

NSKK NEWSLETTER

日本聖公会管区事務所だより

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Fukushima Now – People are in fear and trembling at the diffusion of radiation

The Rev. Kenzo Koshiyama

Rector of the Tohoku Diocese, NSKK

On 11th March 2011, a great earthquake and huge tsunami attacked the Fukushima Daiichi (First) Nuclear Power Plant which is located from Okuma-machi through Futaba-machi in Fukushima Prefecture. All the electric power shut off, resulting in a huge meltdown. In order to release the pressure inside, high temperature vapor filled with radioactive substance was vented at 10:17 a.m. on 12th March. However, it was found that the vent had no filtration equipment. Then the first hydrogen explosion occurred at 3:36 pm, and then on March 14th an explosion occurred in the No.3 reactor. This explosion caused leakage, and because of this leakage, high concentrations of radiation spread all over Fukushima Prefecture. (The concentration was, reportedly, as high as 25 micro sievert per hour). A year has passed since the first meltdown, but nobody knows when this situation will cease. All the people in Fukushima are continuing with their daily lives, struggling against terror and anxiety. An increasing number of people in Fukushima are evacuating their residences.

*Koriyama St. Paul's Kindergarten – Daily cleaning is absolutely necessary

Up till 14th March 2011, three explosions occurred, causing contamination of the soil. Although the volume of the radiation is decreasing, the radiation level is so high that it is almost impossible to live in the area. Koriyama City, where I live, is the terminal point for the flowing of radioactive substances which have drifted from the Daiichi (Number 1) Power Plant via Futaba-machi, Iitate Village, Kawamata-machi, Fukushima City, Nihonmatsu City to Koriyama (approximately 60 kilometers from the Number 1 Power Plant). Hayama, where Koriyama Kindergarten and Koriyama St. Paul's Church, Tohoku Diocese, NSKK are situated, is a place where high volumes of radioactive substances have been observed and it is called a "hot spot", that is, a place where 1.3 to 1.7 micro sievert per hour (in some points, 3 or more micro sievert) of radiation have been constantly observed.

In this Kindergarten, in order to decrease the radiation volume, the building is cleaned every day for decontamination at 7:30 a.m., before the arrival of the children; then again at 2:30 p.m. after the children leave the kindergarten, using two high-pressure cleaners. Inside the building, every room must be wiped with a wet cloth. In the garden, the surface soil was removed and replaced with new soil. As there is no place to dispose the contaminated soil, it has been placed in a deep hole in the corner of the garden (the contamination of the surface soil showed 8 micro sievert per hour).

Due to the decontamination work, the contamination has decreased to 0.8 micro sievert per hour. As it is also reported that gamma radiation can filter through glass, the doors of the building have been partially covered with iron plates.

All the above efforts have had no effect on maintaining the number of children; the number continues to decrease day by day. For the last six months, children have not been able to play outside the building. All members of the kindergarten including the children, their parents, the teachers and myself have been under intolerable stress every day.

When we look at outdoors, no children are seen in the nearby park which was used to be the children's play-ground. A "Keep-Out" sign has been put up, instead. Green lawns where children used to play have been peeled off and horrible red soil can be seen.

The citizens of Fukushima Prefecture are also suffering considerably from rumors or from discrimination because of the radiation. It is a matter of great regret that no one really knows how safe the Fukushima area is. It is also of great concern for everyone that suspicions may create a virus, which may in turn cause the collapse of human relationships.

We are at present fumbling in the darkness regarding our future, because nothing can be seen. The photograph shows the staff cleaning St. Paul's Kindergarten.

The above only reports the present situation in Koriyama City. The Misono Kindergarten in Fukushima City, which is also operated by NSKK, appeared recently in the public news media. They are having really serious pains and are in a far more difficult situation than in Koriyama City.

I would like to ask all members of the Anglican Communion worldwide to continue to pray for and support the Kindergarten children that in the not too distant future they will once again be able to freely run around the garden with bright smiles.

Contemplating on the 'Peace without Nuclear' after participating in the Memorial Service for the Atomic Bombed Day in Nagasaki

The Rev Shouzo Nakajima
Kyushu Diocese

It has been 66 years since Nagasaki was bombed and on Tuesday August 9, 2011 a Memorial Service for Atomic Bomb Day of Nagasaki was held at Nagasaki Holy Trinity Church co-presided by Bishop Shoji Igarashi and Reverend Noritaka Horio, the pastor of Nagasaki Holy Trinity Church with the sermon preached by Reverend Takao Shibamoto, the pastor of Kokura Immanuel Church. The service was combined with the opening service of the National conference and the Training Course of the Girl's Friendly Society (GFS) and hence there were many more participants than usual.

