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NEWSLETTER

Updates on our work in Noto Peninsula

ABOUT KCDRC

Kyushu Christ Disaster Relief Center (KCDRC) was established in April 2016 in response to the Kumamoto and Oita earthquakes in order to serve affected local communities and churches. In the last eight years, the organisation has worked closely with partners and churches to provide mid to long term assistance to those who were affected by the earthquakes and floods within the Kyushu region.

Moving forward, KCDRC is exploring to partner with organisations in other parts of Japan, sharing their knowledge on the field and to provide assistance wherever needed.



A 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture on 1 January 2024. As the epicenter is shallow, the powerful quake left more than 200 dead; led to landslides, collapsed buildings; triggered a tsunami warning, sparked a large-scale fire in a popular tourist area and cut off water, power and gas supplies.

Rated highest on Japan's shindo intensity scale, the earthquake displaced approximately 12,929 people, leaving them to seek shelter in over 500 evacuation shelters. More than 60,000 houses are either damaged or collapsed, with the survivors scattered all over the prefecture; the recovery process is expected to take time.

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE



The KCDRC team arrived on January 4 to assess how it may support the relief efforts. It was heartbreaking to witness the torn-up roads and debris as we drove through the damaged areas. On the bright side, we managed to touch base with various churches and organisations who were ready to join hands and lend their strengths.

On January 5, churches in the region gathered for an emergency meeting to discuss how they may best support those in need and agreed to form the Noto Earthquake Christ Disaster Relief Association (also known as Noto Help) within the same week. Noto Help is strategically set up to support all disaster relief activities within the local church network.

In that same meeting, the board of Noto Help also appointed KCDRC as the lead to front Noto Help's works.

Using Uchinada Bible Church as a base, KCDRC received and sorted out donations in kind accordingly. In addition, we made sure to communicate with the survivors during our trips to find out their needs in order to serve them better.

The initial emergency supplies given by the Kyushu's church network allowed us to distribute them immediately upon arrival as there were many people in need.

For this, we are grateful for the good relationships and partnerships we have with the churches as their support in various forms brings great encouragement to our hearts.

Apart from receiving donations in kind, monetary support poured in tremendously, enabling us to swiftly plan for our relief efforts. As of July 2024, we have received about USD \$78,000 amount in total.

With it, we were able to procure the following:

- Drinking water
- Daily necessities
- Food
- Clothing
- Portable toilets
- Gasoline generator
- Fuel
- Heating equipment
- Snow tires
- Manpower cost
- Transportation cost
- Accommodation cost

**Please note that the list above is non-exhaustive.*

Apart from distributing items, volunteers also gathered to prepare hot meals for the survivors. As of July 2024, over 10,000 meals were served to those living in the evacuation shelters.

It was impressive to see the volunteers preparing the meals from scratch - purchasing ingredients, food preparation, setting up tentages and cooking stations. They made it look so easy despite the huge logistical affair!



Notably, Noto Help can only proceed this far with the help of volunteers. Over the course of seven months, some 3,000 volunteers took time out to demonstrate love in action for the survivors. These volunteers came from Africa, America, Europe, East Asia, Southeast Asia, South America, the United Kingdom and all over Japan with the sole desire to be present and help however they could.

In the first few months, longer hours were spent on the roads due to broken roads. This meant staying outdoors in the midst of winter and even navigating through snowy conditions! Regardless, the volunteers gave their best to support in all ways - delivering necessities from shelter to shelter, coordinating with individuals and organisations, setting up operations support for Noto Help, etc...



As it is written in Ecclesiastes 4:12, "And if one can overpower him who is alone, two can resist him. A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart." Indeed, when the Body of Christ gathers as One, Christ's love is further magnified. KCDRC answered the call for help after the earthquake and sent team members Ichiki Masanobu and Morofuji Eiichi to share their expertise in Noto Peninsula.

In the wake of the devastating earthquake, two additional staff were temporarily added to the KCDRC team. Kido Yui, member of Aburayama Shalom Church, is at the forefront of relief efforts, providing support to those affected. Meanwhile, across the globe in Singapore, Joy Ong, member of Covenant Evangelical Free Church, focuses on reporting the work done in Noto Help and coordinating relief operations with the international community.

Both individuals are attached to KCDRC for six months. It is not easy working with people from different cultural backgrounds and perspectives yet it is a necessary endeavor to pursue. Truly, there is no better way to propagate Christ unless we choose to fix our eyes on Him and for the furtherance of His Kingdom.

A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.



We have been here for seven months now and are slated to continue the work in Noto Help until the end of 2024. Moving forward, we hope to create inroads to the temporary housing areas and to bridge the gaps between the local churches and the newly moved in residents while continuing with our daily tasks. We are in the midst of preparing a smooth transition for our eventual exit.

Do keep us in prayer. Thank you.

Donate to **KCDRC**:



Learn more about
KCDRC here:



Learn more about
Noto Help here:



