

URGENT APPEAL

Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Victims

March 18, 2011

Dear Friends in Mission,

On the afternoon on Friday, March 11, a devastating earthquake – measuring 9.0 – hit Japan, with the epicenter close to the city of Sendai. The quake was the fifth largest ever recorded, and the worst to hit Japan in over 140 years. Within 30 minutes of the quake, a massive, unrelenting tsunami followed and literally swept away entire village communities on the eastern coast. The level of devastation and loss of life is unimaginable. At the time of this writing, the official death toll stands at 6,000 – with more than 10,000 people still missing. And, the situation is very serious due to the possibility of a nuclear reactor meltdown and widespread radiation exposure to the area.

The international community of governments, NGOs and church-based organizations is responding to provide immediate water, food and shelter for the thousands upon thousands who have been displaced. The Japan Evangelical Lutheran Association (JELA) has joined these efforts, in cooperation with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC) and members of the wider Lutheran family to help people in need.

I am writing now to ask for prayers for thousands who mourn the loss of a child, father, mother, grandparent or friend. I also humbly ask for your financial support to assist in our mission efforts to help those in need. JELA and the JELC have committed significant financial resources, but we simply cannot do it alone. Your partnership is coveted as we respond to this crisis.

In Christian Service,

Mr. Hiroyuki Nakagawa



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Donations to support this special funding to help those who have been displaced by this devastating earthquake can be sent in of the following two ways:

- 1) Credit Card Donations: Access the JELA English website and send donations via PayPal. ***<http://www.jela-foundation.org/>***
- 2) Personal Checks can be sent to:
St. Luke Lutheran Church
c/o The Rev. David Person
1807 Field Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55116

St. Luke will forward all donations received to JELA. Please make checks payable to *Saint Luke Lutheran Church*, but be certain to designate the use as: *Japan Earthquake Relief*.