Japan Union Conference Assesses Needs in Quake Aftermath

Word from the Japan Union Mission indicates they are not yet able to dispatch repair teams into the area yet, but are accepting funds to help repair church and school structures. Volunteers will be requested to help once it is safe to enter the areas. Masumi Shimada, president of the Adventist Church in Japan, said four institutional buildings in Japan have sustained minor damage. There are no reports of casualties among church members at this time. It was school break and just after graduation for the junior high, so local church leaders are praising God that no children were injured. There are 17 churches, 10 schools and five other church institutions in the earthquake-affected areas. While the Adventist Development and Relief Agency focuses its efforts on the larger needs of the communities hardest hit by last week’s earthquake and tsunami, the local conference has the responsibility to Adventist churches and schools. Throughout Japan, approximately 15,000 Adventists worship in 115 churches. Read more at the Japan Union Mission English website HERE.

ADRA on Site of Hard-Hit Areas

A spokesman for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency said an ADRA assessment team reached Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, one of the hardest-hit regions, on Saturday, March 12. ADRA Japan is coordinating with the Japan National Disaster Office and local non-governmental agencies. ADRA International has committed US$25,000 to fund an initial response in the country, and is accepting donations for the agency’s Emergency Response Fund. Read more HERE.

GC President Addresses Japan Disaster

Ted N.C. Wilson, Adventist world church president, responded on March 13 to the recent disaster in Japan. “Seventh-day Adventists around the world unite today with the people of Japan in mourning the losses caused by the 2011 Sendai earthquake and the resulting tsunami. Our thoughts, our prayers and our sympathies go out to those who have suffered such loss. ... Seventh-day Adventists have worked in Japan since 1889 and continue to serve the people of that great country. We are committed to helping meet human needs and sharing the greatest news of all: that God loves and cares for each of us, and that He is coming again soon! We call for all Seventh-day Adventists and others to pray for the people of Japan during this time of intense need.” Read his full statement HERE.

Looking Ahead

March
24: May Ad/Article Deadline

April
1–3: Wash. Impact Your World Retreat
3–5: WWU University Days
7: UCA Academy Days
9: Ore. Ministry Fest South
21: June Ad/Article Deadline
21–24: WWU Homecoming Weekend
30: OAMC Concert

May
19: July Ad/Article Deadline

GLEANER Blogs

- Cindy’s Garden Blog
- Monthly Archival Photo
- Let’s Talk
- Tip Sheet

Let’s Talk About Disasters
For a preview of the "Let's Talk" article in the upcoming April GLEANER regarding our response to disasters like the most recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan, go to the GLEANER BLOG HERE.

What do You Have to Share?
Do you have personal or unique connections to this ongoing story from Japan? A parent, child or friend who is working or visiting in Japan? What personal reports do you hear that you would be willing to share? Send any notes or correspondence to talk@gleaneronline.org.

Current Issue
March
Adventist church leaders are calling members to a new experience of revival and reformation. Read a personal message from Dan Jackson, North American Division president, in the March GLEANER.
Japan Union Conference update on earthquake and Tsunami on March 11, 2011.
Today’s date: March 14, 2011

We are very thankful for the many words of encouragement received from both brethren and sisters throughout World. March 11 was a shocking day for Japan and the world. We are so very thankful to God that not one Seventh-day Adventist life has been lost so far.

We have been in the process of assessing the damages to our churches and schools in the disaster area. Two schools and 3-4 churches will need assistance with repairs to their buildings. Thank you very much for your prayers, many emails and telephone calls from all over the world showing great love and concern for the Japanese community and our Adventist churches and schools. ADRA Japan, a department in Japan Union Conference cooperates in that ADRA Japan serves the whole community and interfaces with the government and other NPOs. ADRA Japan is under the umbrella of Japan Union Conference which takes responsibility for the care of the Seventh-Day Adventist’s churches and school’s needs. Separate from ADRA Japan, Japan Union Conference is earnestly requesting funds for our churches and schools that have been damaged in the earthquake.
As it is not safe to dispatch repair teams into the area yet, we are at the moment accepting funds towards helping to repair church and school structures. Volunteers will be requested to help once it is safe to enter the areas. Our junior high school’s chapel roof fell in, another school is damaged and 3 or possibly more churches have received damage. We dearly need to help these people to rebuild their school and church homes. It was school break and right after graduation for the junior high so we are praising God that no children were injured. Water and electricity is a common need shared with the Non-Adventist community in these areas.

