



Update from Japan

Paul and Rickie Clark

. . . our email to you . . .

No. 19, March 2011

JAPAN TSUNAMI AND EARTHQUAKE eUPDATE

We speak of this as a Tsunami and Earthquake Update because, irrespective of being one of the greatest earthquakes ever, it brought relatively little damage and only a few lost lives, but the tsunami created one of the world's greatest disasters.

Even as we prepare this, not all of the fishing villages that ring the northern coastlines of Japan have been reached. Many are survivors but stranded without water, food, fuel or shelter—and it's winter. For Americans to understand, the areas of the tsunami look like the aftermath of a tornado with nothing but foundations remaining and garbled debris 25 feet deep. The city of Sendai is typical, while having sustained total destruction from the tsunami in the low lands, and yet significant areas of the city showing little, if any, damage. The building high debris and the ponds or lakes of water are graveyards of the thousands who had no chance of surviving. The wall of water breaking over the sea walls and continuing as far as 6 miles upstream was like a wall of moving concrete.

At this hour we have not been able to communicate, since shortly after the earthquake, with our Brother and Sister Chida in Sendai, who are safe, along with co-workers. Some electricity has been re-established in the area, but telephone lines and Internet are not available. Without electricity cell phones cannot be recharged. This symbolizes the breakdown of the infrastructure across the board which extends even south of the general Tokyo area. Stores are empty, no gas is available; and, with rolling power outages to conserve electricity, the food industry, transportation of goods, getting to work in a land that travels by train and bus is at a virtual standstill.

This translates into a "Catch 22" as far as giving or bringing help from outside to this significantly huge disaster area. Only professional people are being allowed in—that is, basically search-and-rescue teams and people authorized by local government to come into the area. Distances preclude travel from anywhere outside the area because of lack of fuel, and service stations on the toll-roads will only sell gas to authorized travelers.

Our Osaka Bible Seminary staff met today and resolved to become a receiving agent for funds to assist the victims of the disaster, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ (Gal. 6:9-10). It is deemed appropriate to wait out the immediate situation until adequate communication and assessment allow for planning a strategy to address this opportunity. We will have representatives going to the area next week.

Presently we can receive immediate tax-deductible funds through our OBS address in Columbia, MO, address: **Osaka Bible Seminary, PO Box 1697, Columbia, MO 65205**. Rather than write a memo on the check, just slip in a note that this is for the present disaster relief, and we will see that 100% of it goes to that purpose. If you let us know by email how much you have sent, we can withdraw it by ATM out of our postal account in yen and see that it is used here as soon as possible. Also, our son-in-law Chad Huddleston is buying a truck to use over the next 3 months to carry relief supplies to the disaster area—contributions appreciated, just ask.



← You've seen straws pass through telephone poles in tornados. Here is a ferry lodged atop a two story building.

OBS staff meeting: strategizing over relief measures to be taken. OBS is acting as a hub for congregations from about Japan. ↗



www.jesus4greaterasia.com
Jesus for Japan

PAUL AND RICKIE CLARK
Osaka, Japan

pclark@kcat.zaq.ne.jp
Osaka Bible Seminary