



October 2011

It has been an incredible season here in Japan! The devastation from the earthquake and tsunami was horrific; lives have been changed forever. Our heavy involvement in relief efforts has been a heart-wrenching, challenging, exhausting and yet incredibly rewarding experience. God has given us an even deeper love and respect for the people of Japan and an increasingly burning desire to give them hope and purpose. We are so grateful to all of you who have participated in these efforts by your giving and prayers. You have blessed us and the people we are trying to serve.

Moving to Ishinomaki!

Our family has prayerfully made the decision to move to Ishinomaki for a season in order for Chad to be able to continue to help lead the work that is happening there and for our family to be together. Though being apart so much over the last few months has not been easy, we have felt God's strong protection over our marriage and family relationships. Thank you for your prayers! The kids have been so much a part of this from the beginning that making this decision with them seemed natural, and they are all very positive about the move. Though we have no illusions that this will be an easy move or an easy season of life, **we believe that if we can do it joyfully, prayerfully and united as a family, God will continue to guide and protect us.** We are aiming to move up by the middle of October and will leave our home in Osaka as is; perhaps it will be used by someone at some point. We anticipate being in Ishinomaki for a few months to a year as God forms a more permanent local team, but we leave that timing in His hands!

As for a more permanent team, we are excited that **Jonathan and Michiko Straker** have recently committed to moving to Ishinomaki to work with the Be One efforts there. Several others are praying seriously

about this as well – please **ask God for more workers for the harvest!** And pray that some of those workers will come out of the harvest that is to come in Ishinomaki! ☞



"Lengthen Your Stakes!"

As we began helping in Wakayama and were wondering, "How?!" God led Jennifer to this scripture: "Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your stakes." Isa. 54:2

We believe that God is leading! Though perhaps we are being stretched more than we could normally bear, if God is in it, we want to be a part of it! We want to trust Him! ☞

For more stories and photos from Tohoku and Wakayama: <http://www.b-1.jp/tohoku/en/> Facebook: Be One Tohoku Aid

Mountain Tsunami

Over the weekend of September 4, and then again two weeks later, the peninsula of Wakayama, south of Osaka, was pummeled with two typhoons, bringing so much rain and wind that it was dubbed by some as the "mountain tsunami." Homes along rivers were swept away and over 100 lives were lost. Wakayama is a day-trip away (4-5 hours), and **we felt the need to send help**, so after contacting our missionary friend, Dave Hinson, Chad and a few others went down on September 11, to help clean

up in a village where Dave has been leading a Bible study. They found the damage to be very similar to that of the tsunami in Tohoku, and their help was well-received. We have now sent down seven teams and look forward to seeing what God is going to do through Be One over the next several months!! ☞



"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Luke 10:2



“And pray for us, too,
that God may open a door for our message...”

- Continue to pray for the people of Tohoku and for our teams who serve them daily.
- Pray for the new efforts in Wakayama and for people to experience the love of Jesus through our teams.
- Pray for our family as we prepare to move soon!
- Praise God for the unity of the church in Kansai. Pray for us to be an effective witness as we work together.
- Pray for Jumpei and the Bible Club girls he is leading at his school. Exciting things are happening there!

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Being ONE!

One of the exciting movements happening over the last six months has been the body of Christ coming together here in Kansai to help the people of Tohoku. Keishi recently summed it up well when he reflected that we worked so hard over the last couple of years to “gather” everyone, yet that seemed to fail. Now, finally, through the quake and tsunami efforts, as we have



been sending everyone out, **we have really been able to experience the body of Christ moving and working together** as it seems it should! God has brought together Christians of all different backgrounds and church “styles,” friends from outside any church experience as well, and He has used us in some pretty amazing ways. What a privilege!

One exciting development is that **we have purchased the “Be One house”** in Ishinomaki with funds that have been given to help in this effort! We are so grateful for the many around the world who have sacrificed to make this possible. Thank you for your prayers over this decision! Our hope and prayer is that this house will be a place that will be used as a base for operations for continued relief work, and that it will be a place to model church, discipleship and train up people for working in many of the nearby towns and cities. We are experiencing great favor in the communities that we are serving and we are committed as a group to serving long-term. ♡

Family Highlights



Our kids are growing up! **Anika** has blossomed into a young lady, Mommy’s height! She took on the huge job of creating and maintaining the Tohoku Aid website (<http://www.b-1.jp/tohoku/en/>) and has volunteered hours of her time without complaint. She loves to read and works hard with her cousin, Michaela, on their Girls for God e-magazine. **Josiah** has shown new levels of maturity as he has labored side-by-side with the adults volunteering and has worked quite independently on school over these last few months. He still spends hours working on Lego creations and loves to play soccer, ride his bike and razor ripstik. **Caleb** has gained height and lost teeth these last few months! Though homework is not his favorite, he has worked hard, being the only one of our kids in the local elementary school. He too loves to build with Legos and play hard outside. **Katia** is a very creative and expressive little girl. She’s always busy drawing a picture or creating a little craft, if she is not playing with her “rabbit dolls.” She absolutely loves kindergarten and has all kinds of friends. **Gideon**, who just turned four, misses his playmate sister, but is good at creating play on his own and has turned into quite a talker. Lately he’s into playing Legos with his brothers and is a big fan of anything to do with Lightning McQueen! ♡



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Sending Support: **Team Expansion**

Make checks out to Team Expansion. Send to:
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