YOU CAN HELP by sending your donation to Japan Union Conference.
Please make your checks out to the following:
General Conference of SDA
Japan Union Conference

Please send your checks to the following address in Japan:
Japan Union Conference of SDA
846 Kamikawai-cho, Asahi-ku,
Yokohama-shi, Japan 241-8501

See more earthquake informations >> ADRA Japan web page.

Web sites :
Tokyo International Church : http://www.tic.tokyoadventist.org/
Yokohama English Church : http://yec.netadvent.org/
Osaka Center English Church : http://sites.google.com/site/osakasdaenglish/
Okinawa International Church : http://www.oicweb.org/
SDA English Language Schools : http://els.adventist.jp/
SDA Tokuyama English School & Church : http://www8.ocn.ne.jp/~mariyo.y/e-toppage.htm

The special Bible is coming to Japan!
18 inches long and 12 inches wide!
Every book is written in different 66 languages and Deuteronomy is in Japanese!

The Bible will come to Japan from June 14th to 25th during its worldwide two-year journey. Special activities are planned in many Japanese SDA churches and facilities.

Event Schedules in Japan >> http://followthebible.adventist.jp/
Record Earthquake Strikes Japan: ADRA Responds

Friday, March 11, 2011

For more information, contact:

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John.Torres@adra.org

To donate to ADRA go to:
Online: www.adra.org
Phone: 1.800.424.ADRA (2372)
Twitter: www.twitter.com/ADRA
FaceBook: www.facebook.com/joinADRA

SILVER SPRING, Md. - A powerful 8.9-magnitude earthquake shook the island nation of Japan damaging infrastructure and triggering a massive tsunami that swept through Japan's north-eastern coast, killing hundreds of people according to initial media reports. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is responding, coordinating efforts and assessing the needs in the worst hit areas in the northern region of Japan.

ADRA has committed an initial response of $25,000 and has sent an assessment team toward the affected area to evaluate and prepare a broader response. ADRA Japan is providing food and shelter for train passengers that are stranded in Tokyo. This is taking place at the Central Tokyo Seventh-day Adventist Church.

At present, 88 people have been confirmed dead and at least 349 people are reported missing. Local police are reporting that an additional 200 to 300 bodies have been found in the northeastern coastal city of Sendai with the casualty toll expected to climb. Initial reports indicate extensive damage to infrastructure, including at least three nuclear reactors.

The record quake, the seventh largest in history and the most powerful to hit Japan in at least 100 years, created a 23-foot (7 meter) tsunami that washed away boats, cars, homes, while starting several large fires burned out of control. In the hours following the earthquake more than 50 aftershocks have been recorded, many of them over magnitude 6.0.

ADRA is currently monitoring and evaluating the situation. Updates will be released as response efforts expand.

To send your contribution to ADRA’s Emergency Response Fund, please contact ADRA at 1.800.424.ADRA (2372) or give online at www.adra.org.

Follow ADRA on Twitter and Facebook to get the latest information as it happens.

ADRA is a global non-governmental organization providing sustainable community development and disaster relief without regard to political or religious association, age, gender, race or ethnicity.

For more information about ADRA, visit www.adra.org.

Author: Julio C. Muñoz
ADRA Japan coordinating with National Disaster Office

Wilson has message of support; four church buildings sustain minor damage

11 Mar 2011, Silver Spring, Maryland, United States
ANN staff

MARCH 13 UPDATE: Seventh-day Adventist Church President Ted N. C. Wilson today issued the following statement:

"Seventh-day Adventists around the world unite today with the people of Japan in mourning the losses caused by the 2011 Sendai earthquake and the resulting tsunami. Our thoughts, our prayers and our sympathies go out to those who have suffered such loss.

