

AID AIR UPDATE



Some of the beautiful scenery we saw in Nepal

SHORT TERM TEAM TO NEPAL

What we did and what we learned

The last week of September, I (Robert) led a team of 4 from Japan to serve people affected by the April earthquake in Nepal. Although this disaster quickly faded from the news, the devastation is severe and has struck a chord with the church in Japan. Throughout the country, Japanese believers have given generously. As Japan has received so much following the 3.11 disaster, there is a strong desire to respond.

The 4 of us arrived late on Sunday night in Kathmandu. We were picked up by and taken to the home of a local pastor with whom A2 has partnered for years. Then we ate a quick dinner and fell asleep. The next morning we were off to a girls rescue home to start working. We spent two days removing rocks, bricks, sand, and other debris that had filled the yard of the facility. At the end of our work, there was a large, clean area where the children can play, and we heard the facility was starting to look like it did before the disaster.

We spent the next two days in a small village on the top of a hill in the outskirts of Kathmandu. Nine people were killed there as buildings collapsed during the quake including a child who died during Sunday school. For two days we helped clear debris in this community that had received little help during the months since the earthquake. We were able to clear land for Hindus, Buddhists, and Christians. Also some of the relief funds we brought from Japan were used to give the community a new water tank so that they would not have to carry water up the hill from the river below.

On this trip, all four of us were challenged by the faith of the local Christians. With limited financial resources, they are involved in bringing the gospel to multiple levels of society. There are mercy ministries caring for the weak and believers helping to write the new constitution. Please pray for the continued recovery of Nepal and that our team would be able to transfer the lessons we learned to ministry here in Japan.



Japanese Christians in Nepal

All three of these friends have been active in disaster relief in Japan following 3.11 (for one, it was instrumental in him becoming a believer). Their experience in Japan helped us to be more effective in serving during our time in Nepal.



MONKEYS, MINISTRY, AND MUSIC

A little of what we have been up to

Here are a few snapshots of what we have been doing lately.

Why am I dressed like a monkey?

As I (Robert) was putting on the monkey costume, I reminded myself that it is sometimes important to be a fool for Christ. Recently we had an event called "Ice-cream Sunday." The church was not aware of the pun when they named the annual event, but is a time when we make ice-cream sundaes on a Sunday. We invite kids from local schools to eat dessert, play games, and talk a little about what we do at the church. As part of this, I ended up dressed up like a monkey for a game. Please pray for these kids to develop a curiosity about and fondness for Christ and his church.

Why is Joseph in a wheelbarrow?

As we shared in our last newsletter, most Wednesdays we walk to the port and hop on a boat to go to a nearby island. We volunteer with NPO High Five re-cultivating land inundated by the 3.11 tsunami.

Joseph usually comes along and seems to love playing with (and occasionally ingesting) dirt, sticks, and rocks. The woman who started the NPO, has a baby about Joseph's age, and is becoming a good friend. One day, just the two of us (Roberta) went in the pouring rain to finish a project. As we worked, we had a really good conversation about life, goals, relationships, loneliness, and faith. During this conversation, she shared that she doesn't believe in God/gods.

Please continue to pray for my friend, the other volunteers, and the residents on the island. May they experience God's grace and presence and turn toward him.

Why is everyone wearing black?

I (Roberta) participated in a large gospel concert held in a beautiful auditorium in Sendai. Two Wednesday evenings a month, I go to our church for practices. About half of the members of our choir are not yet believers, but many of them are open to prayer, occasional Bible reading, and various church events.

Although our choir isn't very big, the members are very (very!) committed to learning the music and to one another. One of my friends who also comes to my English class for moms is an excellent inviter and, although not a believer, invites many people to our concerts (and church kids events and other church activities). Please pray that the Christians in the choir will be salt, light, and that the non-believers will seek and respond to Christ.

These are just a few of the things we are doing on a normal week. Please pray for opportunities so share about our friend Jesus in the context of these activities. Also, as our big picture goal is to see a reproducing community of believers birthed in Shiogama, please pray that our activities and relationships will help move us in that direction.

Thank you for your partnership and prayers.

- R&R (and J)



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Specific Prayer Points

- Praise for an encouraging trip to Nepal
- Pray for people to get a burden for the future church plant in East Shiogama
- Pray for our small group
- Pray for continued growth in Japanese language
- Pray for fruit in our various coaching and mentoring relationships
- Pray that our friends and contacts would come to know Jesus

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