Reverend Shibamoto told us in his sermon "I have been involved in the activities to search for the meanings of Peace from 1999 in here Nagasaki and whenever I hear of individual experiences of the bomb attack, each and every time I am tremendously shocked. There was once a person who started to tell about the Hibaku¹ experience stating that 'This is the first time to speak of my experience of Hibaku, never telling others not even to my family members.' I realized then how immense the agony in that person's heart was. In Nagasaki, 'the concentric circle of death' was spreading around right after the bombing and at the same time another concentric circle, the 'Concentric Circle of Peace' was going around too. In the center of the circle there were the testimonies of the HIBAKUSHAs². The action of hearing their testimonies and touching on their agonies are the same activities as the activities of Christianity spreading among the people who heard of the agonies of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ our Lord. The people who know the agonies are witnesses,

1 Atomic Bombing

2 Hibakusha are survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings.

it is possible for us to share the agonies each other and we are expected to work to realize the peaching of Jesus Christ our Lord.” The Rev. Shibamoto taught us the meaning of listening intently to the testimonies of HIBAKUSHAs and conveying them onto others.

On August 8, at 11:02am, the same date and time as the Nagasaki atomic bomb attack 66 years ago, all participants offered silent prayers, and offered flowers for the souls of the dead to the sound of a gong and we again confirmed our wish for peace. At the end of the service, the message of Ms. Shizuka Taura was read as her testimony. Ms. Shizuka Taura, a member of Nagasaki Church of The United Church of Christ in Japan (Nihon Kirisuto Kyodan), was working at Kwassui Girl’s High School at that time and she left a vivid note describing the state of the students right after they were attacked. At the end of her testimony, she tells us; ‘There are many people who managed to survive the tragedy. They saw the reality with their own eyes and recognized the destructive power and terror of lethal weapons. The survivors should be the witnesses to prevent such a dreadful war as what they experienced should never occur again’. She showed them the mission of testimonies to testify that war not to occur any more.

After the service was over, the GFS National Conference and Training Course was held at Nagasaki Holy Trinity Church. At a lecture meeting, Ms. Miyako Jodai who is active as a HIBAKUSHAs witness spoke for us. Ms. Jodai told us that she was 6 when the bomb was dropped. Fortunately she was inside a house and survived the bombing but her friends outside in the garden died on the spot. She later she became a teacher but it was prohibited by the police, Occupied Forces, and also by the governmental policy on nuclear weapons to talk about the bombings.

In the course of time, some of her friends contracted cancer or leukemia and one after another they died. She wanted to take care of her grandchild after her retirement but the child passed away when only 6 months old. She was depressed for a while. But when she heard the news that a nuclear test was conducted in India, she decided to tell of the terror of nuclear bomb from her own HIBAKU experiences. “If the decision to stop the war by Japanese government had been taken 10 days earlier the atomic bombing of Nagasaki would not have occurred”. She bitterly regrets this tragic result.

On the next day, I joined in the GFS field work in Nagasaki. There were 3 Korean ladies who joined the group. One of them now lives in Japan. We had valuable experiences by visiting the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, Nagai Takashi Memorial Museum and the Nagasaki Peace Park. Those facilities relevant to the atomic bomb attack. Also we visited the Oka Masaharu Memorial: Nagasaki Peace Museum and it was very meaningful for members to visit there. The Nagasaki Peace Museum is the place for Japanese to confront what Japanese people done on the Chosen (Korea) Peninsula in the past. As I was with the three Korean ladies to view the exhibited items in the museum, as a Japanese I was very sorry for them. These exhibits in the museum tell us that we Japanese are the victims of the atomic bomb but at the same time very clearly state we are the assailants of the Asian people. But how do we get hold of all the facts? At the summary meeting from each group one of the Korean participants remarked that what Japanese did in Korea in the past was a problem shared among all human beings rather than an isolated crime of Japan. The comment probably relieved the feelings of depression amongst Japanese participants gathered there.

