



Let Us Walk Together Project

NSKK Support for Victims of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake

News Letter

No. 11

Issued 1 July, 2012



▲ At St. Nathaniel's Church, Murone

▲ Himawari's workers (left) and our volunteers packing potatoes

Visit of a Group from the Anglican Church of Korea

- ✎ The Most Revd Paul Kim
"Overcoming Your Tears and Pain"
- ✎ Bishop of Tohoku Diocese, Hiromichi John Kato
"Gratitude for the Visit of The Most Revd Paul Kim"

New Support Base Opens

"Let Us Walk Together!" Project's Fourth Area Base Established

Seaweed Harvesting at Jusanhama Volunteer Work Ends

Thanks to all who helped from throughout Japan!

On May 15, a group from the Anglican Church of Korea paid a formal visit to the Tohoku Earthquake disaster area, led by The Most Revd Paul Kim (above center). The group included the leaders of the Korean church's Omoni Liaison Group (the Women's Group), People's Wardens, and Head of the Missions Committee, seven members of its Social Missions Group, and a journalist of the Anglican Church of Korea Newspaper, and Revd. Yu Shi Gyeong acting as interpreter. The group divided into two, and one group of four, including Bishop Kim, toured the coastal regions of the disaster area by car in the company of Bishop Hiromichi Kato and Tohoku Diocesan Women's Group Chairwoman Wakako Kimura.

The seven members of the Social Missions Group, who work at social welfare sites, visited and held exchanges "Himawari" and "Yume no Mori," two facilities run by the Senshinkai social welfare organization of Kesennuma, in Miyagi Prefecture. They then helped demolish the badly deteriorated catechist residence at St Nathaniel's church in Murone, Ichinoseki City, in Iwate Prefecture.

Overcoming Your Tears and Pain

Paul Kim Keun-san, Bishop of Seoul and Presiding Bishop of the Anglican Church of Korea

On May 15 and 16, a group from the Anglican Church of Korea, including seven members of its Social Missions Group, made an official two-day visit to the Tohoku Earthquake disaster area, where we were shown around by Bishop Kato and members of the "Let Us Walk Together!" Project staff. We had wanted to visit right in the wake of the quake, but regrettably it took a year before we were finally able to come.



Korean visitors and project staff at St. Nathaniel's church in Murone

At St. John's church in Isoyama, we heard the history of the church, and prayed that the heritage of faith itself that parishioners have built up in such a beautiful coastal village should not be allowed to be swept away by a single event like a great tsunami. At Fuji kindergarten (Yamamoto Town, Miyagi Pref.), and at Okawa primary school (Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Pref.) where 74 children and 10 teachers lost their lives, we prayed how we needed to carry on the dreams of these children, never realized for them. Driving through Ishinomaki to Kesennuma City, with the devastated area all around us as far as the eye could see, we were appalled and shocked at the extent of scar upon scar. At St. Nathaniel's church in Murone, Ichinoseki City, in Iwate Prefecture, where we finally stopped, an old notice board from the church's Holy Love Sunday School, found during the demolition of the church's catechist residence, made us ponder the efforts of all our predecessors in faith who have gone before. Although our visit was short, we were unable to suppress our deep sense of tragedy throughout, and wherever we went, we lowered our heads, tearfully, in prayer. It made me personally realize that since the tsunami was powerful enough to bring its damage to the other side of the Pacific, the Japanese archipelago had protected the Korean peninsula from possible similar tsunami damage.



Left: Demolition of the old catechist residence
Right: Sunday-school noticeboard discovered

At the present time, it seems to be still unclear when people will be able to return to their former lives, but we were deeply impressed by the prayers and sincere concern of the NSKK – its dioceses, churches and parishioners – for those affected by the disaster, and their painstaking efforts to help through the "Let's Walk Together!" Project. People all the world over are watching Japan. We also need to consider together what the church should be in the wake of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake. In terms of the damage caused by the nuclear power plant accident and how to respond to it, we are now at the point where not just the church but the human race as a whole is being called to reflect and take practical steps from a cultural and historical point of view.

