



# KINOSHITA FAMILY Serving in Tokyo, Japan

Dear Friends,

April, 2011

On March 11 (Friday), around 3pm, an earthquake struck off the East coast of Japan, churning up a devastating tsunami that swept over cities and farmland in the northern part of the country. Recorded as 9.0 on the Richter scale, it was the most powerful quake ever to hit our country. The official death toll had been raised to more than 11,000, and more than 17,000 people are listed as missing.

## FAMILY

Though the center of the earthquake was more than 130 miles North East of Tokyo, 7-magnitude earthquake also hit Tokyo. Nathan was at home with our youngest daughter Sarah, preparing for Sunday sermons. Ruth managed to safely drive back home after picking up our son Christopher from kindergarten. Our oldest daughter Charis got to come home following morning after the students and the faculties spent one night at school. We were told that the school bus was in the middle of the bridge over Tokyo Bay, forced to return to campus after quake hit.

## CHURCH

In two days we were able to track down all our church members using the pay phones. Though an elevator is not operating due to precaution of the aftershocks (which we feel quite frequently), Sunday services are still continuing to be held on 4th floor of a business building that we are renting on hourly base. We do not mind hiking up to set a portable organs, a projector, and so on every Sunday mornings.

## FOOD & GAS

We became custom to go out to the neighboring prefectures (Yokohama or Kawasaki) to purchase groceries and paper products. Praise God, yesterday for the first time since the quake, there was no wait to buy gas and kerosene!

## NUCLEAR EMERGENCY

Due to explosions and leaks of radioactive gas from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station, many supermarkets and stores sold out of bottled water. We have stocks of bottled water at church to provide for pregnant ladies and infants. There are numerous car or train accidents daily because of scheduled blackouts (3 to 6 hour) in Tokyo to save electricity.

## REFUGEE

Pastor Koga and his pregnant wife and their daughter from Fukushima prefecture, who was Nathan's old roommate at Bible school, came out of harm's way with just what they are wearing. Their church was located only 28 miles from the Nuclear Power Station. Pastor Koga will be preaching at our church. We are committed to help and love Koga's as brother & sister of Christ!



## PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Please pray that the we will have the power during Sunday service; otherwise we are not allowed to be in our rental space during blackouts
2. Aftershocks, blackouts, food & water scare – our church members are weary. Pray that we can be encouragement to each other!
3. We are getting a quote to repair our family van (during one of the blackouts, our van was collided from behind).
4. Most of all, pray that we can reach out Japanese people through this tragedy!
5. We plant to send goods (water, foods, groceries or whatever their needs) to 6 Independent Baptist Churches in Fukushima.

Unsaved Japanese (99% of the population) are asking, "if Jesus Christ is loving God, why He brought this earthquake!?". The end is near – this is the time we Christians must witness boldly!



Nathan & Ruth Kinoshita

In Christ

Nathan and Ruth Kinoshita, Serving in Tokyo, Japan



**Our apartment  
Damage**