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March 13, 2011

Nuclear Reactors Not a Direct Danger to Us Personally

A quick update on the situation here in Japan. We do so appreciate your prayers and e-mail responses. Please don't be offended if we don't reply personally. Although we are not in immediate danger, we are feeling a bit overwhelmed with what will be necessary to support relief and recovery efforts in the days and weeks ahead. Gasoline rationing and rationing of other supplies is a very real possibility.

Nuclear Power Plants

The damaged nuclear power plants you're hearing about in the news are a huge concern as updated information develops hourly, but we personally are not anywhere near the plants.

However, one of our Asian Access-trained pastors with a congregation of about 200 just dedicated a new church building located about a mile from one of the damaged reactors. If there is a meltdown there, the entire surrounding area will be uninhabitable. As a result of damage to the electrical grid from the earthquake and tsunami, about 10% of Japan is currently without power.

Statistics

At a rating of 8.9, this quake was the fifth strongest worldwide since records started being kept around 1900. According to information reported by the US Geological Survey, the landmass of Japan shifted about eight feet, and the axis of the earth shifted by 4 inches. The first tsunami hit land ten minutes after the quake and was estimated to be between three and ten meters high. Tsunami waters reached up to six miles inland in some low-lying areas along the seacoast. As of 4:00 p.m. Sunday 1700 people are confirmed dead, 10,000 missing, and over 200,000 in temporary shelters. Hundreds of roads & bridges in the affected areas have been damaged or destroyed. Some areas of lowlying land have dropped below sea level and will need to be either reclaimed or abandoned.

Asian Access Response

Amazingly, in God's timing, we are all together as a mission at our annual conference in the mountains north of Tokyo. Yesterday as a mission family we discussed how Asian Access (A2) can respond to this tragedy. We will first deliver aid through our extensive network of churches, as well as participate personally in relief efforts in cooperation with C.R.A.S.H. (Christian Relief Assistance, Support, and Hope) which has expertise in coordinating volunteer disaster response through the church and mission community.

You can contribute tax-deductible funds through Asian Access which will be used to respond to this crisis. For information on

giving, go to the www.asianaccess.org home page and click on **Japan Tsunami Relief Fund**.

Prayer Requests

Our Asian Access conference ends tomorrow and we will be returning to the Tokyo area where our response will begin in earnest. We are so grateful for your prayers for us personally. More than that, we ask you to continue to pray for the nation of Japan. Please pray that the response to this crisis will be speedy and well coordinated. For other helpful ideas on how to pray, check out [this link](#). We'll continue to keep you posted as we know more.

*Love,
Gary and Barbara*