

Hope Miyagi

Relief Ministry of Japan Earthquake

Newsletter -No.10
2015. Summer
Shiogama Bible Baptist Church



Baptism service



Charity concert • Family Christmas 2014



Watari kids club

Wheaton College students
Island volunteer work ↓ →



Concert with Shizu Takeshita



Farming project with
Northwestern College students



Bread of Life NPO

Message from the director

It is our fifth year serving since March 11, 2011. With your help, support, and prayers, we have been able to continue serving and helping affected communities.

Temporary housing residents have started moving to their permanent housing, including rebuilt homes and government apartments. Although we have been visiting our friends in the temporary housing facilities every month with events and tea time, we will start making personal visits in their new homes. Currently we deliver food items every month to 30 families, but we would like

to increase our giving capacity to 50 families. As we continue visiting these friends regularly, we desire increased opportunities to share the love of Jesus.

Hope Miyagi started the food bank visitation ministry last year. We are currently in the process of having it recognized as a nonprofit organization called Bread of Life.

Our friends enjoy us visiting them and they would like to see us come and visit regularly. We would like to continue visiting our friends who have become very close to our hearts.
(Yukimasa Otomo)

House Church Updates

Watari (from Kougos)

Many have moved to their new homes, whether to houses or to government apartments. There used to be 100 families living in a temporary housing community, but now there are only 17 families there. When we visit friends at the meeting room of the temporary housing, some who have already moved bike and others get a ride as we gather together for the reunion teatime. We hope to continue as long as the needs are there. Our friends in Watari have been making new adjustments in life and there are new challenges. We would like to keep our close friendships and visit regularly with sensitive ears. We appreciate your prayers for our friends to continue to see Jesus' love. In June, we started the kids' program in our neighborhood once every two months. Ten new people came and had fun playing games, listening to a story, and eating snacks. May God use this little work of ours to shine His light in kids' lives.

Sendai Konan (from Otomos)

We welcomed Mr. O into the family of God. His house was affected by the tsunami and required a lot of work. Many volunteers from Samaritan's Purse came to help him. Many Christians cared for and served him with Jesus' love, and over time his heart and life changed. We thank God that he made the decision to follow Jesus and get baptized. He still needs much encouragement and prayers. The house church started a café in June to get to know the community. Thirteen new people came and shared smiles and laughter together. We hope to get to know them more as well as for them to feel safe in our home.

We continue to regularly visit friends at the neighborhood temporary housing facility. Many residences have started moving to their new homes. Posting fliers takes less time than before as fewer people live there every month. We would like to be there for them when they need help and hope to visit them to show that Jesus cares. We also help the farmers with their fields: weeding, harvesting, and whatever other

ways we can serve. Volunteers from two churches are very committed to coming back to help them regularly. We appreciate their help in maintaining friendships and relationships with these families.

Testimony of Baptism (Mr. O from Sendai city)

I lived all my life from childhood in a Japanese traditional religious lifestyle. In addition to going to shrines and temples and participating in seasonal customs, I also prayed to my ancestors by holding memorial ceremonies for them like most other Japanese people do.

My life was filled with dreams and hopes, and I went to work everyday. I lived a busy but satisfying life with my cheerful and kind parents. I had a well-paying job and was able to go to bars every night, go overseas for vacation every year, and buy a new car. I was living a very self-centered life.

But the East Japan Earthquake changed my happy life drastically. I lost both of my parents in the tsunami. I frantically searched for them the first week after the tsunami in schools and hospitals without any success. For 45 days, I looked through hundreds of bodies for my parents. I finally found my mother's body in a coffin and was shocked and saddened to find my father's body carelessly put in a plastic bag. I was devastated and couldn't shed tears then, probably because of shock. I then tried to go abroad in order to escape my desperate reality in Japan. My mental and psychological damage could not be healed easily, and I continued to live aimlessly.

