

## McGinty Prayer Update June 1, 2011; Letter 9 from Rowena (and Mike)

Dear Praying Friends,

Here is one scenario from yesterday. While Mike was on a Skype/computer call discussing important decisions, someone tried to reach him through his cell phone, his office telephone rang, a text message came in on his cell phone and someone knocked on his office door to see him! Maybe this gives you an idea of the escalation of communication that has been going on since March 11<sup>th</sup>. We thought we were busy before the earthquake/tsunami disaster, but we have had to step up even more due to various demands. However, thanks to the Lord answering your prayers for strength and help, we have been personally doing ok but we as a mission have recently experienced a number of significant setbacks as it seems we are under spiritual attack.

We have become increasingly more involved with the Iwate Project in various ways. This week Mike has been working hard to find a used cargo van that can be used to transport both materials and volunteers for the project. Mike plans to drive it down to Iwate to meet **Ho and Laura Jane Meas** (and Joseph 2 ½) who will be flying in from N. Ireland. They will be starting the work in Iwate for us during the three summer months until we are able to fully disengage from our present ministry and relocate to the area. We were thankful to be able to decide on a particular van yesterday, but we need your prayers for it to be ready for Mike's trip (6/10). There is a shortage of such vehicles due to so many being destroyed by the tsunami. Pray for the Meas as they settle into their new ministry roles in Miyako and that the Lord will open doors of opportunity there to serve those whose lives have been devastated.

I need to back up and say that during **our trip to Miyako** May 12-15, God answered your prayers for us to find a **usable apartment** to rent for the Meas family. We can also live there when we move down in September until something more suitable is found. The apartment is on the fourth floor of an office building, just one block from the church we will work with and across the street from a church family. Please pray for the smooth set-up of this apartment and energy for the Langhans driving up with a truck of collected furniture from the Tokyo area. I guess I should say that it was confirmed that we should work with **Pastor Iwatsuka** of the **Miyako Community Church**. Please pray for this tired pastor as he continues to visit the evacuation centers. He says that God is giving increased opportunities for the Gospel.

Mike will be making this trip immediately before the **two annual OMF regional conferences** and will travel directly to the first one by train (8 hour journey). The East Japan conference will be in Karuizawa (mountain area outside Tokyo) and the Hokkaido conference will be in Jozankei (hot springs resort outside of Sapporo). Mike speaks at both of these conferences as the regional director. Please pray for God's blessing on these special getaways as a mission. Rowena (along with friend Shelley) is **overseeing the childcare** for 14 kids for the Hokkaido conference. We are thankful for summer missionaries willing to help with the children so that parents can benefit more from the conference. Please pray for the children to be safe and happy.

After the conferences we are looking forward to the **visit of Daniel and Brooke** (June 25-July 7). We will take 10 days to enjoy our beloved and beautiful Hokkaido with them, visiting various places with childhood memories for Daniel. Megan continues to do well in **her pregnancy** and I (Rowena) plan to arrive close to the due date (8/15) in Asheville, NC for three weeks of grandma experience ☺. **Patrick graduated** from Texas A&M University on May 14<sup>th</sup> and we are thankful that he started at a **new job** on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

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Thank you all for your prayers during these challenging times of our dual roles with the Iwate Relief Project and Hokkaido RD. Mike will turn over his RD responsibilities to **David Ferguson** on August 22<sup>nd</sup> who will serve as the interim director until a substantive replacement is found. Meanwhile, we also minister at **Tonden Church** where Mike is currently preaching through 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy. Please pray for the ongoing baptism preparation of **Mrs. Taniguchi and Mrs. Ohara** that assurance of salvation issues will clear up. We feel bad about leaving this church family which is still without a pastor.

All for now,  
Love,

Rowena (and Mike)

*Isaiah 26:3,4 "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, whose thoughts are fixed on you!" Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock."*

P.S. Below is a brief report Mike wrote (in Japanese) to churches in Hokkaido following our most recent trip to Iwate.

To Hokkaido JECA churches:

The cherry blossoms were at their peak in Hakodate as we left Hokkaido on May 12 to venture south for our 2<sup>nd</sup> trip to Iwate Prefecture. But we were equally pleased to see azaleas in full bloom when we arrived in Miyako which will soon become our new home. We were also encouraged to experience a number of answered prayers during our brief visit that had been offered up on our behalf by our support team in Hokkaido.

Our first stop in our journey was at Morioka Bible Baptist Church where we met with Pastor Kondo, Pastor Otsuka (Morioka Minami Church), Jonathan Wilson (CRASH), Pastor Inagaki Hiroshi (DRCnet), Ui Hideki (CRASH), Wolfgang Langhans, (OMF), Martin Ghent (OMF) and John Elliot (OMF). During our time together, we discussed: 1) what was needed for relief work in Iwate, 2) where we should focus our efforts and 3) how we could minister together for a common purpose. Pastor Kondo expressed that the key word for anything we do should be: "support through the local church" 「教会を通して支援」. A proposal for forming a network (*Iwate 3.11 Church Network?*) and determining its purposes was discussed for some time. Pastors Kondo and Otsuka will take these ideas into consideration, speak to other like-minded pastors in the area and get back to us with a proposal.

We then drove on to Miyako that night with Langhans sensei where we spent the next three days. We had several meetings with Pastor Iwatsuka Kazuo and his wife as his church, Miyako Community Church (宮古コミュニティー・チャーチ), is the only evangelical church within over a hundred kilometer radius that includes several disaster areas. He has spent considerable time facilitating the work of relief teams and has personally been involved on several levels in ongoing relief efforts. Pastor Iwatsuka was also very helpful in assisting our search for suitable housing for ourselves and for visiting teams. His wife was born in Miyako and he has ministered there for 22 years. We attended the church on Sunday and felt very welcomed by the pastor and the church members.

OMF is planning to place Ho and Laura Jane Meas in Miyako from June 11<sup>th</sup> for three months to determine and coordinate relief efforts until we are able to relocate there in early September. They will live in an apartment on the 4F of an office building located very near Miyako Community Church. In addition, OMF also rented a large room on the same floor to

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accommodate teams that come to help with relief work. This will probably be available for others to use from June 1<sup>st</sup> and hopefully we will be able to set it up and make it more functional by the end of the month. We are also asking the Lord to provide a Japanese couple to work with us for the duration of the Iwate Relief Project and bring this before you as a matter for prayer.

While we were in Iwate we took the time to visit the neighboring towns of Taro and Yamada that were particularly hard hit by the tsunami. The present and future needs of these and other affected communities nearby will need to be determined as we continue to coordinate ongoing relief efforts and communicate them to others who desire to help.

We appreciate your standing with us in prayer during this time of change and look forward to partnering with you in new ways for God's kingdom work in Iwate.

Working for an eternal harvest,

*Mike and Rowena McGinty*