

2011.3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake

Local Aid Committee News Letter from Tohoku April 25, 2018 Issue #34

We would like to thank all of the churches and ministries around the country for all of your support and encouragement. Seven years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred. Currently in the disaster area, there are many with mixed feelings, wishing desperately to be able to forget while at the same time doing their best to remember. As we remember each and every one of those who are in turmoil in our prayers, we continue to carry out activities in each affected area. Please continue praying for our mission. In this issue we will deliver news about the meetings and activities that were held in memory of 3.11 in the disaster areas and churches. * This year's newsletter will be issued three times a year.

News from the Oshika Peninsula

On March 3, we distributed memorial bouquets and cards to everyone on each of the affected beaches dotted on the Oshika Peninsula. After that, we performed the last "Oshika Peninsula Reconstruction Prayer Worship Service" at the Tsukinoura Gathering Hall. Along with singing hymnals, we were able to hear the testimonies from a total of four people. We also had a sermon from Pastor Makoto Kanemaru, about Corinthians Chapter 1 verse 17 titled, "Do not rely on wisdom of words". Thanks to the people in the afflicted areas that accepted us, we were able to thank the people around the world who supported us in the Lord, as well as give words of comfort to those engaged in local support activities. It was shared amongst everyone that they all felt that this was a time to come together and help our fellow brothers and sisters in need. We were able to feel that this was not only support, but the start of a new relationship, and we were able to pray with new fervor towards the reconstruction of the Tohoku Area.



The woship service at Oshika



In Maihama



News from the Watari Visiting Team

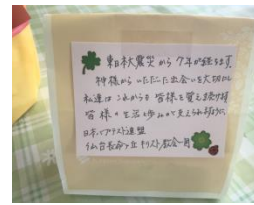
On March 6, we delivered flowers and sweets to 20 people who left the temporary housing in memory of March 11. This time around, we felt as if there were many people who reminisced the pain caused to them through this particular day. In Watari-cho, all the temporary housing will be destroyed. (Sendai Sendai Chōmeigaoka Church)



The temporary housing



The flowers and sweets we distributed



7 Years After the Disaster: At Each Church

On the 11th of March, at the Sendai church, the seventh annual "Evening of Memory and Silent Prayer" was held. Ms. Ichinose Chieko-san (Sendai Church) and Ms. Noguchi Tokiko-san (Fukushima 3a! Safety and Security action in Koriyama) each gave a testimony there. On the wall, paintings by Noriaki Kobayashi, a painter who hosts the "Dakishimeruomoi" project, were shown and the words of those who became the models were recited. (Sendai church)



Morioka Church

March 11 is a special day for those living in the Iwate Prefecture. On Sunday, March 11, we offered a worship service titled "A Day of Worship to Think About 3/11" at Morioka Church. Just before the worship service, many people in the area came in the church as they looked at the signboards, saying "Is it alright if I participate?" Some families came to worship for the first time in a year. During our time for prayers, we read the prayer that the local support committee issued together. It truly felt as if God was gathering us as one, as we each emptied out our hearts before the Lord.

Taitomi Church

On 11th March, we had a Memorial Service and prayed together using the "Prayer in Memory of the Seven Years from the Great East Japan Earthquake" as prepared by the local support committee. In addition to having a moment of silence during the worship service, we also decided to have a silent prayer in each place at 2:46 pm even after worship. In addition, we participated in the "Evening of Memory and Meditation" that was held at Sendai church from 7 o'clock PM.



Chōmeigaoka Church

At the 3/11 Memorial Worship Service, we held a moment of silence at 2:46 PM.

Nankodai Church

~3.11 Memorial Worship~

At the time of the earthquake, Nankodai church was used as a shelter for local people. Every year, people who have shared their evacuation lives with us come to worship. Thank you together again this year. We were given a time of worship and fellowship.

