

August 2011

ADAIR UPDATE



SUMMER TEAMS 2011

A challenging and satisfying 7-week trip to the areas devastated by the March 11 earthquake and tsunami

We are grateful for the opportunity we had to participate in the relief effort in the Tohoku region. The work included clearing debris, distributing supplies, playing with kids, and listening to peoples' stories.

The bulk of our time was spent wearing steel-toed rubber boots, face masks, and leather gloves. We scraped mud out from under homes, dug out stumps killed by the salt water in once-lovely gardens, helped take out ruined dry wall, flooring, and other debris from inside homes, cleaned gutters full of stinky stuff, and hauled all sorts of garbage to dump sites.

Thanks to peoples' generous response following the tsunami, we were also able to distribute much needed supplies. While the government and other agencies were covering basic necessities, we were able to fill in some gaps with items like mosquito nets, bug spray,

vegetables, diapers, clothing, and umbrellas that people had lost in the tsunami. Often in conjunction with these distributions, we hosted community barbecues with lots of meat and grilled vegetables.

In addition to this, we hosted multiple kids events, which included food, crafts, and games. Some of the mothers commented that it was the first time they heard their kids laughing in the park since March 11th. Other times we played pick-up soccer or baseball with the kids when we finished early.

Although many of us could not communicate in Japanese, people were eager to share their experiences with us. Many had stories of devastating loss and needed to be listened to and prayed for. We are so aware that people need Jesus! Please continue to join us in praying that God's love would be evident and that people would respond.



Quiz

What is Roberta doing?

(Answer on the bottom of page 3)

WHAT WE DID



Japanese Lesson

お疲れ様でした

Otsukare-sama-deshita

This translates something like "you are tired" but is used as a greeting at the end of a work day. We had ample opportunities to use it this summer with the team and our Japanese partners.

A satisfying conversation

The vast majority of our time this summer was spent doing manual labor and meeting tangible needs. This is an essential part of the gospel, and we believe that Jesus and the church were represented well by our actions. That said, I (Robert) occasionally found myself dissatisfied that there was not more of a gospel proclamation element to our work. I don't mean that we should of had someone on a street corner with a bull horn yelling at people passing by; just that I found myself desiring a better way to communicate to people the reason we came to Japan. That said, there were some wonderful conversations along the way.

There was a young Japanese woman who we will call Jane who spent a large amount of time with our teams this summer. Jane is not from a Christian background and freely admits she had never really thought about Jesus before she met the relief teams. Over the last few months she has been volunteering 4~6 days a week. She began doing so primarily out of a feeling of obligation to society for having survived the initial disaster.

Over time, Jane became very drawn to the people she was serving alongside. She talks a

lot about how much fun it was to be with the volunteers and how quickly we had become her best friends. As Jane would share with us about how much our friendship meant to her and her anxiety about us and the other teams returning to the States, we became concerned that she was associating the way we were treating her with our culture and not our faith in Christ.

One evening on the way to a Christian youth event in the neighboring city, I decided to ask her a little more directly about her impressions of the Christians she was working with and of Jesus. I was blown away as she shared how her relationship with our groups had pointed her to Christ. She was challenged by our faith and encouraged by our prayers. She told us that while she was not yet sure if she could follow Jesus like we do, she was seriously wrestling with how she should respond to the things she had been learning.

Upon returning to the States, I have communicated with Jane a couple of times. We are excited to say that she is still studying her Bible, meeting with the Christians in her city, and prayerfully considering what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Pray that she would choose to follow Jesus in the near future.



The 10 of us who served with A2 in Tohoku

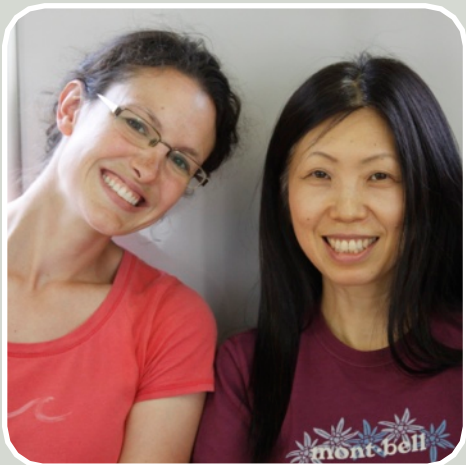


Where do you think we are?

The picture on the left taken in:

- A) Sendai, Japan
- B) Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- C) Tokyo, Japan
- D) Our basement

Answer on the bottom of page 4.