While I was in such a state, I started to repair my parents' house. One day Mr. Tsuneo and Mr. Kuriyama (who are members of Hope Miyagi) came to visit me. They suggested that I receive volunteers from Samaritan's Purse to help repair my damaged house. This was my first encounter with Jesus, and I was served sacrificially. The Christian volunteers were different from non-Christian volunteers. They offered comfort and encouragement. They cleaned my house,

took me to meals and to the onsen (hot spring public bath). They are still showing me kindness even today. I was really curious to know why people who are not my parents or relatives would do so much for me. I began to want to be changed by Jesus like M., a person who was baptized in December 2013. These people made me interested in Christianity, so I took the 4 days intensive study about baptism. I came to realize how selfishly, recklessly, and sinfully I had lived my life. I understood that I am a sinner and that the king of my heart was myself. I asked Jesus to lead my life and accepted that Jesus died on my behalf for my sin. I prayed that prayer with Mr. Tsuneo and Mr. Kuriyama.

Since then my life is changed considerably. I used to love to drink and live lazily and indifferently. I now occasionally volunteer and am interested in helping others in need. My neighbors have begun to notice that I am changing. I am grateful to Jesus that I can live now with hope.

“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12)

(Baptized at SBBC on Jun. 21, 2015)

Regional Reports

Sakuragi neighborhood (Tagajo city)

We continue to go out and play with the local children in the Sakuragi area on Tuesdays. We call this Sakuragi Smile. One afternoon in June, we helped pull weeds at the park, which was greatly appreciated. Many kids from Sakuragi Smile attended church summer camps and summer programs.

Shiogama city

We started sending volunteers to one of the islands in Shiogama to help plant flowers with a local NPO called High Five.

Shichigahama Town

Just like other areas, our friends from temporary housing are moving to their new homes. Many say they

would like to stay in the community where they have lived for more than four years since 3.11. Some plan to build their own house on higher ground, which has been cleared of trees to make room for new homes. The rebuilding efforts are taking a long time, though, as carpenters are in short supply. Some of our friends might have to wait until next spring to move to their new homes. We look forward to visiting them regularly, occasional events, and maintaining our relationships with our friends from temporary housing. In the last year, we have seen several of our friends from temporary housing start coming occasionally to church services and events. They seem to enjoy our church community as a safe place. We ask God for wisdom in how to relate to our friends, and ask for your prayers for a harvest.

With regard to making Foodbank into a non-profit corporation:

As we stated in the beginning, we are in the process of applying to become a non-profit organization with a food bank as a part of Hope Miyagi. This means we will no longer be able to receive food supplies from the Miyagi cooperative association. Due to this change, we need to extend our workload to securing, storing, and delivering food supplies. We are appealing to companies and individuals for their help especially with regard to food and other daily necessities. Please contact us if you have any information about companies and individuals who may be willing to help with this.

We will let you know more details in the next newsletter (fall/winter 2015). Please also look at membership application guidelines at that time. Thank you!

Want to join the “Hope Miyagi Family”?

Our ministry, Hope Miyagi, is one of the social ministries at Shiogama Bible Baptist church. We go to the affected areas of the 3.11 earthquake and do relief work there.

We reach out to neighborhoods within the Miyagi prefecture, including Sendai, Tagajo, Watari, Shichigahama, Higashi Matsushima, and Ishinomaki.

We believe that we are made in the image of God, and that in order to live well, we have to meet four essential needs: physical needs (providing relief supplies through our Food Bank), emotional needs (conducting events that facilitate community), intellectual needs (providing information to help affected families regain independence) and spiritual needs (bringing the gospel and showing the way to salvation). All of our activities are planned to meet these needs. We welcome anyone who understands and pursues the same purpose God has given to the Hope Miyagi Family, to work together in various ways to complete our mission.

We have seen some of the affected people who have received our support begin to support others. We pray that the love of Christ may be spread to these people, no matter whether they are giving or receiving support, through Hope Miyagi's ministry.

