

From the Editor

In Romans 12.15 we are encouraged to rejoice with those who rejoice, and mourn with those who mourn. The Japanese custom is to prioritise those who mourn. This month we remember those who lost so much in the tsunami on March 11th 2011. Then next month we will hear about Love Sonata, a rejoicing event coming to town.

Henrietta Cozens

News and Prayer Points

March 11th is the fourth anniversary of the terrible tsunami in Japan. Please pray for those still mourning loved ones, those living in temporary accomodation, as well as those resettled to other parts of Japan and rebuilding their lives.

Please pray for Love Sonata, a big Christian outreach meeting on April 9th. Pray many would come and be blessed, and more would be added to the Church's number that day and in the days following.

Bee Choo Ong, seconded to work with university students, writes: Pray for the coming Spring camp (March 10-13). The theme is on the importance of reading God's word daily. Some 80 students will be engaging with this and other themes in workshops run by us staff. The new academic term then starts from April. 3.

Recently we've had the joy of seeing a couple people profess Christ. But these early days have also seen spiritual attack. May we ask for your prayers for them?

Remembering 3-11



The magnitude-9 earthquake and massive tsunami in northern Japan four years ago, led to over 16,000 people losing their lives. Many were children, who were evacuated from their schools to meeting halls, which were then swept away.

Over the last four years, government and voluntary groups have been clearing the area of debris. Some of our own workers have joined one-week work teams from Samaritans Purse and Be-One network, clearing houses and gardens of rubble. In addition we have one long-term worker in the region. Cat Porter felt God calling her there as a new missionary, soon after finishing her Japanese language study period. A former harpist in the European Youth Orchestra, Cat works through WEC with another local agency in the region. Like in Old Testament times, her harp music (which includes classical pieces and many Christian classics such as Amazing Grace) brings relief to people whose hearts are suffering. Cat then weaves

in Christian testimony of God's love and hope among the pieces she plays, and follows up with home visits. Since Cat's own car accident last year when the skin of her arm got badly damaged, her testimony has been very important. There has been remarkable openness to God and the church at work in northern Japan. How long will that continue? We don't know.

Nearly a quarter-million Japanese still live in temporary or interim housing, and use make-shift shops and restaurants. Completion of permanent housing for 230,000 evacuees has been pushed back to 2017 in some areas because of difficulty finding suitable land, materials and workers. Counselling continues for people that lost everything.

Across Japan this week there will be memorial events, such as photo displays and the lighting of candles arranged in a 3.11 formation.

Henrietta Cozens

Photo credit to The Japan Times