There is one more thing we have to consider about here in Nagasaki. That is the answer for the question, regarding why God released the atomic bomb on Nagasaki? At the time in Urakami, a suburb of Nagasaki, close to ground zero, approximately 12,000 Catholics were living there. They were descendants of the early Christians who survived the severe oppression of Shogunate³ powers of the past. 8,500 of them lost their lives in the bomb. Why did so many Catholics in Nagasaki suffer from the bomb? For this question, Mr. Takashi Nagai, a medical doctor, pious Catholic and a HIBAKUSHAs grasped the answer through “The Providence of

3 Feudal Military Dictatorship

God". If we understand the 'Providence' as the process by which God shows us how to approach becoming a perfect human being even though we were created imperfect, who make mistakes and commit sins, for the answer for the question "why Nagasaki was attacked," Dr. Nagai's 'Providence of God' will give us one valuable clue. And I think also it refers to the words that some Korean participant related as 'it's a problem shared among all human beings rather than an isolated crime of Japan.'

As the number of HIBAKUSHA decrease year by year, we have to be responsible to take over their experiences that we have heard and studied to realize peace without nuclear power.

2011 Peace Prayer Worship was held in Hiroshima, place of the atomic bombing

2011 Hiroshima Peace Worship Executive

Committee

The Rev. David Kazuhiro Hayashi

The 2011 Peace Prayer Worship in Hiroshima Conference was held from August 5 (Fri) to 9(Sat). The purpose of The Peace Prayer Worship in Hiroshima was to address the following 3 points:

- 1) Remember the Atomic bombed victims and pray for World Peace.
- 2) Tell of the tragedy of Atomic Bomb and the foolishness of war to the coming generations who will bear the destinies of Japan on their shoulders.
- 3) Learn of the Peace that our Lord provides and pray for its fruition

The first program began at 9:30 and participants chose one of three sessions: "Introductory Course", "Intermediate Course" or "Cathedral Course" to attend.

The Introductory Course took a study tour to the Peace Park (Atomic Bomb Data Museum and the Stone Monument Tower erected for the repose Atomic Bomb Victims.

The Intermediate Course took a study tour to the Data Museum and after went exploring around the Miyukibashi Bridge, 2300 meters from the epicenter of Atomic Bomb blast.

The Cathedral Course was a tour of the Roman Catholic Memorial Cathedral for World Peace. About 60 individuals participated in the Conference. That afternoon from 1:00 all of us were given an opportunity to listen about the experience of Sr. Irene Keiko Saeki, a survivor of the Atomic bombings. After listening to her experiences, we were divided into small groups and had sharing time to discuss what was said about her bomb experience and also about war and peace. After discussion time the leader from each group presented what their group had discussed. Each of us was moved and again felt the tragedy of The Atomic Bombing, the stupidity of war and desire to achieve peace. That evening, following the conference, all participants were moved of the day that we had a Peace March singing and marching to the Catholic Cathedral to join the Peace Prayer Mass.

On the second day, from 8am Holy Communion in memory of the Victims of Atomic bombings was celebrated at the Resurrection Church. The celebrant was Rt. Rev. Andrew Y. Nakamura, Bishop of the Kobe Diocese. The Sermon was preached by Rt. Rev. Laurence Y. Minabe, Bishop of Yokohama Diocese. The congregation of approximately 90 participants kept silent for 5 minutes prior to the time the Atomic Bomb was dropped. Then at the bombing time the Church bell echoed high above sky around the Church. Prayers for the desire for peace and the wish for peacefulness to all the souls of Atomic Bomb Victims were lifted up to Heaven with the sounds of the Church bell. These heartfelt prayers came from each member of the congregation. I was told by a member of the congregation. "You have no experience of war, so you just listen without words." I absolutely have no capacity to feel the agony those people experienced during that time. It is painful to me to be told I have no experience. All I can do is listen. Personal testimony is always beyond what books can provide when talking about war and the Atomic Bomb. It pierces my heart. However, I know

I cannot create peace by myself, nor end the multiple wars which threaten peace.

PEACE IN CHRIST'S NAME

In the words of the Encyclical of Pope John XXIII in 1963, "Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth) :

The circumstance of today's world, peace would be guaranteed only with the balance of the armament among nations. That means they justify enhancement of armaments as a matter of course.

Everyone must sincerely co-operate in effort to banish fear and the anxious expectation of war from men's minds. But this requires that the fundamental principles upon which peace is based in today's world be replaced by an altogether different one, namely, the realization that true and lasting peace among nations cannot consist in the possession of equal supply of armaments but only in mutual trust. /:

[The Peace in Christ] is not established by human power; it is poured and given from Christ upon the Cross. By Christ, as Christ being the pivot of men the sprout of true peace will be born. That the Peace of Christ be extended over the World was what we asked and prayed for over the two day conference.

