

September-December 2011

Being His Hands

Quarterly Work Report & Reflection for Joel Osborne



(Pictured Above): Hiro & I take a picture with our Ishinomaki friend, Haruki; our relief team picture taken this autumn in Shizuoka; it's almost always sure to be a time of laughter and entertainment with Suzuki-san

A Chance To Grow: Reflection

The year 2011 has been one of the most difficult in my nearly ten years of ministry in Asia.

Every year I try to do a summary for those who pray for me and support me. This year I have to write a summary of the last four months because I sat down to write this report and realized that my last report was in August! That's the kind of year it's been and those of you who have supported me for 10 years or more know that usually I am faithful in sending something every month.

The year began with Sasha's accident: I had to make quick decisions about her surgery. After visiting my parents (following Dad's serious health concerns), I prepared for a new year with 'great plans', and left for our mission in Cambodia on March 11 – the day of the

major disaster in Japan. That changed everything.

Since then, I have been back and forth between Mito and Sendai/Ishinomaki, a work that is very challenging and sometimes leaves me feeling displaced, yet it is also allowing us all to be the hands and feet of Jesus. It is a growing experience, just not in the way and at the pace any of us expected.

As 2011 draws to a close, I ask God for the help me know how to do the things He wants me to do in a way that allows me to have deeper connections with people again. I always need your prayer and encouragement.

Relief / Mito Church

See a brief overview at Mito Church and in the disaster relief (find more on the relief work at <http://eastjapanrelief.wordpress.com>)

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Cambodia in December

Find out about the team of five from Japan who went to serve in Siem Reap this month. Pray for the kids with whom we work.

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Personal Work & Needs

Find out about my role in next year's Asian Mission Forum, and some of the ongoing needs I have in this work.

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(Above & Middle) Distributions in the rain, sun, and cold: heaters, blankets, warm clothing & food

(Below) With the counselors, volunteers & new friends in Ishinomaki



(Above) encouraging Maya & Jun

(Below) Mito church young adult fellowship at a restaurant in town



Lighting The Candle In Every Heart: Tohoku Relief Work Continues

In November, our relief team was asked to go to Ochanomizu Church in Tokyo to train volunteers and to present about the disaster relief work at the annual nationwide church gathering. We chose a song for the video report that challenges us to light the candle in every heart because we believe this is our ultimate goal.

Over the past four months, relief work has continued. We continue to lead volunteers, including members of the Mito, Ochanomizu, Haruna, Tomobe and Yokohama churches, Park Avenue church in Memphis and Bedok church in Singapore. We also hosted four counselors from America

who gave invaluable support with counseling for our team and for individuals, and doing a seminar dealing with grief, loss, post traumatic stress and other issues.

More and more, the work shifts to emotional support and helping to build a sense of community for those who are displaced. We helped people move into temporary housing. Each month, we've had large distributions, preparing for the severe winter cold: kerosene heaters for 170 homes, warm blankets, winter clothes, food and more. A group from Mito church made aroma candles, scripture cards and other small gifts for us to hand out for Christmas.

Mito Church: A Busy Autumn

Through the autumn months, Atsushi and I have been preaching from 1 and 2 Peter. We are learning a new song in worship each month and we have begun pairing people up for worship leading to do more bilingually and to help grow younger leaders. Our Mission Sunday worship was really blessed and people were generous again in their giving for Cambodia. They have also been generous in

giving for the Agape ministry that reaches out to people living on the streets in Mito.

The disaster has left many feeling exhausted and fragmented. So the church retreat in October was based on Psalm 23 and focused on being led to green pastures and quiet waters in our spiritual lives. Also, several of the American members planned a big Thanksgiving fellowship meal in November. 2



(Clockwise from top left): our team; devotional with the kids; Shunsuke helps paint a mural; cooking Japanese curry for lunch at school; medical check up; with Hiro & Neat; a sweet moment

Love & Serve: Siem Reap, Cambodia

On December 2, five of us (Keiko, Hiro, Fumie, Shunsuke, and me) were sent with prayers, blessings, and an offering from Mito church (*in addition to a generous contribution made by the Good Samaritan club at Ibaraki Christian University, whose students sold used clothing at a school festival to raise money for educational support in Cambodia*) to serve with fourteen Singaporeans, together with fourteen Cambodian kids and an adult in Siem Reap, Cambodia. We've started to think of our kids and our friend who helps arrange and drive as a part of our team and our work.

