

McGinty prayer update March 12, 2011

Letter #1 (from Rowena)

Dear Friends,

I am sure that by now you have all heard that Japan suffered a huge earthquake on our March 11th which was centered near the city of Sendai, but was felt all over the country. Then add to that the tsunamis that swept inland around our island nation. It was a spooky feeling for us as the earthquake lasted over 5 minutes with considerable intensity but we are fine. We are a fair bit further north than the way the news put it as “Northeast Japan”. We have been saddened by the dramatic pictures of destruction, particularly done by the force of the water rushing in on the land. Cars, boats, and buildings were tossed about like little toys in places we are familiar with. The pictures speak for themselves.

On Friday evenings, I teach English conversation class. As you can imagine, the key word was “scary”. I quickly changed my “One Point from the Bible” time after English class to look together at Psalm 46. May God use this shock to bring people to Himself. Mike and many other pastors are probably changing what they were planning to preach on Sunday (tomorrow).

We are still feeling aftershocks as I write this. I was planning to write you all anyway yesterday before I got distracted by the earth shakes, as we want to ask you to pray for one of our churches dealing with aftershocks of a different kind. We have been grieved by [very difficult circumstances at one of our churches]. Please pray for Otaru Church and the pastor’s family (wife and two boys). The church leadership feels a weight of responsibility, and they are trying to find the way forward. The missionaries who used to serve there, have been able to go back on Sunday mornings and be a help to the people they know so well. Mike will go there to preach next month.

On a far smaller scale, Tonden Church (where we serve) was looking forward to a part-time pastor coming. In the end it did not work out, so after “fare-welling” our advisor-pastor, the church is applying for another one. The church found this quite hard and feels a bit abandoned. Please pray for a helpful advisor-pastor to be provided and that this tired church can keep their eyes on Jesus and grow strong in their faith. We continue to serve there in several ways and Mike preaches twice a month. Praise the Lord that [two recent converts to Christ] continue to prepare for baptism, but please pray for them to have a clearer confession of faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

Mike was supposed to be in Tokyo March 14-17 for CPI meetings, but I doubt that they are still on. There is a Christian disaster response team here called CRASH. Please pray for them to know how they (and we) should start helping as volunteers. We are waiting to see if we can be of practical help somewhere. Please pray for wisdom. Meanwhile, it is still very much winter here so our thoughts are with those who are without electricity and heat.

Thanks for your prayers.
Rowena (and Mike)