NSKK Asks the Japanese Government to Protect People's Lives from Nuclear Disaster

Six months have passed since the nuclear disaster occurred at the 1st Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) in Fukushima. We consider the sufferings of those people who have been exposed to the radioactivity emitted by the nuclear reactors and who are forced to live in the surroundings contaminated by the radiation. We pray that this situation may come to a solution as soon as possible. We also thank the NPP workers for their efforts to bring the nuclear reactors under control in spite of their own lives.

The NSKK Peace and Justice (P & J) Committee has examined what attitude we should take towards nuclear power generation, what kind situation the people are placed in the disaster-hit areas, and how the suffering people are feeling about the nuclear power plants. On June 5, World Environment Day, we forwarded to all congregations of NSKK a pamphlet titled "Nuclear power generation is NEVER a solution to global warming," issued by the Japanese Roman Catholic Church.

As a result of intensive examination and study, we have found it the most urgent task of advocacy to protect the life created by God. We must strive to protect the life of the people exposed to the danger of radiation, children and those pregnant, among others. From the standpoint of defending the livelihood and life of the people of the disaster-affected areas and the whole country, we should request the Japanese government to take adequate measures and actions against the nuclear disaster. We consider it necessary to dedicate ourselves to the cause of protecting people's lives, free from any political standpoint.

The NSKK P&J Committee submitted the following request to the government in the name of Rt. Rev. Shoji Tani, chairman of the committee:

To: Mr. Naoto Kan, Prime Minister
Mr. Banri Kaieda, Minister of Economy and Industry
Mr. Takeshi Hosono, Minister of Managing the Nuclear Accidents

July 21, 2011

REQUEST CONCERNING THE NUCLEAR DISASTER AT FUKUSHIMA Nuclear Power Plant

Four months have passed since the nuclear disaster occurred at the 1st Nuclear Power Plant in Fukushima caused by the Great East Kanto Earthquake and resulting Tsunami in Eastern Japan. The developments have shown that the radiation from the nuclear reactors seriously endangers people's lives and that the existence of nuclear power plants in Japan is to be questioned.

The problems of nuclear power plants are:

- (1) Japan is a country hit most frequently by earthquakes of anywhere in the world. Disregarding this, nuclear power plants have been built without taking adequate measures against large-scale earthquakes. The electricity companies have created a "myth of safety" without paying appropriate attention to the danger.
- (2) As shown in the Fukushima disaster, once an accident occurs, it can develop into a serious one leading to "meltdown", thus emitting large quantities of radiation.
- (3) There is no established technology to deal with spent nuclear fuel. The nuclear waste will continue to increase, with no adequate measures against radioactivity.
- (4) Through the second cooling water, large quantities of heat, not used for power generation, is discharged into the environment.
- (5) Together, nuclear power generation is an imperfect technology used for peaceful purposes.

Some people call for the resumption of the nuclear power operations immediately. But this is nothing but logic and takes no account of the lives of people. From the standpoint of protecting life and the natural environment which fosters a wide variety of life created by God, we call for the following:

- (1) Establish strict safety standards in terms of radiation exposure, both external and internal, publishing the scientific and medical foundations. Strictly measure the radiation exposure (near the ground surface) in all parts of Western Japan, and obviously Fukushima Prefecture, giving special priority to assist babies, children, young people and pregnant women –to evacuate from the areas where alarming doses of radiation have been detected. Take the necessary actions to accept the evacuating people in other areas. Prevent babies and children from being further exposed to radiation, taking adequate measures, including washing away and removal of radioactive substances from the environment.
- (2) Continue to survey, for coming decades, the effects of radiation on the physical condition of the people living in the contaminated areas and provide them with the necessary medical treatment.
- (3) Continue to survey the contamination of the food supply, and publish all results.
- (4) Review the current anti-earthquake measures at all the nuclear reactors in view of the historical records of earthquakes for the past 1000 years at each site so that the structures are strong enough to survive an earthquake and tsunami such as the one which occurred on March 11, 2011. Never resume operations of nuclear power plants until the consensus of the residents and communities in the areas surrounding the plant locations has been obtained, based on scientific foundations.
- (5) Scrap the antiquated nuclear power plants by taking adequate measures not to emit radiation, and not to construct new nuclear power plants.
- (6) Promote the development of new power generation systems using renewable natural resources, including solar, wind and geothermal power. Reform the power supply policy so that the development of new power resources may not be obstructed, including the use of the power supply from independent power suppliers.

NSKK Peace and Justice Committee Chairman Rev. SHOJI TANI

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