

McGinty Prayer Update May 10, 2011; Letter 8 from Mike and Rowena

Dear Friends and Family,

Last year we sent out a letter titled "Talking the Talk" and followed that up with a letter that stressed the importance of "Reading the Air". We will have a chance this week to walk the talk and read the air as we are making another trip to some of the tsunami stricken areas in Iwate Prefecture. Unlike our first expedition in March shortly following the earthquake, the focus of this trip will be to determine **a base of operation** from which to conduct ongoing relief efforts **in consultation with local pastors**. We are still tracking towards locating in the town of **Miyako** and will hopefully make that decision on Thursday or Friday of this week. Then as a next step we will start **looking for housing** for ourselves and for other people coming to help on a short term basis. Obviously this will be a huge challenge in light of the critical need to find housing for so many who are currently living in evacuation centers.

Relationships are generally essential to getting anything done in Japan so pray that the Lord will grant us favor with key people in the community as we feel our way forward in this new ministry. We are pleased that a key couple will be available this summer to help in Iwate while we continue to transition out of our present ministry obligations in Hokkaido and set aside time for family. We are also praying that a **Japanese couple** will be led to join us in this new ministry venture as we are keenly aware of some our shortcomings for this particular ministry.

We are so thankful for the many ways God's people from around the world have responded to the needs of Japan during this time of crisis. We are well aware that the news cycle has largely moved on to other crisis spots in various parts of the world but the generosity towards relief efforts in Japan through our mission alone has been quite overwhelming. Although Japan remains the largest unreached people group in the world, it seems to have fallen off the radar in most churches until this recent disaster. We are praying that this revived concern for the physical needs of the Japanese will transfer to the more critical spiritual vacuum that remains unfilled. May it please the Lord to move people to pray in earnest for this country, to send workers for a future harvest and to generously support them long after the news cycle has changed.

Thanks for praying,
Mike & Rowena