

# The Chile Chico

March, 2011 Vol. 20

## Japan – March, 2011

Our plane landed outside Tokyo on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> only eight days after an earthquake and resulting tsunami had devastated the eastern coast of Japan. As of April 4<sup>th</sup> the disaster has left:

- 12,157 confirmed deaths
- 15,496 missing/unaccounted
- 244,000 in 1,900 evacuation centers

I was part of a three man team assessing how Mission to the World could best help in this disaster. The ensuing tsunami had also caused extensive damage to several nuclear reactors located on the coast of Japan resulting in the release of radioactive contamination into the atmosphere. The MTW missionaries felt safe due to the 135 mile distance between the damaged reactors and the MTW headquarters in Chiba. Any aid efforts, however, within 50 miles of the damaged reactors would have to be factored into a relief strategy. The city of Iwaki is well within the 50 mile limit and a three hour drive from Chiba. At 3:30AM Monday morning, we were off to Iwaki. Once in Iwaki, we met with Pastor Muri, a local pastor from



***Damage in Iwaki near the coast***

the Global Mission Church, who had turned his church into a supply center, ferrying supplies of food, water, and necessities to several refugee centers in Iwaki. We toured several refugee centers in the area and found them reasonably comfortable considering what had just happened to them. They also had access to

medical care, one of the principle reasons we were assessing the refugee centers.

The next day we headed to Sendai, an area devastated by the tsunami about eight hours drive from Chiba. Sendai was even more devastated by the tsunami and the carnage was overwhelming. We met with CRASH (Christian Relief, Assistance, Support and Hope); a Christian organization that ministers to refugee centers much the same way Pastor Muri's church does.



***The devastation along the Sendai coast***

Our assessment determined that MTW's response should be limited at first. The distance between Chiba and the closest devastation is considerable, making it difficult for MTW-Japan to respond. They have, however, been ferrying much needed food, water, and fuel to the affected areas. Also, Japan is a modern nation with infrastructure that will support a disaster. Medical care was available to these refugees. Food, water, power, and fuel were on the increase.

Please pray for the MTW missionaries as they plan a strategy to support the affected areas. They are considering church plants in Iwaki and Sendai but these plans will take time.

Japan has had a wake-up call much the same as Haiti. I am sure we will soon hear stories from our MTW-Japan missionaries on how the Lord has used this disaster for the good of His people!

*Dan and Jan Jenny*