

KONKOKYO INTERNATIONAL CENTER

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金光教国際センター

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Eric M. Cherry
International Office Director
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
25 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02108 USA

Dear Reverend Cherry,

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the people of Japan and for those affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake. We have recently held one year memorial services for the survivors and the mitama spirits in the affected areas.

As we look back at the past year of rebuilding and revitalization, we have had successes and yet still face some challenges that I will discuss in the reporting of the current situation and the use of your generous donation (USD \$29,990 or JPY 2,418,993).

We directed the funds as you proposed:
1,612,662 yen to the Ishinomaki Church
483,799 yen to the Kesenuma Church
322,532 yen to the Konkokyo Headquarters

The situation in Ishinomaki remains tenuous. The city is one of the most severely affected areas. Not only did several 30 foot Tsunamis travel 3 miles inland, the earthquake shifted the city southeast and downwards. In some places the ground is 5 feet lower than before the earthquake, causing flooding twice a day during the high tides. Sadly, the homes of 14 believers were destroyed, 8 were badly damaged and one believer perished.

The Konko Church of Ishinomaki suffered serious earthquake damage and considerable flood damage. Some of the flood damage has been repaired; however the structure remains unstable and unsound. The process of rebuilding the church has been put on hold as the Japanese government, The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism is developing a plan to build a river embankment. The



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main issue is that the church land is in the area under consideration for the development and the government might buy the land. The church is waiting until the announcement before committing any funds other than to perform patchwork repairs. The 1,612,662 yen along with other building funds are being held until the government plan is unveiled.



Replacing worship hall floor

Earthquake damage
in the church

Earthquake damage
outside the church

The Konko Church of Kesenuma was spared from earthquake and tsunami damage. However, many believers were affected. In this location, 5 church members passed away, 21 homes of members collapsed or floated away, one home was flooded and many nurseries were washed away.

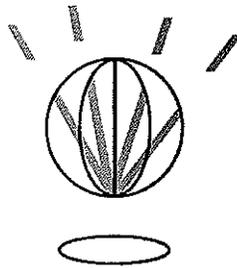
The Konko Church of Kesenuma distributed the following funds to the affected:

500,000 yen - 100,000 yen to each of the families who lost a family member (5)

1,050,000 yen - 50,000 yen to each family who lost their home (21).

30,000 yen - 30,000 yen was given to the family whose home was flooded.

We do not have the specific details of how the funds were used. Some families needed funds for living expenses, some might be saving for the reconstruction of their home and some may have used the funds to reopen a business. Regardless, the funds were greatly beneficial.



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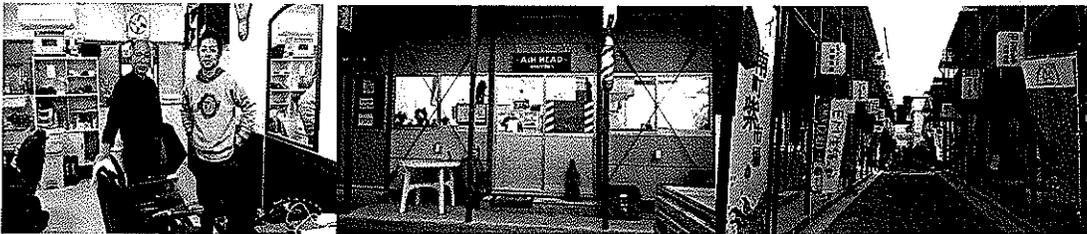
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Mr. Onodera operating his barber shop "Ash Head" in a temporary location after the tsunami destroyed his business and the street it was located on.



Mr. Onodera and son in the "new" "Ash Head"

The street and businesses were rebuilt with the use of government subsidies, owners funds and donations from UUA and others.



Volunteers at the Kesenuma Church on March 15th.



Scenes from the first Konkokyo Great East Japan Earthquake Memorial Service held at the Kesenuma Plaza Hotel on March 17.



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Your contribution to the Konkokyo Headquarters was added to the "Special Relief Fund for the Great East Japan Earthquake."

As of 12/31/11 here is the breakout of how those funds have been used:

24.5% sent to local emergency headquarters of affected prefectures (4) and cities (16)

10.8% sent to stricken churches (16 incurred damage of some sort)

2.8 % sent to suffering members (93 families received aid)

9.0 % sent to volunteer groups performing relief activities in the affected areas. Three groups received a majority of these funds. The groups are:

The Konkokyo Tokyo Metropolitan Support Organization

The Konkokyo Osaka Disaster Relief Team

The Konkokyo Youth Association.

The systematic reconstruction and rebuilding continues. While most of the basic services are functioning, the process of restoring pre-earthquake and tsunami lifestyles to the affected areas will be long and drawn out. An unaddressed concern looming on the horizon is the national crisis at the Fukushima power plant. Addressing the multitude of needs efficiently is of high importance to the Konkokyo Headquarters as they review proposals for the next round of relief support.

Thank you again for your generosity of thoughts, prayers and financial assistance.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shinji Yamada'.

Reverend Shinji Yamada

Director

Konkokyo International Center

March 23, 2012

Enclosure: An English translation of a letter from Konko Church of Kesenuma



Konko Church of Kesennuma
1-2-15 Minamimachi, Kesennuma City, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan 988-0017

March 12th, 2012

Eric M. Cherry
International Resources Director
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
25 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02108 USA

Dear Reverend Cherry:

We wish this spring season brings joy and happiness to all of you.

Thank you for the relief donations sent by your association to assist with the aftermath of the 3/11/11 Tohoku Area Pacific Coast Earthquake. Again, sincerely thank you very much.

It has been 112 years since the establishment of our Konko Church in Kesennuma. The Sanriku area where our church is built, has encountered frequent earthquakes and tsunamis throughout history and has suffered occasional damage.

However, the huge earthquake and tsunami of March 2011 was the worst event in recorded history and the suffering from the twin disasters is widespread as you know. Every inlet in the Sanriku area received heavy damage because of their location on the Ria Coastline.

In our specific situation, we lost 5 of our church members, 21 homes of members collapsed or floated away, one home was flooded and many nurseries were washed away. In addition to the loss of life and property damage, we are also contending with the economic issue of unemployment due to the damage to businesses and places of work.

Your association donations were distributed to 27 families. These families either lost a family member or lost a home. I don't know the specific details of how the donations were used. Some of the money may have been used as living expenses or might be saved to be used for reconstruction of homes or used to reopen a business. The donations were undoubtedly useful in any situation as most of victims lost their income stream.

Currently, the removal of disaster debris continues. It will be a long road to reconstruction and revival and unfortunately nobody knows how long it will take. Sadly, the viewpoint of the victims is not optimistic because they have to live the disaster in everyday life and unfortunately continue to live hard days.

Please pray that we can overcome these hardships. Thank everyone for their generosity, thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Reverend Shiro Okuhara
Head Minister of Konko Church in Kesenuma