We are now approaching the 30th anniversary of the Japan-Korea Anglican Church's Joint Mission Cooperation. We look forward to the continuation of this truly joint mission cooperation through activities arranged by the Japan-Korea Joint Cooperation Committee, such as meetings of TOPIK and the Worldwide Anglican Peace Conference in Okinawa, the Japan-Korea Youth Camp, and social mission training programs, and also through the work of the 19 clergy from the Korea Anglican Church now stationed in different parts of Japan. Above all, we want to share in your Great Eastern Japan Earthquake relief efforts, both by visiting the affected areas, as we have just done, and by whatever other means possible, praying with you and sweating alongside you. The most important thing now, to restore and continue to protect the order of God's creation, is to overcome tears and pain, knowing that our Lord Jesus walks with us. (Translated from Japanese written by Revd. Yu Shi Gyeong, which in turn was a translation of the original Korean)



Staff explaining the scene to the visitors at
Onagawa, Miyagi Prefecture



Praying with parishioners in St. John's church in
Isoyama, Fukushima Prefecture

Our gratitude for the visit by The Most Revd Paul Kim

Bishop Hiromichi John Kato Director-General of Let Us Walk Together! Project / Bishop of Tohoku Diocese

Let me express from the bottom of my heart my gratitude for the kind visit made to our hard-hit areas by the Primate of Korea and Bishop of Seoul, the Most Revd. Keun-sang [Paul] Kim. Ever since the devastating earthquake, I have been keenly aware of his desire to hasten to the affected areas together with many other volunteers. Due to circumstances on both our parts, it is now, at the start of the second year of the "Let Us Walk Together!" project, that his visit has taken place.

The words of prayer which the Primate offered at the kindergartens and elementary schools where children were swallowed up by this tragedy, and at [St. John's] church in Isoyama, words truly accompanied by tears, were filled with painful grief, sympathy with the victims, and encouragement and consolation for us. When we consider the history between Korea and Japan, and now recognize this wave of fervent prayer and support coming from Korea, we are moved with a special gratitude and a sense of the spiritual strength of Korean Christianity,



The Most Revd Paul Kim praying at a flower stand at Ohkawa Elementary School [Ishinomaki, Miyagi Pref.]

walknow!
Where are we now?

We want you to know where our project is going, with whom we're working! Here's a picture of how our current activities are proceeding, including further developments in programs already made known to you

■Shinchi Town [Soma, Fukushima Pref.]:

Opening of a new base

On June 9th, 2012, the "Let Us Walk Together!" project opened the "Victim Support Center Shinchi," a fourth base of activities. The opening ceremony was attended by 57 people, made up of representatives of temporary housing's resident's association, along with other residents, parishioners from Isoyama St. John's Church, the head of the local district, staff from the Town Office, staff from Fuji Kindergarten, parishioners from Christ Church, Sendai, and others. They came together in prayer, and then took a look back at the project's activities over the year, using photos.

At Shinchi Town, we began the delivery of aid supplies and other emergency activities soon after the 3/11 earthquake, and then expanded our activities from shelters into temporary housing. In the coming days, we plan to hold tea parties, gym classes and so forth in the base meeting hall. In addition, we plan to make this space available to the community as multi-purpose space.

* Wait for the next issue of this newsletter for more details on the new base!



■Jusanhama [Ishinomaki, Miyagi Pref.]: Helping fishermen

Many fishers are working hard to reestablish their livelihoods, even in the face of the tsunami's devastation. In order to help them, starting May 2011 we introduced the "Jusanhama Wakame Seaweed Cultivation Supporters System," or daily commodities support to this community. Since February to April is the harvest season for "wakame" seaweed, we helped with the task of seaweed processing. With participation from a total of 46 people, in nine working teams, we finished the work to process the harvested seaweed on April 26th, 2012.



Beginning Year 2 of the project!

Ever since the launch of the "Let Us Walk Together!" project, under the Primate Makoto Uematsu and the Provincial Board of Executives [Province of Japan] there have been the project's ten-member Executive Committee (chaired by Revd. Shin'ya Ohmachi of Hokkaido Diocese), and the project's Head Council and Office, responsible for its concrete activities and located in Sendai. The Office includes administrative and publicity sections, along with many staffers from various Dioceses of NSKK active at their various duties, and these work in close cooperation with the Support Centers located in Kamaishi and Onahama.

