becoming very knowledgeable indeed about the issue of radiation. The level of knowledge differs from person to person, but it's far above that of citizens of other prefectures. We are now living with the effects of radiation. When the disaster first took place, I never dreamed that it would result in this kind of crisis.

The response by the national government and TEPCO has hardly even gotten out of the gates. They made announcements about decontamination activities, but no concrete plans have yet been made. We would like to begin earth-removal immediately, but the authorities have not determined where to carry it out. People have no idea how long they must lead their daily lives surrounded by radiation.

When you go outside Fukushima you hear very little about radiation on television and radio, but in Fukushima itself time has stopped since the disaster. No one will be able to live with peace of mind until the radiation is removed from our daily environment. Please, everyone, do not forget what Fukushima and its people are going through!

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Project Activities

- ◆ Decontamination work at St Stephan's church, Fukushima, and St Paul's church, Koriyama
- ◆ Dispatch of temporary and permanently-stationed decontamination volunteers to Koriyama
- ◆ Study group (Thursday Oct 20, roughly 50 persons attending)

【Subject】"Radiation Pollution and our Daily Life ? Lessons from Chernobyl and Fukushima"

【Speaker】Masaharu Kawata

As Director of the Chernobyl Central Relief Organization (an NPO set up to carry out relief work for the victims of the Chernobyl atomic power plant accident and provide international support and protection for human rights), Mr Kawata spent more than 20 years devoting himself to relief activities and studying the effects of the Chernobyl atomic accident.

【Subjects covered】

1. Comparison of the Chernobyl and Fukushima atomic power plant accidents
2. External and internal radiation exposure
3. Radiation measurement units
4. What is necessary now
5. Ground pollution and measures to deal with it
6. Methods of protection against radiation exposure

< Future Activities Planned >

- ◆ Decontamination work
(dispatch of volunteers, etc.)
- ◆ Let's Play Outside! program
(short-term evacuations of children from Fukushima)

News from Project

October Activities (Sendai Area Base)

■ Natori city temporary accommodations

At the request of Natori City Social Welfare Authority, we extended the weekly Thursday shopping bus service to two more locations.



■ Kesennuma area

Using St Nathaniel's church, Murone, as a base, we began support for the Kesennuma area in the early part of the week. Support is being provided for clients and families at the Himawari workshop. The majority of clients are commuting from temporary accommodation centers, often inconveniently located, so we are providing transport to help them with visits to the doctor's or local authorities etc.



■ Support for non-Japanese

Our Japanese classes for women from the Philippines living in Shizugawa in Minamisanriku are proceeding well. From October we have begun some off-site instruction

with the cooperation of Sanko Welfare College, which has courses for the development of home helpers. The aim is to have the women receive qualifications by May next year. We already have some candidates for our next support efforts.

information

■ Call for volunteers

A call for volunteers for each base area has been posted on our home page. We continue to seek volunteers for Kamaishi and Onahama bases. Please apply directly after checking the information on the site. We would be grateful if you could also share this information with those people around you.

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

■ On the newsletter

Headquarters' aim in publishing the newsletter is to convey information about our project's activities to as many people as possible, using photographs, in an easy-to-understand way. At the moment we are producing the same number of copies as the total number of reports produced by each diocese. Each copy costs about 7 yen, but we ask your understanding, as we feel this is a necessary expense.

We would ask for your continuing support.

Report on Inflows and Expenses for the “Let Us Walk Together! Project”

Praise the Name of the Lord.

Soon, eight months will have passed since the great earthquake and tsunami of March 11 and the accident at the nuclear power plant which followed. We continue to be riveted even today by the vastness of the area that was impacted, the enormous number of victims, the effect of radioactivity that continues to this very day, and other such factors. Even in the midst of this, we in the “Let Us Walk Together! Project” are able to continue our activities uplifted by your prayer and support. We now report to you on one element of your support, on inflows and expenses as of the end of September, through detailing the extent of funds received and uses of funds.

Total Donations 173,479,806 yen

Made up of

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Domestic donations | 87,285,506 yen | |
| Overseas donations | 85,827,215 yen | |
| Other amounts | 367,085 yen | (in thanks for accommodations, etc.) |

Total Expenses 134,121,011 yen

Made up of

| | | |
|---|----------------|---|
| Aid expenses for affected dioceses | 4,134,040 yen | (urgent aid going to affected dioceses) |
| Restoration of affected buildings | 86,421,373 yen | (urgent repairs for churches, kindergartens etc. in the various dioceses) |
| Disaster Response HQ | 4,946,657 yen | (urgent material purchases and deliveries, costs of meetings, etc.) |
| Cost to support the dioceses' disaster response HQs | 6,486,450 yen | (Paying off advances from the various Dioceses) |
| Sendai Office | 21,831,973 yen | (cost for office, staff dwellings, purchase of relief materials, personnel, travel, vehicles, PR, etc.) |
| Petty cash advances | 27,041 yen | (office petty cash) |
| Kamaishi Base | 5,617,306 yen | (rental of office, office repairs, equipment, etc.) |
| Onahama Base | 2,700,008 yen | (activity costs, etc.) |
| Shinchi-machi Base | 673,512 yen | (activity costs) |
| Program supporting foreigners | 809,757 yen | (Program to support foreigners in Shizugawa) |
| Program to support the handicapped | 472,894 yen | (purchases of cookies, traditional cocoon-shaped decorations, etc.) |

Balance: 39,358,795 yen

In the period up to the end of September, funds were used mainly for purchase and delivery of emergency aid supplies, setting up our operational bases (rental costs, repairs, equipment, etc.) and for the repairs of buildings damaged in the disaster. From now on, we expect a rise in personnel expenses for dedicated staff. This is because we expect that interpersonal activity will become more important in implementing this project, with us moving from emergency support to efforts like helping people to put their lives back in order and providing support to radiation victims.

We ask that you would please continue to remember those who are suffering even now, and ask for your prayers and support for this continuing aid effort.

December 1, 2011

NSKK Let Us Walk Together Project



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