

Visit to Tohoku -- participating in the JLER/JELCW tour to the disaster-hit areas

By Yosie Haga

On Nov. 8th and 9th, I joined the tour organized by JLER and JELCW and visited some of the disaster-hit areas in Tohoku. Rev. Noguchi kindly led the tour group that included two churchwomen from Kyushu and four from Tokai District.

The first spot we visited was Maehama Marine Center in Kesen'numa, where we listened to the JLER staff explain how the center came to be rebuilt. Though the tsunami had completely destroyed the marine center, voices kept coming from the local residents to re-establish the community mainstay. JLER became the main supporter of the project while there were various donations from others, including the principal post sent from Yamagata. As the building is made of wood, mainly produced locally, the space looks warm and smells nice. We learned that its loft doubles as an accommodation.



The stage in the Marine Center

I was troubled when I saw the Disaster Prevention (Emergency Relief ?) Center at Minami-sanriku township at dusk. Later in the temporary shopping center, I found a photographic collection that captured scenes of the town for half a year since 2011.3.11. Those photos showed me how horrifying the disaster was and what trouble the survivors had gone through.

On the second day, we went to the meetinghouse in Oppagawa temporary housing. The residents welcomed us with homemade, delicious refreshments. They told us what happened at the time of the disaster and how they came to be healed by making hanging-dolls. I bought a pair of woven sandals made by a group of female survivors as a souvenir.

Later, we went to see Okawa Primary School. Looking at the horrible debris of the once-modern school building, I could not help but feel the cruelty of tsunami. Several survivors who lost family members told us stories that mass media does not tell. It was painful to listen. The children had sat on the ground for nearly an hour in snowy weather before the tsunami attacked. The tragedy wrung my heart.

Then, we went to a different temporary housing that was larger, to help post flyers for a JLER tea party. As it was freezing to walk in the shade along the northern side of the building, I felt sorry for the residents who have to live with such conditions in the severe winter of Tohoku.

We saw some land being developed for a new housing development, but learned that it would take several years more to start building houses. We were reminded that rehabilitation has yet to be seen.

I want to keep the disaster-hit areas in my mind and give whatever support I can in the days and years ahead.



Looking up at the ceiling of the Center

JELCW financial report FY 2013 General Account Settlement & FY 2014 Budget

2014/1/28

item	subitem	2013 Budget	2013 Result	%	2014 Guideline	2014 Budget
INCOME						
Fees	Membership fee	3,550,000	3,390,400	96%	3,550,000	3,550,000
	NL subscription	220,000	253,650	115%	220,000	220,000
	subtotal	3,770,000	3,644,050	97%	3,770,000	3,770,000
Donation	to JELCW	400,000	515,710	129%	400,000	400,000
	subtotal	400,000	515,710	129%	400,000	400,000
Mscln. Income	Mscln. Income	0	0		0	0
	Money transferred	0	0		0	0
	subtotal	0	0		0	0
Program	Thanksgiving	700,000	678,710	97%	700,000	700,000
Support	Sabah Scholarship	650,000	642,245	99%	650,000	650,000
Donation	Least Coin	400,000	295,657	74%	400,000	400,000
	ACWC Signature Campaign	60,000	82,245	137%	60,000	60,000
	subtotal	1,810,000	1,698,857	94%	1,810,000	1,810,000
	Income Subtotal	5,980,000	5,858,617	98%	5,980,000	5,980,000
	Balance brought forward	1,203,211	1,203,211	100%	1,268,354	1,268,354
Total Income		7,183,211	7,061,828	98%	7,248,354	7,248,354