How to join Hope Miyagi Family:

1. Pray
2. Participate as a volunteer worker
3. Provide relief supplies or a monetary gift

We continually welcome volunteers. If you are interested, please contact us.

How to sign up to stay in the Hope House

If you desire to stay at the Hope House, please let us know at least one month in advance by phone, fax, or email with the following information:

1 Name (all volunteers) 2 Number of people (Men/Women) 3 Dates 4 Use of Hope House or not 5 Type of volunteer work desired (physical labor, music, crafts, etc.) 6 Contact information

*There are check-in and check-out times at the Hope House. Also, we do not accept volunteers on Sundays and Mondays. If you wish to start volunteering at the beginning of the week, please make sure to be checked in on Saturday.

Weekend Retreat

Miyagi prefecture is located next to Fukushima. It is easy for families with little children who want to travel outside of Fukushima for safety reasons due to radiation to visit. Our hope is that people from Fukushima can enjoy their time at the Hope House away from concerns about radiation. We are partnering with Fukushima Hope on this project. For details, please contact Hope Miyagi or Mrs. Yamamoto with Fukushima Hope (090-4464-9094). This project is not only for Fukushima residents but also for anyone who is affected by radiation.

Request for relief supplies

All relief supplies received are given out directly to the affected by the staff and volunteers of Hope Miyagi. They are distributed at different events and meetings to encourage the people. Below is a list of what is appreciated by the people right now:

- Rice (5kg and smaller bags)
- Somen noodles, sauce and other seasonal foods
- Soy sauce, sugar, miso and other spices and seasonings.

Information about Hope Miyagi

<http://www.hopemiyagi.org>

Photos and testimonies of our ministry will be uploaded to the Hope Miyagi page soon. You can also easily check upcoming events there. Please visit our site!

Facebook community for Hope Miyagi: You can also check for volunteer requests, information, reports of our daily activities, and other news. Please join us!

"Power of Gospel"

On the radio throughout Tohoku region. Please let your friends know about "Power of Gospel" FM radio broadcasting! You can listen to previous messages and also listen to Yukimasa's message at <http://www.twr-jp.com>

Please read the testimony of our friend here at <http://www.twr.asia/blog/god-will-provide>

A request

The Hope Miyagi newsletter is published in Japanese and English and can be sent to you via email. Please contact us if you or anyone you know would like to receive this newsletter.

Also, if your address has been changed or you do not want to receive this, please let us know.

Prayer Requests

1. For our friends' adjustment to their new homes and for them to be a part of good communities.
2. For our new project Food Bank NPO, Bread of Life, to be expanded and for God to provide food items and even for a storage space and warehouse. For us, as we visit people and for them to experience the love of Jesus and provision of God.
3. For the physical and spiritual health for Hope Miyagi staff in Wakabaya, Watari, Shichigahama, Ishinomaki, Tagajo and other areas, and for our volunteer coordinator, Hiromi.
4. For many more people to come to know Jesus as their Savior and Friend.
5. For God to send us helpers and volunteers to work alongside us in continuing these ministries.
6. For volunteer teams and their preparation. We plan to host five more teams this year.
7. For God to bless churches in Tohoku and for more churches to be planted through the ministry of Miyagi Mission Network led by our senior pastor, Otomo-sensei.
8. For wisdom to know the direction of Hope Miyagi after March 2015. We want to know what God wants us to do. After March 2015, our funds will be limited, and we cannot pay our staff as we do currently. We plan to continue Hope Miyagi with volunteers from inside and outside of our church.

Contact

HOPE MIYAGI

Shiogama Bible Baptist Church Disaster Relief Project

Representative:

Yukimasa Otomo

(Shiogama Bible Baptist Church Associate Pastor)

Address & where to send relief supplies:

2-11-45 Kasagami, Tagajo, Miyagi

985-0831, Japan.