We taught, made meals, played games, ran a medical clinic, painted walls and distributed school uniforms and clothing at three local schools. We donated books donated from a

school in Japan and shorts donated from a company in Singapore to an NGO that runs a school for orphans. We continue to seek ways to grow and develop what we are doing in the future. We also continue to strengthen and begin new relationships with adults, and continue to see the growth of the children whom we support.

One of the biggest benefits is not only watching the children grow and change, but also seeing how this kind of service and having to face poverty in a tangible way grows our teams spiritually. Two of my teammates began to share dreams they have, and another teammate said she was trying to think of how to actively support from Japan. God continues to grow us through loving and serving others.

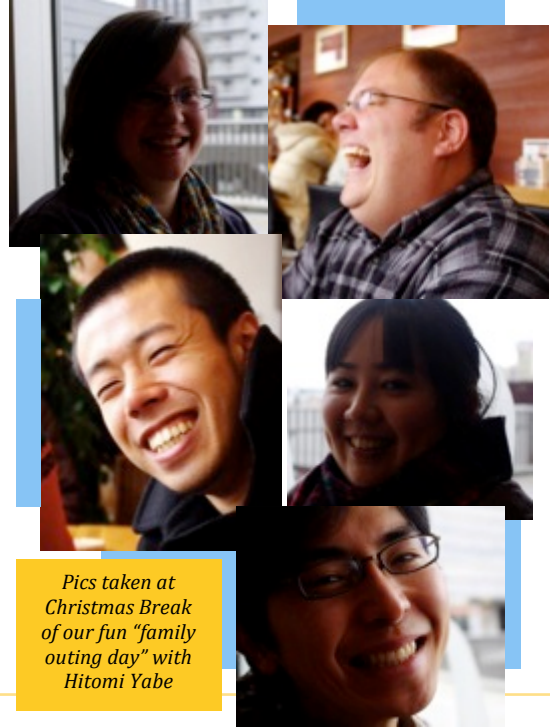
Personal Support & Furlough 2013

Need Partners For 2012 & Beyond: Help Ensure A New Generation Of Christian Leaders In Japan

Two churches responded by giving one time gifts that helped me to meet my goal this year and to give me six more months of support that I will lose beginning in January. One couple has also pledged monthly support. Yet, I am still in need of more people who will partner with me on a monthly basis and also begin to provide for a working fund.

Since I have Bramalea church as a sponsoring church, and work as a part of the Mito church leadership, I am looking into having an American-based tax free foundation to receive support, issue tax receipts, and send it on to my sponsoring church at Bramalea. If you, or someone you know, can help to support me in 2012, please contact me.

It was my intention to take a furlough, but with Mito church, the relief work, and my role as the host of next year's Asian Mission Forum, I don't think it's possible to do so in 2012. So I intend to take a 4-6 week furlough in 2013. I am seeking new churches and individuals with whom to share about the work in addition to seeing current supporters.



Pics taken at Christmas Break of our fun "family outing day" with Hitomi Yabe

Asian Mission Forum 2012

I will be organizing the AMF in 2012. After Cambodia, I made a brief trip to Kuching, East Malaysia on Borneo island where we hope to host the event on July 28-August 1, 2012. Please pray for the negotiations with hotels, arrangement of speakers for the program, and everything else that goes into an event like this. Pray that it will be a time to encourage and refresh the hearts of Christians in Asia.

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Being His Hands is a mission report for Joel Osborne's work in Japan and Asia.

Partnering together with the leadership of Mito Church of Christ, work is primarily overseen by the local church, and by the eldership at Bramalea Church of Christ in Brampton, Ontario. All funds and inquiries should be directed to the Bramalea Church (mail@bramaleacofc.ca).

Thank you for your partnership. If you know someone who wants to receive this report, or if you want to be removed from this list, please contact Joel at the following address:
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