EXPENDITURE						
Activity	Publication	600,000	534,451	89%	700,000	640,000
Fee	Board Meeting	400,000	515,470	129%	600,000	650,000
	Travel	200,000	179,545	90%	200,000	150,000
	Communication	210,000	243,351	116%	200,000	210,000
	Office Supplies	50,000	80,964	162%	50,000	70,000
	Mission	340,000	238,870	70%	200,000	200,000
	Association	80,000	61,286	77%	50,000	80,000
	Gift Expenses	60,000	47,140	79%	50,000	50,000
	subtotal	1,940,000	1,901,077	98%	2,050,000	2,050,000
	Office Admin. Fee	Personnel	1,000,000	923,140	92%	1,000,000
Utility		18,000	18,000	100%	18,000	18,000
Communal Upkeep		152,400	152,400	100%	152,400	152,400
subtotal		1,170,400	1,093,540	93%	1,170,400	1,170,400
Transfer to Fund	General Assembly	900,000	900,000	100%	900,000	900,000
	Seminar	200,000	200,000	100%	200,000	200,000
	subtotal	1,100,000	1,100,000	100%	1,100,000	1,100,000
Program Support	Thanksgiving Donation	700,000	678,710	97%	700,000	700,000
	Sabah Scholarship	650,000	642,245	99%	650,000	650,000
	Least Coin	400,000	295,657	74%	400,000	400,000
	ACWC Signature Campaign	60,000	82,245	137%	60,000	60,000
	subtotal	1,810,000	1,698,857	94%	1,810,000	1,810,000
	Expenditure Subtotal	6,020,400	5,793,474	96%	6,130,400	6,130,400
	Repayment	0	0			
	Reserve	1,162,811			1,117,954	1,117,954
	Amount carried forward		1,268,354			
Total Expenditure		7,183,211	7,061,828	98%	7,248,354	7,248,354

FY2013 Settlement of Account was audited on Jan. 23, 2014.
 FY 2014 Budget was approved by the Board on Jan. 28, 2014.

Setsuko Ishida Trasurer

Obituary

+ Rev. Masao Shimodate
September 19, 2013 (at 75)
Served as a pastor at Roppongi and other churches of NRK, and as professor of New Testament Studies at Japan Lutheran Theological Seminary

+ Rev. Masaji Maki
November 8, 2013 (at 87)
Ministry at Noogata Church (1956~) and Hita Church (1958~1996)

Please accept our sincere condolences.

+Rev. Russel C. Sanoden
November 27, 2013 (at 89)
Sent to Japan by the Evangelical Lutheran Church and ministered mainly in Tokai and Kyushu Districts from 1952 to 1988.

+ Mrs. Ryuko Kumabe
January 13, 2014 (at 78)
Wife of late Rev. Shizuyo Kumabe

+ Ms. Tatsue Oka
February 1, 2014
Member of Den'en-Chofu Church, President of JELCW 1972-'75, devoted herself to establish "100 Million Yen Fund" for Japan Lutheran College

JLER Support

JELCW takes orders of the goods made by the residents in the temporary housing. Contact Setsuko Ishida by email: ishida.setsuko@blue.plala.or.jp or fax: 043 275 8402. Make sure to write your address, phone number, item(s), quantity, preferred delivery date. Group order by the church is welcome. Postage is to be paid by the purchaser and payment via postal transfer.

Woven Sandals

Size M (23-24cm) 1500 yen Size L (25-26cm) 1700 yen

Hanging Dolls (Color choice is not available)

Set of 1 Row 2000 yen Set of 3 Rows 3500 yen



Materials for Woven Sandals are still needed: please contribute T-shirts (Adult size L or bigger, preferably with elastic fabric and without embroidery)
Thank you for your cooperation in advance.

Announcement from JELCW

Please help us find Newsletter supporters. The biannual newsletter and the communication "Hibiki" can be a gift to someone you know by paying 900 yen annually. He/she will be a Newsletter supporter. That would help them know what JELCW is doing and grow the network of women. Please contact JELCW office for detail.



Postscript

Thank you for your loyal readership. The incumbent board has two more issues to publish till the end of the term. We look forward to hearing your ideas and comments. (F)