TEL: 022-362-7468 FAX: 022-362-7497

Contact:

Yukimasa Otomo

contact@hopemiyagi.org

Web Site:

<http://www.hopemiyagi.org>

To Make Financial Contributions:

Contact: Madoka Hata

donation@hopemiyagi.org

Financial gifts will be used for:

Relief supplies, equipment for relief work, financial assistance to the survivors, food, kids ministry, stipend for Hope Miyagi staff, volunteer center management costs, transportation costs, etc. If you need a receipt, we can provide one.

ホープみやぎ Hope Miyagi
塩釜聖書バプテスト教会復興支援プロジェクト
Shiogama Bible Baptist Church Disaster Relief Project

ホーム HOME 紹介 ABOUT ご支援 PARTNER ブログ BLOG さらに...

ようこそホープみやぎのウェブサイトへ!
Welcome to Hope Miyagi website!

教会再建プロジェクト Planting Seeds

ニュースレター Newsletter NEW!

ご支援 DONATION

私たちは、2011年3月11日におきた東日本大震災以来、津波や地震で被災された方々を支援しています。現在は、毎月約10カ所の仮設住宅と30軒のご家庭を訪問して、近況や必要を伺い、食料品などを配布しています。
We have been serving the tsunami/earthquake affected people since the huge earthquake of North East Japan on March 11, 2011. Now, we visit about 10

支援・協力を受けたみなさま (2014年11月-2015年6月まで)

Thank you for your supports! (November 2014 - June 2015)

個人名 (日本国内) Individuals in Japan

相原明・都子/伊藤雅弘・清美/岩渕まこと/岩間恵・寛子/上野望/遠藤茂雄・清子/大場孝子/大宮香織/金子耕式/川崎廣/小坂忠
/小林高德・宮子/坂本みちゑ/佐藤将司・涼子/宋戸信子/須賀庸子/鈴木恵美子/鈴木雅子/高石しのぶ/竹下静/田中牧子/
福永操/藤田美千代/前田秀文/水野成俊/森祐理/門間裕美子/山口俊郎/匿名

団体名 (日本国内) Churches and Organization in Japan

DRCnet/IGL 広島福音教会/アクアゆめくらぶ/アジアアクセス/アネモネ/宇都宮聖書バプテスト教会/浦添聖書バプテスト教会
/大阪インターナショナルチャーチ/大阪城東福音教会/小山バプテスト教会/柏オールソウルズゴスペルクワイヤ/勝田聖書教会
/関西聖書学院/キッコートキョ鎌田醤油株式会社/清瀬グレースチャペル/久留米キリスト教会/グレースミッション東北/
ゴスペルファミリー/サマリタンズ・パース/サンタプロジェクト九州/主都福音キリスト教会/湘南のぞみキリスト教会/昭和町キリスト教会
/精華キリスト教会/センド国際宣教団/高松シオン教会/田原支援ネット/東北応援団 LOVE EAST/日本キリスト改革派東仙台教会/
日本国際飢餓対策機構/のぞみセンター/福岡ハーベストチャーチ/ブリーネ祈りの家/ブリッジス・フォー・ピース/保守バプテスト
津田沼教会/保守バプテスト同盟/保守バプテスト日本宣教団/みやぎ生活協同組合コープフードバンク/ミヨシ石鹸株式会社/
武蔵台キリスト福音教会/洛陽バプテスト教会(青木友邦先生)/レインボーチャペル港北

海外 Supporters from Overseas

Abundant Life Church, Portland, OG / Asian Access / Bonnie Palma, Woodstock GA / Carlie Schriever, Happy Valley OG
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Melissa Kamakwiwoole / Naoko Tuzi / Northwestern University, MN / Samaritan's Purse / SEND / Song Solnamoo /
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中村佐知/ニュージーランドクライストチャーチ日本人教会/バンクーバー日系人教会

(敬称略)

ご支援、ご協力ありがとうございました。

We appreciate your supports very much.

※海外からの送金の場合は「ホープみやぎ」ホームページをご覧ください。

For donations from overseas, please go to our website. <http://www.hopemiyagi.org>