



Go to the Nations. Be the body of Christ.

John and Pen in Japan

August 6, 2018



Pray for Japan

Dear John & Elaine,

This has been a difficult month for Japan, as unrelenting natural disasters have stricken the nation. In July alone, massive flooding hit much of the country, including our former home near Hiroshima, forcing evacuation of millions. A 6.0 earthquake struck Osaka, leading to further misery of already stressed families. An ongoing heat wave has hospitalized over 60,000 for heat-related illness. After all that, a Category 1 typhoon added to the flooding & destruction. Recovery efforts for all of these disasters is still underway, even as the flooding & heat continue.

Christ's Promise

2 Cor 4: 8-9 tells us: **"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven**



to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed."

This promise is given to followers of Christ, but less than 3% of Japan's population claim Christ as their Savior. This leaves the rest without an anchor of faith and hope in their suffering. There is a real urgency to share the Good News of Christ's love and salvation.

Mele inspects a downed tree in Karuizawa after a passing windstorm

Our Work Continues

in Karuizawa, we were only tangentially impacted by these disasters. In our mountain community, it has been hot but not oppressive. The typhoon passed 150 miles south of us, but still left a big mess to clean up. With just 48 hours before a major conference of international missionaries, I scrambled to remove fallen branches & debris to get ready for this busy time.

In our June newsletter, I shared a personal challenge to restore the degraded and dangerous "Karuizawa Cafe" so it could be used by youth groups in the summer. We are pleased to report that this project is complete, despite working through the rainy season. God



Before: Karuizawa Cafe badly in need of repair & painting

granted the strength & occasional respite from the rain to allow this work to move forward and now the cafe is in use by youth groups from around the country.

Working a desk job for most of my life, I can honestly say that I have never labored as long & as hard as I have over the past 10 weeks. While exhausting, the work I do each day is a form of worship. It is very fulfilling to be able to do this for God's glory.



After: With full exterior renovation and a new paint job, the cafe has become a center of happy, noisy youth activity



Just 48 hours after "Typhoon Jongdari" passed by, we cleaned up KRC and hosted more than 100 missionaries from around Japan.



Pen's Ministry

Pen has been busy in her outreach as well. Besides continuing with her language studies, she remains involved with a number of "mom & baby" groups in town and is meeting more Japanese ladies. She held her second "small group" at KRC with one friend, and Mele gets to spend time more consistently with her new friends.

Pen's friend and her husband, both of whom speak good English, invited us to "go see the fireflies" which turned out to be a local festival of sorts. It was fun for all of us, especially the kids. Later, the family attended a Christian church for the very first time plus they participated in a Christian children's group, so it is clear they are open to learning more.

Through donations at a local church, Pen has acquired Japanese-language Bibles that she can give to those who show interest in learning about Christ.



Looking Ahead

Last month, we requested prayer on what we should do when our current ministry ends. God is gradually leading us to a new opportunity in Japan. It's too early to announce details, but we are looking at a chance to serve for another full year

in a role that would allow for even more direct outreach than we are currently doing.

Please continue to pray for guidance on this. We are in the early stages of applying for this position, and we hope to offer details in our next letter. We are so grateful for your partnership in prayer and support, and hope this can continue.

Love and blessings to all,

John & Pen Letaw



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