

Christian Reformed Japan Mission

キリスト改革派日本伝道会

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Dear Friends,

I will have to be brief in this end-of-the-year letter (which some may be grateful for), since we are in the time of intense practicing and message preparation before evangelistic Christmas concerts which will be held later this week, on the 23rd, 24th & 25th at three churches on the northern edge of Tokyo. Our daughter, Meg, has flown here from the Washington D.C area to be the guest violin soloist. Two of the churches at which the concerts will be held are strong and stable, the third is presently without a pastor, and is struggling. We're hoping to encourage all three and help them in their evangelism at this time of the year during which the Japanese are most curious about the reason for the joy they sense, but only vaguely understand.

Since September we have been involved in working with three out of the four teams the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee has so far sent to Japan in response to the March 11 Earthquake-Tsunami-Nuclear Accident.

For me, CRWRC disaster response can best be seen in the experience of the third team that came in early November and worked for ten days gutting the house of Mr. & Mrs. Ohtomo, farmers who live within 500 yards of the ocean on the rural edge of the city of Sendai. Mr. Ohtomo saw the tsunami coming **over the top** of a row of 30 or 40 foot tall pine trees planted along the edge of the beach. Though he and his wife escaped by the grace of God, their house had a job done on it.

We worked together with the Billy Graham Association's Samaritan's Purse. Curiously enough, I heard that the media criticized some remark Franklin Graham made, but I haven't heard them say anything about the wonderful work Samaritan's Purse does in disaster relief. We tore out walls, ripped up floors, scooped up a layer of polluted sludge under the floors, and in general, prepared the house to be renewed from the bones outward by a team of good Samaritan volunteer carpenters from Tennessee to Newfoundland to San Francisco. Each day Mr. & Mrs Ohtomo worked alongside us and ate lunch with us in their rebuilt greenhouse. He is a quiet sort of fellow; she is cheerful and outgoing. She has shown openness to the message of Christ which I shared with her. I intend to go back and drop in on them to see how they are doing. Please pray for them.

Some of you have asked how Doreen Deelstra and Myoko Kitajima are doing. Myoko, who was a faithful member of our Higashi Kawaguchi Church, went to be with the Lord in September after her lymphatic cancer metastasized to her brain. We will sorely miss her, but know we will see her again before the Throne of God. Doreen's six hour operation went very well, using state-of-the-art technology to avoid cutting facial nerves. But the tumor the doctors at Hokkaido University Hospital removed from her neck was analyzed as a Desmoid tumor, which is 70% likely to grow back. Doreen has asked us to pray that she would be in the 30%.

I have recently been feeling more and more freedom as I preach in Japanese so that it isn't a terrifying experience, and I can express what I want to say more concisely. I have always joked that by the time I learn Japanese I will be ready to retire. Joking aside, the Lord uses our weakness to show his power.

Please remember our work when you consider giving, especially as one \$US only buys ¥75 nowadays, and World Missions is struggling with currency fluctuations to meet its budget. We would be so thankful if you did, and designated your gift "For the work of the Youngs in Japan." Send it to: Christian Reformed World Missions, 2850 Kalamazoo Avenue S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49560.



Your Missionaries,

George and Ruth Young