

「祖国日本の神」

中村透牧師

今回の東北・関東大地震と津波、また原発の問題による大被害について、これまでどれだけの筆が費やされてきたことだろう。そして、それに加えていま我々は何を語り得るだろうか。われわれは、愛する祖国の家々が、車が、船が、工場が、畑が、そして人々が、一瞬のうちに津波に押し流されて行くのをなす術も無く見続けてきた。何度も、何度も。そして、涙を流してきた、何度も、何度も。

ある人は、この災害は神を恐れない日本への警告であり、天罰であると言い切った。しかし、そうだとしたら、たとえば何も知らない幼な子がなぜその罰を受けねばならなかったのだろうか。こんなことを平気で言える人は、愛するわが子を亡くされて悲しみのどん底にある人に、「あなたの子供は天罰を受けて死んでいったのだ」と告げるのだろうか。

しかし、悲しみのうちにもよろこびのしらせもあった。災害後何日もたってから救出された幼な子、お孫さんとふたりで瓦礫の中で何日も何日も命をつないできたおばあさん。。。本当によかった。よ

くぞ生きていてくださった、と心から思う。

そして、大被害を受けながらも、見ている外国人が驚嘆するほどの日本人の礼儀ただしさ、正直さ。あるスーパーでは、棚から全部落ちてめっちゃめっちゃになってしまった商品の一つ一つ拾いあげて棚に戻し、そのあとで自分の買いたい商品を手に持って長い列に黙って並んで自分の順番を待つ日本人たち。こんなこと、自分の国では絶対あり得ないよ、と外国人に言わしめた皆さん。われわれは皆さんのことをロサンゼルスで聞いています。そして皆さんのことを心から誇りに思います。日本は行き詰まっている、とずっと思ってきた。経済は低迷し、人心は冷えきり、犯罪が増え、弱い人々に対する思いやりなどとっくに消え去った。若者たちはもはや何を考えているのかさえわからなくなってしまった。日本はもうダメだ、と何度思わされてきたことか。

それが、この痛ましい状態におかれたとき、青年や少年たちがお年寄りの世話をし、避難所では率先して辛い仕事を引き受けている。停電で信号が消え、交差点では大渋滞があっても、みなが譲り合い、整然と車が進んでいく。果て

しなくつづく待ち時間にも、静かに忍耐強く待ち続け、お礼の挨拶以外、だれもクラクションを鳴らしたりもしない。

日本はこんなにすばらしい国だったのか。日本人はこんな美德を備えていたのか！！と外国人とともにわれわれも驚嘆し、驚喜する。そうだ、日本中が焼け野原になった大戦後も日本は立ちあがったのだった。今度も日本は立ちあがる。

主よ、日本を、日本の人々を祝福してください！あなたが愛しておられる日本を救ってください！打ちひしがれている人々に希望を力を、慰めを与えてください！失われた者をたずねだして救うために来られた主よ！日本にやすしを、そしてリバイバルを！





The God of Fatherland Japan,
by Pastor Toru Nakamura

How much ink was used in writing about the recent series of disasters in northeastern Japan – the epic earthquake that caused a tsunami of Biblical proportions, both which contributed to a catastrophic nuclear incident that still isn't under control almost a month later? And what more can we say about the situation? We witnessed again and again our beloved Fatherland's houses, cars, ships, factories, fields, and much more – people, in an instant, being washed away by the tsunami...over and over. And we cried, over and over.

One person had said that these disasters were the result of the divine punishment from God upon the unbelieving people of Japan – a warning of sorts. But if that's the case, for instance, why should a child who doesn't know any better suffer such a punishment? But I wonder if that person who so matter-of-factly made that statement could go up to a parent who, in the deepest grief of their life having just lost their loving child, inform them saying, "Your child died due to God's divine wrath."

Though in the midst of sadness, there were glimpses of joy. Many days after the disaster

there were stories of children being saved, even of a grandmother and a grandchild clinging to life, together, while being trapped in rubble. I can't believe how they survived...truly wonderful.

Foreigners were filled with awe and admiration for the courteous and honest people of Japan who, amidst their nation's calamity, would help put back items that had fallen off of shelves in a supermarket, collect what they wanted to buy, and then wait for hours in absurdly long lines for their turn to pay for their merchandise. Every foreigner said that this would never happen in their country. We Japanese people in Los Angeles have heard the stories, and our hearts are filled with pride.

I had long felt that Japan had reached its end. The economy is in a slump, human hearts have become cold, crime rates are rising, and sympathy for the weak has practically vanished. We have no idea what young people themselves are thinking. Many times I've thought that Japan's done with.

Yet despite this heartbreaking condition, the youth and children of Japan are looking

after the elderly and volunteering to do the hardest work in a lot of the evacuation sites and shelters. Due to power outages, many traffic intersections that don't have working stop lights are jammed with drivers who still give the right-of-way to others and cross in an orderly fashion. In seemingly endless traffic jams, people still quietly and patiently wait and with the exception of an occasional "thank you honk", nobody uses their horns.

