

East Japan Disaster Relief Projects Report

October 2013



Sunset on the shore of Togashiki.

Healing waters of Okinawa

From August 7 through the 11 a group of sixteen students from the Tohoku region had been invited by the Okinawa Christian University. Added to these eleven the Kyodan General Secretary along with a pastor from Tohoku, and former relief center staff member joined nine from Okinawa made up of student volunteers, pastors and seminars to make the total number of participants 28 who enjoyed Okinawa's nature, its blue skies and its local culture.



Finally able to play in the ocean once again.



Snorkeling in the coral reef.

From the first moment the staff in Okinawa greeted us on the bus there was a feeling of relaxation. On the first day we visited the Shuri Castle on Okinawa's main island and during the following three days visited the islands of Konpeki and Togashiki. In the aftermath of the earthquake/tsunami the people of Tohoku have had not had the opportunity to spend time at the seaside. However, now they were able to walk on the white sands of the beach, enter the emerald green waters of the ocean and see the colorful fish of and the sea turtles. It was a like a dream and playing in the waves was a very healing experience.

The initial plan was to remove the children as far as possible away from the radiation dangers of Fukushima Daichi and allow them to explore nature. However, more than that they were also able to learn about Okinawa's culture and history.

The island of Togashiki was occupied by American armed forces in March of 1945 and it became the base from which the three month battle of Okinawa was waged, a time during which many islanders were forced to commit suicide. It is with this experience of tragedy and sorrow that the people of Okinawa are reaching out to comfort the victims of the quake and tsunami and to offer prayers for healing and restoration.

(Isaku Arai , pastor of Natori Church)

Total Domestic Giving
(through Aug 18, 2013)

¥ 588,232,750

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