Making great progress

We want to thank all of you who have partnered with us through your prayers, encouragement, and finances. We appreciate your commitment and look forward to seeing what God is going to do in Japan over the next 4+ years.

First some great news: Our initial support is in. We have received one hundred percent of the \$40,000 we needed to raise to cover moving, pre-field training, on-field training, home set-up, and other expenses related to getting to Japan. Continued special gifts will be divided out over our 4-year term to help us meet our monthly need.

Some other exciting news: We are at about the half-way point for our monthly support. It has been very humbling and

encouraging to see the generosity of people we have interacted with over the last few months.

We have a financial need that is legitimate and are working to be faithful in communicating that need to people who might be interested in partnership. We also desire to include all of you in the ministry process to the degree that we are capable. Let us know how we can grow in our ability to do both of these things.

Please pray that God would continue to lead people to give generously for His work in Japan and that we would do an effective job of communicating with and including our partners in ministry. We are excited to transition from preparation into our placement in Japan.



POTENTIAL TIMELINE	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
Here is a quick overview of our plan for the next 6 months as we prepare to go to Japan as church planting missionaries with Asian Access.	Heading East Roberta met her twin niece and nephew in CA...and then we went east to visit potential ministry partners and family.	Off to Tejas Part of the month will be spent in Texas for meetings and to see family.	Training & Northern IL October will likely be split between language training for Roberta and work in IL.	Final Prep There are many variables, but we are hopeful that we will finish support raising and begin final preparation.

SO WHAT NOW....

An overview of the coming months until we depart for Japan

There is a rough schedule on the previous page of what we will be doing over the next few months. We want to take a moment to expand on a few of these activities.

Language Acquisition Training

Beginning in mid-October, Roberta will participate in a 3-week language acquisition training offered by Wheaton College. Language study will be a major part of our upcoming term in Japan. To minister in Japan, it is important that we communicate in the language of the local people.

The program Roberta will be participating in is designed to give her the skills necessary to learn Japanese more effectively. There will be sessions on phonetics, working with a language partner, grammar, drills, and other tools. The course is also primarily done online and will coincide partially with another training.

North Carolina Training

From October 29 to November 12, Roberta and I will be participating in a training program for career missionaries in North Carolina. This is a very respected program that A2 is considering using for all of its missionaries in the future. We will be the first unit to go through this for A2, and we are excited to be able to learn a lot and check it out for the agency.

While there, we will be learning about how to maintain a vibrant walk with God, build a support team, maintain computer security, work with multicultural teams, navigate finances and

medical benefits, deal with cultural stress, and much much more.

Upon completion of this training and getting commitments for the remainder of our support, we will be cleared to depart for Japan.

Departure

We are frequently asked when we are leaving for Japan. There are three factors that will determine the date. First is our financial support. A2 requires that we receive commitments for all of our financial support. Once we reach about 90%, we will begin making firm plans but will not leave until we reach 100%.

Second, we need to confirm our placement (more on this a little later). Finally, we have to complete the pre-field training in North Carolina mentioned previously. Understanding these variables, the earliest we could depart for Japan is in late November. That said, assuming support comes in, we are leaning toward leaving in early January to allow us to spend the holidays with family before leaving for 4 years.

Leaving Northern Illinois

Another thing we will be doing in the coming months is to move from northern Illinois. We have loved our time there and look forward to visiting in the coming years, but it will be necessary for us to move out and store our



Hard to believe we have already been married a year

belongings in Pennsylvania and Texas.

Our last month or two will be spent living with family as we travel.

Placement

Our placement location is coming together. We had the opportunity this summer to meet with several Japanese pastors and were excited to hear their visions for reaching their respective communities. While we are not yet sure where we are going, there is momentum moving in a specific direction.

For any perspective placement, the primary requirement is a church that is healthy and planning to plant a new church in the near future. With that, the other requirement is access to language study options for both of us.

We are excited about the conversations going on around our placement and look forward to giving you a specific location in the near future. Thanks again for your friendship and partnership.

-R&R

Prayer Requests

Please joining us in prayer for our lives and future ministry. Above all we ask you to pray that we would daily grow in our relationships with Christ and each other. Also pray that our lives would be oriented in a way that facilitates good preparation for our future in Japan.

Specific Prayer Points

- For Jane to continue to seek Truth
- For language acquisition
- For people in the earthquake/tsunami affected region to find strength and hope in Christ
- For discernment in determining our placement

Pictures can be found at Adair Update on facebook.com

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