The Head Council consists of four members, namely, Rt. Revd. Hiromichi Kato (Bishop of Tohoku Diocese) as its chair, Mr. Yutaka Matsumura from Tokyo Diocese as the secretary general, Revd. Kiyozumi Hasegawa as the program director (he will have a particular focus on Shinchi from now on) and a general director, providing overall supervision for the project's activities. During the first year of the project, Revd. Jun Nakamura from Tokyo Diocese, specially appointed from the Province of Japan, took this crucial role as general director and offered valuable service. As the project enters its second year, this crucial role is being taken by Ms. Kei Ikezumi from Chubu Diocese; she will also be the vice chairperson. We would ask all of you for your continued support! (Yutaka Matsumura, secretary general)



Revd. Jun Nakamura
(Tokyo Diocese)



Ms. Kei Ikezumi
(Chubu Diocese)

Help to temporary house residents

- ◆ Chat salon programs: In Kamaishi
- ◆ Gym class program: Kamaishi
- ◆ Shopping bus tour: Natori
- ◆ "Hokkori" ("Comfy") Café (in collaboration with the Japan Christian Church Alliance ("Domei") and others): Iwaki
- ◆ Tea parties and classic movie showings: Shinchi

Also – home visits, delivery of potatoes, confectionery classes, haiku enjoyment groups, meeting hall repairs, building of benches and henhouses, massages, hair cut services, musical concert by Poole Gakuin College

Help to non-Japanese residents

- ◆ Help for individuals (accompanying them to hospitals, city offices, explanatory meetings on group resettlement, etc.): Ishinomaki, Minamisanriku, Tagajo
- ◆ English instructor training courses: Ishinomaki, Minamisanriku, Tagajo
- ◆ Classes regarding revisions to Japan's Immigration Law:
- ◆ **Helper certification program: Minamisanriku**

We established a Japanese course for some Filipinas residing in Shizugawa, beginning in June 2011, so they might acquire Class 2 home helper certifications. In cooperation with a social welfare school, the women went through special lectures, hands-on practice in home helping and work at actual sites. The six students obtained their certifications in April 2012. They had their commencement ceremony on April 28th.



Help for the disabled

- ◆ Help through purchase of products: Sendai (Madoka Arahama), Kesennuma (Himawari)
- ◆ Visit by, fellowship with the Anglican Church of Korea's Social Missions group for fellowship: Kesennuma (Senshinkai, a social welfare corporation)
- ◆ Creating signboard, new product labels for a new store: Kesennuma (Himawari)

Other items

- ◆ "Foot bath" service at a flower market: Ofunato
- ◆ Movie showing at Iwate Prefectural Kamaishi High School: Kamaishi
- ◆ 80th anniversary worship at Kamaishi Shin'ai Church
- ◆ Bishop Kim Keun-sang of the Anglican Church of Korea and company visited areas hit by the earthquake.
- ◆ The Anglican Church of Korea's Social Missions group visited areas affected by the earthquake and did some work in Murone.
- ◆ Laypeople and clergy from Kawaguchi Christ Church, Osaka, and Nagano Mission District, Chubu Diocese make visit to affected areas and helped with logistics work: Sendai, Shinchi, etc.
- ◆ Helping residents transfer belongings from "Super House®" homes to temporary houses: Iwakiri, Sendai
- ◆ Opening ceremony for Shinchi Base: Shinchi
- ◆ Nighttime programs with people linked with Fuji Kindergarten: Shinchi

The colors for the bullet points indicate:

◆ Iwate Pref. ◆ Miyagi Pref. ◆ Fukushima Pref.

There are other activities not listed here, due to space limitations. For more information, visit each base's blog. [in Japanese]

The project's website: <http://www.nskk.org/walk/>

Column On that occasion, with that person

(1) "Shalom" at Onahama

Rev. Nakahara of Kobe Diocese celebrated and preached at a Sunday service at St. Timothy's for the first time in a year (since March of last year). In his Easter season sermon, the priest explained that the Hebrew greeting, "Shalom," had more to it than a mere greeting, that it actually carries a message of encouragement. He went on to say our Lord Jesus probably gave his disciples a sense of peace and confidence as he broke bread with them.

Onahama Base is regularly holding "Hokkori Café" [a "cozy" gathering over tea]. This happens mainly at temporary housing at Izumi-tamatsuyu and Hiruno in Watanabe-machi. When we as volunteers say "hello" or "won't you have some tea with us," we might be experiencing this same thing, all unawares.

(Quoted and translated from Onahama Base's blog, April 2012)

■ Editors' Postscript ■

The "Let Us Walk Together" project is now more than a year old. Each day, our staffers sense various changes in the areas affected by the earthquake. What the people affected talk about is also changing. In consonance with this, the project's activities are changing significantly. So will this newsletter. Up to Issue No. 10, each issue has focused on activities in a specific location. From Issue 11 onwards, we will be changing our design. We hope God will use us to provide information to you in a way that's easier to take in and understand! (from: Public Relations)



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The "Let Us Walk Together!" Project Office **OPEN** Mon-Fri 10:00AM-5:00PM **CLOSED** Sat/Sun/Holidays

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