

JAPAN APPEAL

On 11th March, Japan was rocked by a magnitude 9.0 earthquake – one of the strongest in history and sufficient to move the whole earth almost 10 inches off its axis. Images of devastation caused by the earthquake and the following tsunami flashed around the world.



Ishinomaki, where 10,000 people died in the tsunami

The official death toll has risen to 12,300, with over 15,000 people still missing. Over 500,000 people had to leave their homes. Whole towns disappeared completely.

Added to this tragedy, Japan's people have been living in great fear of a nuclear disaster at the stricken Fukushima nuclear plant, a crisis which has brought back memories of the darkest days of their country's history.

For several decades, WorldShare has had a sister organisation in Japan, Partners International Japan (PIJ), which raises funds for our projects, particularly in Indonesia and Ghana. The Chairman of PIJ, Rev. Kazuo Kinouchi, is also a respected Pastor in the United Church of Christ in Japan (UCCJ). The UCCJ is the largest Protestant grouping in Japan and has over 1700 congregations. However, the number of Christians in Japan is very small, numbering only around just over 1% of the population.



Mapping distribution of aid from the churches network

The Board of the UCCJ has appealed globally for donations to help those affected by the earthquake. They will be looking to help in particular groups with special needs who are perhaps missed from the large-scale aid efforts of governments and aid agencies.

They will also be helping Christians specifically, and congregations in the affected area to rebuild their churches.

WorldShare's sister organisation, Partners International USA, sent a senior representative to Japan to help PIJ plan the use of emergency appeal funds. This is a very important opportunity for Japan's tiny Christian minority to share the love of Christ in a practical way, and to offer comfort and peace to those who are in misery and fear.

Please help us strengthen their hands to this task. May Christians around the world show their love for the Japanese people at this time. Your gifts, of any size, will help in this emergency situation. Please give via one of the following methods.



BY POST: Make cheque payable to 'WorldShare'. Write 'Japan' and your name and address on the reverse, and mail to 'Freepost WORLDSHARE'. (NB: If mailing your donation from within UK, you do not need to put any other text on the envelope, and you do not need to add a stamp. For our full postal address, see below.)

BY PHONE: Please telephone **(01302) 775209**, ask for 'Japan Earthquake', and have your Credit/Debit card details to hand.

ONLINE: Visit www.worldshare.org.uk, and click the panel (left) on the Home Page.

Thank you.