"The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is mobilizing to share resources and meet human need in the affected regions. An ADRA representative was in Fukushima on March 12, and more help is coming.

"We remember the Bible's promise in Psalm 91, verse 1: "He who dwells in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty," and we claim that promise for the people of Japan, and for all areas affected by this tragedy.

"Seventh-day Adventists have worked in Japan since 1889 and continue to serve the people of that great country. We are committed to helping meet human needs and sharing the greatest news of all: that God loves and cares for each of us, and that He is coming again soon! We call for all Seventh-day Adventists and others to pray for the people of Japan during this time of intense need."

MARCH 12 REPORT: A spokesman for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency said an ADRA assessment team today reached Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, one of the hardest-hit regions.

ADRA Japan is coordinating with the Japan National Disaster Office and local non-governmental agencies.

ADRA International has committed US$25,000 to fund an initial response in the country, and is accepting donations for the agency's Emergency Response Fund.

The magnitude-8.9 earthquake -- the largest in Japan's history -- struck off country's northeastern coast Friday, killing hundreds, cutting off electricity to millions of homes, interrupting the region's mobile phone network and paralyzing Tokyo's train system, according to media reports.

Masumi Shimada, president of the Adventist Church in Japan, said that four institutional buildings in Japan have sustained minor damage. There are no reports of casualties among church members, he said.

Shimada said there are 17 churches, 10 schools and five other church institutions in the earthquake-affected areas.

In Tokyo, ADRA has set up as a refugee shelter at the Tokyo Central Adventist Church, providing food and free Wi-Fi.

There are about 15,000 Adventists in Japan worshiping in 115 churches.
Wake Up

I remember the earthquake vividly. Ceiling tiles cascaded; walls crumbled. As I tried to run, the floor rolled violently up and down, then gave way. I felt myself falling, falling.

With a deep shuddering breath, I opened my eyes to darkness. My heart was pounding, yet all else was quiet. I was alive and in my own bed. “I just had a horrible dream about an earthquake,” I murmured to my long-suffering wife. “I’ll bet you did,” she said with a sigh. “You were snoring so loud, I had to bounce up and down on the bed to get you to stop.”

While I smile at that memory, I’m confronted with staggering images of Japan’s recent devastation, with miles of coastline buildings, boats and bodies churned into a sickening slurry. Television reports benignly beamed into our homes thousands of miles distant can never adequately convey the stories of personal loss and lives forever changed. While relief agencies scramble to help, we who remain are left to ponder our own mortality. Our beautiful Northwest is due something just as dramatic, just as devastating.

No doubt this earth, as the Bible says, is “waxing old like a garment.” Many of us will see this latest disaster as yet another measuring stick of prophecy. But let’s not miss this present “teachable moment.” This is a wakeup call to our immediate need: everyday, Christ-centered living.

For sleep, while necessary, can go on too long. The 13th chapter of Romans cuts straight to the core. “Make sure you don’t get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! … Get out of bed and get dressed!” (Romans 13:11–13, The Message)

Both physically and mentally, it’s good to get a benevolent spousal shake when our snoring gets too loud. Spiritually, an earthshaking experience provides an opportunity to re-engage and replace our own status quo with priorities of eternal value.

A disaster like that in Japan sobers us all. But every day there are individual earthquakes, too, when relational or financial tsunamis come in like a flood; when our faith hangs in the balance; when personal defeat seems more than we can bear. From my hard experience, one thing is certain — Romans 8:28 is true. Satan’s worst efforts are God’s best opportunities. Faith, when stretched, gets longer and stronger. Like Jacob, we wrestle with God in our most intimate challenges, and cry, “I will not let You go without Your blessing!”

And because of this daily, weekly crucible of faith, when the final minutes of this tired earth tick away, when the ultimate wakeup call comes, we’ll be ready to heed the joyful summons of Scripture: “Look up; lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh!” (Luke 21:28)

It’s a wakeup call I refuse to miss.

This entry was posted on Monday, March 14th, 2011 at 2:19 pm and is filed under Let's Talk. You can follow any responses to this entry through the RSS 2.0 feed. You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.