

HOPE FOR JAPAN

SEPTEMBER 2011

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The Towery's Keep it Going

September is finally bringing in some cooler weather. Although the blistering hot days of summer are over, our work here is not. In fact, it is really picking up.

The disaster relief is ongoing. However everyone is out of the group shelters and are now in the individual shelters. This makes it more challenging because many of the people we have been working with are now scattered. It also gives us the chance to meet more people as we travel to see familiar faces. We are excited!

Luke is also growing so fast. He hasn't taken his first step but he has increased his crawling speed. Every time we go to the doctor for his monthly check up the doctor says, "Don't ever take your eyes off of him. He is so fast." It's true. We love being parents. Living in Japan serving God and raising a son has its challenges and adventures. We wouldn't have it any other way.



Fall Cleaning

Usually people talk about spring cleaning. Here at the Towery residence we are doing a bit of fall cleaning. It's no secret that when we lived in Texas we often held dinner parties at our house, apartment, or wherever we were. We love people and we love parties. We also have an eight month old boy that loves to crawl, climb, and

explore. The other day he crawled onto the coffee table. So we have lots of reasons to not only dust but to childproof the house as much as possible. We also have several mission teams visiting Sendai in October and will be hosting some of them for a few nights.



WE HANDED OUT THE FLYERS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AROUND OUR CHURCH. IT WAS SUCH A QUALITY TIME FOR BOTH OF US!



LUKE CAN STAND BY HIMSELF! WE ARE GOING TO HAVE A WALKER SOON!



TAKEN ON THE DAY OF THE ORDINATION CEREMONY FOR THE PASTOR AT TAITOMI BAPTIST CHURCH.

“HOPE FOR JAPAN” PAPER CRANE PROJECT

A few weeks after the earthquake and tsunami hit where we live, we received an e-mail from our friend, Melissa. She used to live in Sendai with her husband and wanted to know how they could help.

Her daughter’s school, Denver Christian School in Highland Ranch, Colorado, decided to help with the paper crane project. Paper crane symbolizes “peace” and they prayed for peace and hope for Japan as they folded cranes. Each crane had a Bible verse in English and Japanese. They also raised support for children in Japan.

After receiving the cranes, we took them to local churches, nearby schools, and tsunami-hit areas. People were so touched by the cranes. We also bought snacks, origami papers, coloring books, and crayons for the kids who lost everything. They were so happy to receive them. Some of their moms had tears in their eyes.

Thank you, Denver Christian School, for the way you touched the lives of so many Japanese people. We appreciate all you have done!

FROM COLORADO TO JAPAN



We interviewed Melissa:

HFJ: What did the students think about the project?

Melissa: Many kids were surprised at how complicated it was to fold a paper crane! When a student folded a crane that actually worked, he/she would get so excited! Kaya (Melissa’s daughter) was so happy to be able to use a talent God has given her to teach others how to make an origami crane. When the kids wrote the letters to go with the cranes, they stopped to think about what people in Japan had gone through and they focused on praying for many different ways for Japanese people to know that God will take care of them. They really want Japanese people to know how much Jesus loves them! And the HOPE that comes through knowing and trusting in Jesus.

HFJ: Can you share about your heart for Japan?

Melissa: Japan has been near and dear to my heart since I lived there for 2 and half years. When I first heard about the tsunami and earthquakes and all the aftermath of the natural disasters, I was shaken to my core. Continued on page 3.



Shane and Melissa with Paper Cranes

**BUILDING
SHELVES IN
TEMPORARY
HOUSING**



Spice Rack



Dish Cabinet



Closet Shelf



Owner was happy!

**DISASTER RELIEF EFFORT
CONTINUES...**



We continue to visit the tsunami-hit areas on regular basis. we took lots of snacks and vegetables to the people who live in temporary housing. Many of them can't go shopping because they are too old to drive or their car was washed away by the tsunami. They were so appreciative for what they received. God has opened so many doors for us to meet and build relationships with the people there.

We also visited our new friend and built shelves in her unit. She lost her husband and father-in law in the tsunami and lives with her 4 year old daughter. Even though she is still grieving, she always welcomes us with a big smile. Please pray for her as she has many questions about God. We want her to find hope and peace that come from Christ!

We Interviewed Melissa Continued from page 2 :

I couldn't stop thinking about it and praying for all my friends in that area and throughout the whole country. God put on my heart that we had to respond. We had to do SOMETHING to show that we care - and more importantly to provide a concrete reminder that the powerful God who created the world and sustains the world LOVES the Japanese people and wants them to KNOW HIM and have HOPE in HIM. But what? Then I heard about the "folding crane" projects. Shane had received 1000 cranes when he was battling cancer in 2003 and it meant so much to us! All I wanted to do was fly across the ocean to be able to help. Since that wasn't possible, the Lord redirected me to be a small part of a specific way to help our Denver Christian School kids learn about this terrible tragedy and to share their prayers of HOPE with the Japanese people. I think the project increased their cultural awareness of Japan as well as their empathy for other kids and families going through a tremendously difficult time. It was a faith-building experience for me as I watched the Lord concretely work through various aspects of the whole project. To Him be the Glory! And may many Japanese people come to know Jesus' love and walk with Him in the wake of this difficult time.

Student Ministry

This month we had the pleasure to take our junior high and high school students bowling. We have been here since last November and never set foot in a bowling alley until now. I must say it was refreshing to hear the sound of the bowling balls crash into the pins. We split up for guys vs. girls matches. Over all both teams did really well. Everyone had a great time.

After that, we loaded up the van and headed to a local dinner for a Japanese favorite: Hamburg. Just think of a hamburger without the bun and a hamburger patty that is three to four times larger. Yummy!

We are also gearing up for a rebooting of kids English class. Many children in our church and community met once a week for English classes at the church. The kids loved the songs, games, and occasional ice-cream sundaes. Please pray that lots of kids will attend our classes. It is a great chance to meet new faces. There will be a lot of moms there too. This is a big opportunity to interact with the community.

October will present some huge opportunities as we have two teams visiting. One team from Thailand and another from Hawaii. We plan to use the extra help for a week of activities at the church. We will pass out invitations to everyone in the neighborhood. Youth night, English classes, and a Fall Festival. We plan on having a BBQ for the Fall Festival so that will keep Michael extra busy cooking.

Please pray that God will send lots of kids our way for October's activities and ministries. We pray for future growth and many more hearts for the Lord.

PRAYER REQUEST

1. Receptiveness of the Japanese to the Gospel
2. The children who will attend English class
3. Mission teams coming in October
4. Those who continue searching for loved ones
5. The mothers of the children at church
6. More teams willing to visit Sendai
7. Michael continues language school
8. Good health for us as the flu season begins
9. Safe travel for us as we go to Texas
10. Speaking opportunities while in Texas
11. A much needed vehicle

Word from Luke

Hello Everyone! Check out my new set of wheels. Actually it's a loaner but I love it. I'm also enjoying my new set of teeth which lets me chews lots of new foods. Thank you everyone who sent such kind messages to Mom and Dad about me. I can't wait to travel to Texas in a few months. I wish I could take my car. See you all real soon!!!