Japan was this awesome of a country?! The Japanese people possess this much virtue?! As with the foreigners, I too was pleasantly surprised and filled with astonishment. And we've seen this before – Japan was once nothing more than charred fields after WWII, and the Japanese rebuilt Japan. Once again, Japan will rise from its ashes.

Lord, please bless Japan and its people! Save the Japanese people whom you love! Comfort the crushed people with hope and strength! To the Lord who came to seek and save those who are lost! Heal Japan and bring revival!

教会の引越しのお知らせ と 献金のお願い

ロスアンジェルス中央教会が
3月30日に下記の住所に引
越しました。

2113 East Villa Street, Pasadena,
CA 91107

引越しのお手伝い、又は新しい教会の清掃に多くの教会員、又はお友達の皆様にお越しいただき有難うございました。

修復が必要とされている部分もあり、理事会では優先順位を決め、予算を立てた上でこれから徐々に直していく予定です。皆様のご意見もぜひお聞かせください。これらの修復は建築資金からの支出となりますが、ご存知のとおり今回の教会購入で殆どの資金が使われました。これからの修復を考えて、理事会とファイナンス委員会では、近いうちに建築資金予算目標額を立てたいと思っております。教会員の皆様には、継続して建築資金への献金をお願いしたいと思います。どうぞ教会のこれからの発展と共に経済的な必要を神様が満たして下さるようお祈りください。

On March 30, 2011, LACJ
moved to a new location!
We're now worshipping at:

2113 East Villa Street, Pasadena,
CA 91107

Firstly, we'd like to thank all of the church members and friends who came out to help move and also clean the new church beforehand.

Due to the age of the building, there are much needed repairs that are already being identified. The church board will prioritize them and develop a budget as we proceed with planning for those repairs. We'd like to hear your feedback on repairs issues; please feel free to share your concerns with one of board members. These repairs will be financed by our Building Fund. As you know, with the purchase of the new church, we have depleted the fund significantly. As we plan for the repairs, the board and Finance Committee will set a budget goal for the Building Fund in the very near future. Just as God maintains life in each one of us, let us not forget to return a portion of the money He has given to us to maintain His church. We ask that you prayerfully continue to give offerings that support our Building Fund. By God's grace, we trust that He will fulfill all our financial needs and bless us with more new faces to fill our pews!

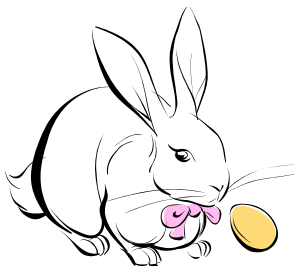


イースターサービスのお知らせ

新しい教会にて4月23日にイースタープログラム及び献堂式を行います。イースター礼拝は10時から開始で、安息日学校はお休みします。また礼拝後パトックがあります。午後には献堂式が3時に行われ、5時に軽い夕食、7時ぐらいにベスパ、その後イースターの集まりを計画しております。お友達をお誘いの上ぜひご参加ください。

Easter Program and Church Dedication

Our Easter and Grand Opening Dedication Services both take place on April 23rd at our new church. The Easter Service will begin at 10:00 am (followed by a potluck lunch). The Dedication Service starts at 3pm, light dinner at 5pm, and concludes with an evening vespers and Easter social beginning at 7pm. Please invite your friends for this momentous, blessed celebration!



東北関東大地震支援献金

ロスアンジェルス中央教会では東北関東大地震、またその後の津波、原発事故で被害にあった方々の支援を目的とした献金を4月末まで集めています。集まりました献金は全額 ADRA Japan (アドラジャパン) へと送金されます。ADRA Japan は国際的な非営利NGOであり、3月17日には数人のスタッフが現地入りをし、すでに炊き出しなどの、支援活動を始めています。ADRA Japan の活動詳細は、下記のサイトをご覧ください。

<http://twitter.com/search?q=%23ADRAJapan>

<http://blog.canpan.info/adrajapan/>

Throughout the month of April, LACJ is collecting donations to support victims of the recent Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear Plant incident in Japan. Donations will be directly wired to ADRA Japan. ADRA Japan is a non-profit, non-governmental-organization that manages various projects internationally. Within days of the crisis, many of their staff have already been deployed to the affected region on and have begun providing food and supplies to the victims

of the disaster. For details of their relief activities in the affected region, please see the links above.

Questions, Comments:

harmony@centraljapanese.org

Official website:

<http://www.centraljapanese.org>

PR//Communication Staff:

Mika Aoki – Editor in Chief

Keiko Takeda – Layout

Maki-kun Vance – Yes Man

Contributing Writer:

Pastor Toru Nakamura