



As most of you know, an earthquake of magnitude 9.0 (initially reported as 8.8 but later revised to 9.0) and an ensuing tsunami occurred on Friday, March 11th in Eastern Japan, followed by significant aftershocks. As a result, there were explosions at some of the nuclear reactors, exposing some in the area to radiation.

Thankfully, there weren't any earthquakes here in Okinawa, but tsunami warnings were in effect until the evening of Saturday, March 12th. We are on an island about 1,100 miles (1,818 km) away from the epicenter. Thanks to all those who were praying for us and sending us messages.

Yumi has family in NE Japan near the epicenter, but they are all safe – phone lines were out, so it took them a day to contact relatives in Tokyo. Also, because of earthquakes in the Tokyo area, the trains weren't running, and some of Yumi's family and friends were forced to either walk home from work (5 hours) or spend the night at their offices. Thankfully, everyone got home safely.

Thanks to all those who have been praying for Japan. The devastation in some villages is overwhelming. Current estimates are that 3,000 people are either dead or missing. Ten thousand of the seventeen thousand residents of Minamisanriku, a village in Miyagi Prefecture, are unaccounted for. There are, however, some great stories of rescue workers plucking people off the tops of buildings and even people who were swept out to sea. It will take a long time for water and electricity to be restored, much less the lengthy rebuilding effort.

Some of you have asked if there is anything that we can do for these people who are in the affected area. Since we are on an island on Okinawa, traveling to the NE Japan would not be easy. Right now the effort is being lead by professional rescue teams and military, so our primary assistance is through prayer. We will pray and wait until a possible opportunity opens up for us to go and help. So we ask that you join us praying for victims and rescue workers. In the future, there may be an open door for us to help out. We have listed a few prayer requests below.

### **Please pray for:**

- Rescue work in the affected areas.
- Workers at the nuclear power plants as they work to prevent meltdowns.
- Much needed supplies (food, water, etc.) would get to those in the evacuation shelters.
- The church in Japan would rise up and meet the spiritual needs of people with the message of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

We canceled our Sunday night service and had a prayer meeting instead and will continue to have prayer meetings this week. We are seeking God's will about the situation and how we as a church can help. A missionary in Tokyo who we know is leading CRASH Japan, a Christian disaster relief organization. They are establishing a command center in Tokyo and are working with other Christian aid organizations (Samaritan's Purse and World Vision). Please pray for open doors for them to reach the affected areas. Please keep them in your prayers.

Thank you for your prayers and concern.

God bless you.

Chuck and Yumi Robb  
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