

East Japan Disaster Relief Projects Report



December 2013

View of Ojihohama from the ocean

Small Steps to Recovery Oyster Farming in Oginohama



Shells of scallops roped together to seed oysters.



Buoys used for oyster farming with company name printed on.

Along with the programs to help the residents of the temporary housing and the educational needs of the victims, Emmaus Ishinomaki is also involved in giving assistance to the local fishermen. Since last spring we have been helping harvest oysters and kelp in Oginohama located on the western coast of Oshika Peninsula.

Although prior to the tsunami there had been dozens of companies engaged in the fishing industry in Oginohama there are currently ten which are primarily focused on oysters. Because it was impossible to construct temporary housing near the shoreline most of young workers have a very long daily commute. As a result currently there is a serious shortage of available workers. Further, because there continues to be a danger of landslides new construction in the surrounding community will be impossible for the foreseeable future meaning there will be housing for the workforce.

Despite all the adversity the fishermen have a positive attitude about the future and always greet us with warm smiles. As a total novice to the trade, I know that my meager skills do little to aid the fishermen in their work. Just the same I continue to work alongside of them hoping that my presence will offer them encouragement as they continue to rebuild their industry.

In some of the disaster area there has been much progress and in others it is hard to see any progress at all. Even the small things we do can make a big difference. It is my hope that I will be able through a ministry of presence to help the people of Oginohama on their road to recovery.

(Naka Nakano, Ishinomaki Emmaus - staff)

Total Domestic Giving
(through Oct. 21, 2013)

¥ 615,152,025

Donations can be sent to our account at
Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation
(SMBC) (SWIFT:SMBC JP JT)
Takadanobaba Branch(273)
2471703, for US dollars
3291280, for other currencies