

Japan: Nuclear Threat and ELCA Missionaries

MARCH 2011

www.elca.org/disaster

On March 11, one of the largest earthquakes in history with a magnitude of 9.0 struck Japan near the town of Sendai. The earthquake triggered 30-foot tsunami waves, devastating Japan's coastal areas, and sent tsunami warnings across the Pacific Ocean. The initial earthquake was followed by more than 100 aftershocks. The devastation has left many dead or missing, with others left without access to fresh water, food or shelter.

One of the developing threats centers on the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, which is located close to the epicenter of the quake and was overrun by the tsunami. Currently local officials are attempting to keep the plant towers from overheating and spewing radiation into the surround area. One of the concern is the possibility that if a radiation cloud may created it could be blown by prevailing winds south towards Tokyo.

Within this situation we are thankful to report that all ELCA missionaries working in Japan and their families have been accounted for. In response to the continuing development surrounding the potential nuclear threat Global Mission is taking conservative precautionary measures to ensure that all twenty-two of the individuals sent on behalf of our church continue to be safe. As part of these measures, most of those serving in Tokyo have relocated to western Japan for the near term.

Please keep our missionary personnel, their families, our companion JELC (Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church) and the people of Japan in your prayers.

Prayer of the Day

L: Loving God,

C: in the communion of Christ, we are joined with the trials and sufferings of all. Be with those who endure the effects of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Protect those in the path of danger. Open the pathway of evacuations. Help loved ones find one another in the chaos. Provide assistance to those who need help. Ease the fears of all and make your presence known in the stillness of your peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Yes, I want to help!

ELCA Disaster Response: Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami \$ (IDG0066)

ELCA Disaster Response: Where Needed Most \$ (IDG0016)

Name

Address

City State ZIP code

E-mail address

Give through your congregation or send your check directly to:

ELCA Disaster Response, 39330 Treasury Center, Chicago, IL 60694

Please write "Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami" on your check's memo line.



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